

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/81/96

3 June 1996

Further information on EXTRA 63/96 (EUR 44/68/96, 9 May 1996) and follow-up (EUR 44/72/96, 21 May) - Fear of torture / Health concern

TURKEY Ferzinde Abi, Kurd aged 41 (note correct spelling of name, age)
_irin Abi (f), wife of Ferzinde, aged 36, mother of seven

Ferzinde Abi issued the following statement from Van prison where he and his wife _irin are held awaiting trial. Their youngest child, only a month old, is with its mother in prison:

"On 25 April 1996 my home was raided by squads of the Van Security Headquarters Anti-terror branch and I and my wife were detained without any reason being given. We were held for 15 days at the Anti-terror branch and during that time we were exposed to terrible torture, torture which crushed a person's honour underfoot. During the torture, the thing they were pressing me to do was either to become an agent and to work with them, or to accept and sign the statements they had written, these statements consisting of a scenario written against me.

When I did not agree to any of this, they brought my wife _irin in front of me and stripped her completely naked and many times put her on the "Palestinian hanger" [ie being suspended by the wrists with hands tied behind the back]. In front of my very eyes they molested her sexually and did disgusting things which are hard to put into writing. Their sole aim in this was to put me under psychological pressure and to make me sign descriptions of scenarios which had nothing to do with me.

The more I tried to defend myself against these accusations, the more the torture was varied and extended until it reached the stage of causing profound damage to a person's body, damage which cannot be eradicated for the rest of that person's life.

As a result of this savage torturing, there was profound damage to my entire body. Both my arms were paralysed and I have lost use of my arms.

In spite of the fact that I explained this situation to the prosecutor and although they saw the situation, no legal action was taken and they arrested my wife and myself and sent us to prison. Given the condition I was in, I was transferred from the prison to Van State Hospital, but the doctors of the hospital's Orthopaedic and Neurology Services where I was sent for treatment made no medical intervention at all and said that the police had threatened them to prevent them from treating me or giving me a medical report.

At the moment I am in Van prison without any medical intervention at all. It is as if I am being left for dead. All my needs are being met by the other prisoners with me.

I call on all those who call themselves human to protest these practices, so that others will not experience such inhuman and savage torture and that torturers who are such enemies of society will be exposed."

According to the latest information Ferzinde Abi was to be examined at the Yüzy_1 Üniversite Ara_t_rma Hastanesi [100 Years University Research Hospital]. It is not known whether this has happened, and if so, what the results were

or whether he is now receiving treatment. _irin Abi appears to have recovered to some extent.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- expressing grave concern at Ferzinde Abi's allegations that he and his wife _irin were severely tortured in police custody in Van and at his reported ill-health due to torture;
- urging that an immediate and thorough investigation be carried out into his torture allegations and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- asking to be informed of its results;
- seeking assurances that Ferzinde Abi is being given all medical attention he may require.

APPEALS TO:

1. Van Chief Prosecutor:

Cumhuriyet Ba_savc_s_
Van Savc_l____
Van, Turkey

Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Savcisi, Van, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

2. Interior Minister:

Mr Ülkü Güney
Ministry of Interior
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Emre Gönensay
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
D__i_leri Bakanl____
06100 Ankara

Fax: +90 312 419 1547

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 June 1996.