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Fear of Torture

8 October 1990

TURKEY: From TAYAD

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From Mucadele

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Nail Cavus

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On 5 October some 30 people were detained in Ankara. They are currently held at the Political (First) Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters. They included five members of the Ankara branch of TAYAD (Association of Prisoners' Relatives), 14 students from the Political Science Faculty

of Ankara University, six members of the Ankara Association for the Assistance of Students in Higher Education, and three people detained in connection with the political magazine Mücadele. Neither families nor lawyers have been granted access to them so far and it is feared that the detainees are being subjected to torture during interrogation.

**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: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- urging that the detainees 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  
Telex: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr  
42099 basb tr  
42875 bbk tr  
Faxes: 90 41 17 04 76 PRIME MINISTER

Ankara Emniyet Müdürü (Ankara Chief of Police)  
Mehmet Agar  
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, Turkey  
Faxes: 90 4 341 0591

**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 8 November 1990.