

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/24/93
Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 12 March 1993

MEDICAL CONCERN

**Cemal Çakmak and others on hunger strike in Yozgat prison
TURKEY**

On 25 February 1993, a number of prisoners in Nev_ehir prison are reported to have been heavily beaten when members of the Special Team (an anti-terrorist service) carrying shields, moved into the prison with truncheons and smoke bombs. They are alleged to have beaten the prisoners and destroyed some of their belongings before suddenly removing 14 prisoners and transferring them to Yozgat prison. The transfer and beatings occurred after the discovery of the escape of 18 prisoners on 17 February. On arrival at Yozgat prison, those who had been transferred are reported to have been beaten again, allegedly by a large number of prison warders including the prison governor and assistant governor. The prison doctor is alleged to have been present during the beatings and to have later refused to give treatment for the injuries sustained.

The following day, three of the prisoners were placed in isolation cells where they are reported to have been subjected to *falaka* (beatings on the soles of the feet) and to further beating and ill-treatment during the ensuing days. The prisoners made a complaint about their ill-treatment to the Yozgat prosecutor and are currently conducting a hunger strike which they began after the first incident of ill-treatment in Nev_ehir prison.

One of those on hunger strike is Cemal Çakmak who was arrested on 21 June 1992 near _av_at village in Artvin province, northeast Turkey, in an incident in which at least one person was killed and he and another were wounded and captured by the security forces. All were thought to be members of TIKKO (Turkish Workers and Peasants Liberation Army), the armed wing of the illegal organization TKP/M-L (Turkish Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist). The circumstances of the incident are still unclear. According to newspaper reports it happened when a bomb exploded prematurely in a hideout near _av_at; according to another source there was a clash between guerrillas and the police, and according to a third report the security forces laid an ambush in which one man was killed and the other two captured alive.

At the time of his arrest, Cemal Çakmak is reported to have sustained shrapnel wounds for which he has received no treatment and he has lost sight in his left eye. He was initially taken to Artvin Regimental Gendarmerie Headquarters for interrogation where he is believed to have been tortured. Following the more recent episodes of ill-treatment and the commencement of the hunger strike, he is reported to appear to be in a poor condition, his body swollen and his vision deteriorating. Amnesty International is urging that he and other prisoners be assured access to adequate medical care in line with international standards such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and that the physical security of the prisoners be safe-guarded.

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/24/93
Distrib: PG/SC

To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Europe
Date: 11 March 1993

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Cemal Çakmak and others
TURKEY**

Keywords

Theme: Torture/medical care

Summary

Amnesty International is concerned for the well-being of Cemal Çakmak and other prisoners in Yozgat prison, some 150 km east of Ankara, who have been on hunger strike since mid-February. The prisoners were allegedly beaten after the discovery of the escape of 18 prisoners from Nev_ehir prison and were transferred to Yozgat in late February 1993. On arrival they were reportedly beaten again in the presence of the prison doctor, and were later tortured repeatedly by beatings to the feet. Cemal Çakmak is said to be in poor physical condition with failing eye sight. He is believed not to be receiving adequate medical care. See the attached details.

Recommended Actions

Letters from medical professionals, preferably written in English or your own language, should be sent to the addresses below:

- expressing concern at the reported beatings and ill-treatment of Cemal Çakmak and other prisoners, first at Nev_ehir and later at Yozgat;
- urging that there be an inquiry into the reports of ill-treatment and that measures be taken to prevent any further abuses;
- urging that Cemal Çakmak and any other prisoner requiring medical care should be granted access to proper medical facilities without delay.

Addresses

Minister of the Interior

Mr Ismet Sezgin

İçişleri Bakanlığı

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: *Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey*

Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Minister of Human Rights
Mr Mehmet Kahraman
Devlet Bakani
Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Insan Haklari Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: + 90 4 419 15 35

Please send **copies** of your letters to the Turkish embassy in your country.