

EXTERNAL

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Health concern / Prisoner of Conscience

16 January 1998

TURKEY Hamdi Turanli (also known as Hemre_ Re_o)

Hemre_ Re_o, the leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party/North (KDP/B), was detained in Ankara on 13 January 1998. Amnesty International believes he is a prisoner conscience and is seriously concerned for his health.

Hemre_ Re_o was taken into custody from a café. After being held overnight at Ankara Police Headquarters, he was formally arrested by Ankara State Security Court on 14 January and is now held in Ankara Central Closed Prison.

Hemre_ Re_o is said to be suffering from cancer of the pancreas for which he underwent surgery three years ago, and also from diabetes and a heart condition. He requires constant medication which may not be being provided by the prison authorities.

Hemre_ Re_o left Turkey before the military intervention of March 1971. He has since been living in Germany with his wife and four children and was carrying a German passport when he travelled to Turkey three weeks ago.

The KDP/B, founded in 1992, is an illegal but unarmed political party which is particularly concerned with the problems of Turkey's Kurdish minority.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Although the law forbidding the use of the Kurdish language was abolished in 1991, any assertion of separate Kurdish identity can be punished by up to three years' imprisonment under Article 8 of the Anti-Terror Law. Founding an illegal "separatist" group would be punishable under the Anti-Terror Law, and possibly subject to the death penalty.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- appealing for the immediate and unconditional release of Hemre_ Re_o (Hamdi Turanl_) who is imprisoned for his non-violent political activities in breach of Article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which safeguards freedom of expression;
- expressing concern about Hemre_ Reso's health, and asking that he be given full access to all necessary medical assistance while in prison.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice

Mr Oltan Sungurlu

Adalet Bakanl____

06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 3954; 418 5667

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Ismail Cem Ipekçi

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

D__i__leri Bakanl____

06100 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 287 1581
Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Murat Ba_eskio_lu
Içisleri Bakanl____
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 428 4346; 418 1795; 417 2390
Salutation: Dear Minister

The Prison Prosecutor

Ankara Central Closed Prison
Cezaevi Ba_savc_s_
Ankara Merkez Kapal_ Cezaevi
Ulucanlar
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prison Prosecutor, Central Closed Prison, Ankara, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Hamdi Turanli (Hemre_Reso), Ankara Central Closed Prison, Ulucanlar, Ankara.

and to diplomatic representatives of TURKEY accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 March 1998.