

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 342/94      Fear of Torture

16 September 1994

TURKEY            Musa Ulusoylu, trade unionist  
                  Özer Akdemir, teacher  
                  Mehmet Ali Gürel, teacher  
                  Ay\_enur \_lkiz, female  
                  Devrim Osman Çelebio\_lu  
                  Müjdat Y\_lmaz  
                  Emine Ö\_ün Y\_lmaz, his wife

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On 11 September 1994, Musa Ulusoylu, an official of the public workers' union Tüm-Maliye-Sen, was detained in Ankara. On the following day the other six people named above were also taken into police custody. Müjdat and Emine Y\_lmaz were detained in the afternoon of 12 September, after which their house was sealed by the police. A sign was put up saying that the house was a safe house for an illegal organization. It is feared that the detainees are being interrogated under torture.

According to the prosecutor the detainees will be held until 26 September. Reportedly they are being interrogated for alleged membership of the illegal organization TDKP (Turkish Revolutionary Communist Party). They are being held at the Anti-Terror Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters and are not allowed access to their lawyers, but Emine Y\_lmaz, who recently was diagnosed as having thyroid cancer, was allowed to see her mother. The mother reported that Emine Y\_lmaz was on hunger-strike.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received many reports of torture at Ankara Police Headquarters, the most recent in May 1994 (see EXTRA 24/94, EUR 44/28/94 and update EUR 44/33/94 of 6 May 1994). Ankara Police Headquarters were visited on a number of occasions by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) of the Council of Europe, of which Turkey is a member. In December 1992 the ECPT published its findings in a public statement. The ECPT announced that during an impromptu visit to Ankara Police Headquarters they had found "a low stretcher-type bed equipped with eight straps (four each side), fitting perfectly the description of the item of furniture to which persons had said they were secured when electric shocks were administered to them. No credible explanation could be proffered for the presence of this bed in what was indicated by a sign as being an 'interrogation room' ... the delegation's discoveries caused considerable consternation among police officers present; some expressed regret, others defiance."

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".

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. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be held without charge for up to 15 days. In the 10 provinces under emergency legislation in the southeast of Turkey the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Musa Ulusoylu, Özer Akdemir, Mehmet Ali Gürel, Ay\_enur\_ıkiz, Devrim Osman Çelebio\_lu, Müjdat Y\_lmaz and Emine Ö\_ün Y\_lmaz detained on 11 and 12 September 1994 and held incommunicado at Ankara Police Headquarters;
- seeking assurances that they are not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- asking to be informed of the charges brought against them.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Chief of Ankara Police:

Mr Orhan Ta\_anlar  
Ankara Emniyet Müdürlü\_ü  
Konya-Samsun Karayolu  
Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Mudurlugu, Ankara, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Nahit Mente\_e  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: +90 312 428 4346**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Prof Mümtaz Soysal  
D\_\_i\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: 90 312 287 1886**

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 28 October 1994.