

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 91/91 (EUR 44/32/91, 11 March 1991) - Fear of Torture

Turkey: Ahmet TEKIN, aged 33, married with five children

Ahmet Tekin, a member of the Turkish Human Rights Association, was detained in Siirt on 26 February 1991, while three relatives of his were detained at the same time in Mersin and brought to Siirt. They were held incommunicado at Siirt Police Headquarters where it is alleged that Ahmet Tekin was deprived of all his clothes, was subjected to electric shocks, beating of the soles of the feet, being suspended by the wrists and upside down by the ankles, squeezing of the testicles and beating. On 11 March the detainees were taken to Siirt State Hospital for medical examination. Ahmet Tekin was given a certificate declaring him unfit to work for 15 days, which was torn up by the accompanying police officers as they left the doctor's office.

The detainees were then taken back to Police Headquarters and the three relatives were released later that day. Ahmet Tekin was kept at Siirt Police Headquarters until 14 March, when a doctor was brought in who gave him a clear report after a cursory examination. He was formally arrested and committed to Diyarbakir Prison, where he petitioned for a proper medical check-up, but was once again cursorily examined. On 19 March he was brought before the State Security Court in Diyarbakir on charges of being a member of the illegal Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) and of sheltering guerrillas. He complained to the court about his ill-treatment and showed some of the marks of torture. However, due to lack of medical evidence no investigation was opened.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging that a full and independent inquiry be initiated into the allegations of torture made by Ahmet Tekin;
- appealing that testimony extracted under torture should not be used as evidence in court except in legal proceedings against the torturers.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice
Mr Mahmut Oltan Sungurlu
Adalet Bakanligi
06659 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 41 25 40 66

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 May 1991.