

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/52/94
Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 33/94

Fear of Torture

5 July 1994

TURKEY

Sevtap Yoku_Veznedaro_lu (f), research student

Sevtap Veznedaro_lu, a research student at the Faculty of Law in Dicle University in Diyarbak_r, was detained on 4 July 1994 by members of the Anti-Terror Branch of Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters, where she is now being interrogated. She is the wife of Fevzi Veznedaro_lu, former President of Diyarbak_r Human Rights Association. Her detention was initially denied by the police authorities, but has now been confirmed.

Amnesty International fears that Sevtap Yoku_Veznedaro_lu may be being interrogated under torture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture on 25 February 1988 and the UN Convention Against Torture on 2 August 1988. Following a programme of visits to Turkish police stations in 1990, 1991 and 1992, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT - established by the Council of Europe) reported: *"In the light of all the information at its disposal, the ECPT can only conclude that the practice of torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment of persons in police custody remains widespread in Turkey and that such methods are applied to both ordinary criminal suspects and persons held under anti-terrorism provisions"*.

The ECPT also stated that in Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters they had found *"the equipment necessary for suspension by the arms in place and ready for use (ie a three metre long wooden beam which was mounted on heavily-weighted filing cabinets on opposite sides of the room and fitted with a strap made of strong material securely tied to the middle ... the delegation's discoveries caused considerable consternation among police officers present; some expressed regret, others defiance."*

Most allegations relate to ill-treatment of detainees in police custody during their initial interrogation when they are usually denied access to relatives or a lawyer. New legislation to shorten the maximum detention period came into force on 1 December 1992. Now non-political detainees may be held for up to eight days before being formally charged or released. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be held without charge for up to 15 days. In 10 provinces under emergency legislation in southeast Turkey, including Diyarbak_r, the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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

- urging that Sevtap Yoku_Veznedaro_lu be given immediate access to legal counsel and to members of her family, and that she be treated in accordance with international standards regarding the treatment of detainees;
- urging that she should be brought promptly before a judge;
- asking to be informed of the charges against her.

APPEALS TO

1) Deputy Prime Minister

Mr Mustafa Karayalç_n
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr; 42875 bbk tr

Faxes: +90 312 417 04 76 PRIME MINISTER

+90 312 230 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

2) Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Ünal Erkan

Ola_anüstü Hal Valili_i

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Faxes: +90 412 222 6174

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

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 5 August 1994.