

UA 19/95

Torture / Health concern

23 January 1995

TURKEY

Turabi Ki_in, 30

Turabi Ki_in, in incommunicado detention at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters, is reported to be in a very bad state of health due to torture.

Another political prisoner, who between 12 and 18 January 1995 was under interrogation at Istanbul Police Headquarters and who is now in Sa_malc_lar Prison, reported that he saw Turabi Ki_in at the Police Headquarters: "He was being badly tortured. He could not use either arms or hands. He could only go to the toilet with our assistance."

Turabi Ki_in, from Dall_tepe near Bingöl, has been detained three times previously. He is reported to have been in hospital for several months after his most recent detention and subsequent imprisonment, due to torture. After his release he moved to Istanbul. He was reportedly suffering from active tuberculosis and severe rheumatism when he was detained for the fourth time, in Istanbul, about two weeks ago. It is not yet known whether his detention has been acknowledged by the prosecutor's office at Istanbul State Security Court.

One of Turabi Ki_in's brothers, who had joined the guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), was killed in fighting in 1992. As a consequence, the family has been harassed and persecuted by the security forces on suspicion of supporting the PKK. In 1994, another of his brothers who was going to school in western Turkey was detained and taken back to Bingöl; his father was detained, tortured and threatened that he would be killed if the family did not leave their home village, Dall_tepe near Bingöl. The villagers had refused to join the village guard militia and under pressure from the security forces many have been forced to leave. Now only three families remain out of an original 38, one of them being Turabi Ki_in's father and the female members of his family.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The conflict in southeast Turkey between government forces and guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) has claimed more than 13,000 lives since it began in August 1984. Police operations against suspected PKK supporters and other Kurdish activists are being carried out all over Turkey. A state of emergency remains in force in 10 provinces in the east and southeast.

Detainees taken into custody on suspicion of political offences may be held without charge for up to 15 days. In the 10 provinces under emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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. 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.

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) of the Council of Europe, of which Turkey is a member, and the UN Committee against Torture

(UN CAT) have both published reports to the effect that torture is widespread and systematic in Turkey.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored in the southeastern provinces and increasingly disregarded in the rest of Turkey. Lack of proper registration and notification is extremely distressing for families, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture occur.

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

- expressing serious concern about the reported torture and ill-health of Turabi Ki_in, held incommunicado at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters;
- urging that he be given all medical attention he may require and that he not be subjected to further torture or ill-treatment;
- appealing that he be granted prompt access to his lawyer;
- seeking information as to possible charges.

APPEALS TO

1) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR; 30812 EMMH TR; 26177 IEMT TR

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Chief Prosecutor at Istanbul State Security Court

Mr Ahmet Köksal

DGM Ba_savc_s_

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Ba_savc_s_, _stanbul, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

3) Deputy Prime Minister

Mr Murat Karayalç_n

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Deputy Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr; 42875 bbk tr

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 Deputy PRIME MINISTER; +90 312 230 8896

Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

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 20 February 1995.