

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

25 November 1994

TURKEY	_lker Alcan)	
	Bülent Ba_c_)	
	Ufuk Do_bay)	
	Sava_Karakurum)	all from <i>Mücadele</i>
	Tar_k Tolunay, cartoonist)	magazine
	Selda Özcan, female)	
	Hatice Akdo_an, female)	
	Murat Kuyumcu)	
	Mehmet Akdemir, owner/editor)	<i>Yoksul Halk_n Gücü</i>
	Kudret Sar_gül, female)	magazine
	Veli Can_k)	
	Yemliha Kaya, editor)	<i>__çi Hareketi</i>
	Metin Y_ld_z, journalist)	magazine
	Sabahat Varol, female, editor)	
	Serap Topçu, female)	
	Filiz Kaplansüren, female)	
	Erdal Kaplansüren)	all from <i>Devrimci</i>
	Havva Suiçmez, female)	<i>Gençlik</i> monthly
	Bülent Karata_)	magazine
	Hayat Fayl_)	
	Bülent)	

On 24 November 1994 at 11am, officers of the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters raided the offices of four magazines in Istanbul - *Mücadele* (Struggle); *__çi Hareketi* (Workers' Movement); *Yoksul Halk_n Gücü* (Poor People's Power) and *Devrimci Gençlik* (Revolutionary Youth). Reportedly, the police wrecked the premises, confiscated documents and detained some 30 people, including those named above. It is feared that the detainees are being interrogated under torture while in incommunicado detention, presumably at Istanbul Police Headquarters.

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. However, all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and systematic in Turkey. 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. The maximum period of 24 hours, for which a non-political detainee may be held before being formally charged or released, may be extended to eight days in cases of ordinary crimes involving three or more suspects. Detainees held on suspicion of political offenses to be tried in State Security Courts may be held without charge for 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in provinces under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in 10 provinces in the southeast of Turkey.

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) of the Council of Europe, of which Turkey is a member, and the UN Committee against Torture

(UN CAT) have both published reports to the effect that torture is widespread and systematic in Turkey.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of some 30 detainees, naming some of them, taken into custody at the office of four magazines in Istanbul on 24 November and held incommunicado at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters;
- urging that they not be subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- calling for them to be granted prompt access to their lawyers;
- asking to be informed of charges brought against them.

APPEALS TO

1) Chief Prosecutor at Istanbul State Security Court

Mr Ahmet Köksal

DGM Ba_savc_s_

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Bassavcısı, Istanbul, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Deputy Prime Minister:

Mr Murat Karayalçın

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Deputy Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

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

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR; 30812 EMMH TR; 26177 IEMT TR

Faxes: +90 212 272 8182

Salutation: Dear Sir

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 24 December 1994.