

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/11/91

Distr: UA/SC

UA 29/90

Fear of Torture

25 January 1991

TURKEY:     Hinan \_ren  
              Ali Keskin  
              Nuri Gültekin  
              Hikmet Aygo

---

Those named above were detained with approximately 70 other persons when police, soldiers and "special team" members attempted forcibly to disperse an anti-war demonstration of several thousand in Batman in southeastern Turkey on 25 January 1991. They are being held in incommunicado detention in Batman Police Headquarters. It is thought that they may be subjected to torture while in custody.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is not officially recognized by the authorities, but is estimated to number some 10 million people. The Kurdish population lives mainly in southeastern Turkey. Frequent allegations of torture and ill-treatment have been received from the region and the number of torture allegations increased substantially after the 1980 military coup. Since August 1984, when Kurdish guerrillas - members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) - started armed attacks, an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces, where more than 2000 lives so far have been lost in the continuing fighting.

In May 1990 the Turkish government issued Decrees 424 and 425 (later replaced by Decree 430) which further extended the already extraordinary powers of the Emergency Legislation Governor, and subsequently, 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.

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. Emergency legislation is currently in force in ten provinces, including Batman.

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

- urging that Hinan \_ren, Ali Keskin, Nuri Gültekin, and Hikmet Aygo and all those detained during the demonstration are given access to their families, and an opportunity to appoint and consult with legal counsel;
- urging that they should not be ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

**APPEALS TO**

President Turgut Özal  
Devlet Ba\_kanli\_i  
06100 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams; President Ozal, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telex: 42875 bbk tr**

Governor of Batman Province  
Tuncer Perçinler  
Batman Valisi  
Batman, Turkey

**Telegrams: Batman Valisi, Batman, Turkey**

Hayri Kozakç\_o\_lu  
Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi (Extraordinary Powers Governor)  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**Telegrams: Please use the whole address**  
**Fax: 90 831 26 174**  
**Telex: 72110 ohvt tr**

**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 March 1991.