

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Health Concern/Fear of Torture

9 June 1993

TURKEY:

Aysu Baykal (female)

Mehmet Ali Beyhan

Sevinç \_ahingöz (female)

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Aysu Baykal, Mehmet Ali Beyhan and Sevinç \_ahingöz. On 5 June 1993 police surrounded a house in the Sincan district of Ankara. When the three suspects inside refused to respond to a call to surrender, the police opened fire. Aysu Baykal and Mehmet Ali Beyhan were captured while trying to escape, while a third person was shot and killed inside the house. Sev\_ñç \_ahingöz was brought to Ankara from Yozgat and is reportedly being interrogated together with Aysu Baykal and Mehmet Ali Beyhan at the Anti-Terror Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters. The State Security Court Prosecutor has given permission for the detainees to be held until 18 June. The detainees are being held incommunicado - they have been refused access to legal counsel - and it is feared they are being interrogated under torture.

Aysu Baykal has only one functioning kidney, and she may therefore be particularly vulnerable during beating or if made to lie on blocks of ice, a method of torture reportedly used in Ankara Police Headquarters. There have been reports that Mehmet Ali Beyhan was wounded before his capture and may need medical treatment.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received many reports of torture at Ankara Police Headquarters, and there were two deaths resulting from torture there in 1991. 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 for the first time. 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."

The ECPT concluded "that the practice of torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment or persons in police custody remains widespread in Turkey and that such methods are applied to both ordinary criminal suspects and persons

held under anti-terrorist provisions".

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. 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 the normal 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 offences 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.

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

- urging that all appropriate measures be taken to protect the health of the detainees, in particular Aysu Baykal who has only one kidney, and that Mehmet Ali Beyhan, if wounded, receives necessary medical treatment;

- urging that all the detainees be permitted to speak to their lawyers, that they are brought promptly before a judge, and that they should not be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Chief of Police Hasan Özdemir  
Ankara Emniyet Müdürlü\_ü  
Ankara  
Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürlü\_ü, Ankara, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

2) Minister of the Interior  
Mr \_smet Sezgin  
İçişleri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
Ankara, Turkey

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

**Faxes: +90 4 428 4346**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Hikmet Çetin  
D\_\_i\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 Ankara

**Faxes: +90 4 2873869**

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 21 July 1993.