

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of torture

24 August 1992

TURKEY:

Fatma Gülten een (female), owner of Mücadele newspaper
and President of the Istanbul Branch of TAYAD
Sultan Çelik (female)
Ufuk Demirkaya
Solmaz Dartan
Sirin Çelik (female), daughter of Sultan Çelik
Gülây (surname unknown to Amnesty International)
Turan (surname unknown to Amnesty International)
Ya_ar (surname unknown to Amnesty International), member
of TAYAD in Malatya

On 24 August 1992, the people named above, all allegedly relatives of people working with Özgür-Der (Association of Rights and Freedom) or TAYAD (Prisoner's Families Solidarity Association), were detained between 4.30 and 5am, apparently without any reason being given, after police came to the village of Karata_ near Adana. They were taken to Adana where they are being held at Adana Police Headquarters. At about 9am the same day, two people who were detained with the others, Zerrin Sar_, a lawyer and member of Istanbul Halk n Hukuk Burosu (a lawyers' association) and 70-year-old Kerime (whose surname is not known to Amnesty International) were released. All those named above remain in custody, where it is feared they may be 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. 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. In August 1990, the government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights. Under current legislation the maximum period a detainee may be held before being formally charged or released is 24 hours; in cases involving three or more suspects or due to the 'nature of the crime' it may be extended to 15 days. This period may be doubled again in areas 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/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- appealing that all the detainees named above may be allowed to see their families and lawyers and that they are not subjected to any ill-treatment in custody;

- asking to be informed of any charges which have been brought against them.

page 2 of EXTRA 71/92...

APPEALS TO

1) Adana Chief of Police:

Mete Altan

Adana Emniyet Müdürü

Adana, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Adana, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 71 12 31 96

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel

Office of the Prime Minister

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 4 417 04 76; + 90 4 230 88 96

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Please check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 September 1992.