

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

24 September 1990

TURKEY: Hamza YALÇIN, aged 34
+ two others, a man and a woman

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Amnesty International has learned that Hamza Yalçin and two other people, a man and a woman, were detained in the Kadikoy district of Istanbul on 15 September 1990. They are held incommunicado at Istanbul Police Headquarters and it is feared that the three detainees are being interrogated under torture.

Hamza Yalçin, a former officer in the armed forces, is said to have been politically active in the 1970s. In 1980 he was arrested, but escaped from prison in 1981. He has been wanted ever since.

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. Allegations of torture have continued since the transfer of power to a civilian government in 1983. 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. Under current legislation the maximum detention period 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 extended to 30 days in areas under emergency legislation or martial law.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- urging that Hamza Yalçin and the two people detained with him are granted prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut
Office of the Prime Minister
Basbakanlik
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 BBMT TR, 42099 BASB TR or 42875 BBK TR
Faxes: +90 41 17 04 76 or +90 42 30 88 96 (attn. Prime Minister)

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
(Istanbul Chief of Police)
Hamdi Ardali
Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürü, Istanbul, Turkey
Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR
Faxes: + 90 1 172 8182

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 24 October 1990.