

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

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TURKEY:

\_brahim Bingöl  
Cavidan Kocaacar  
Metin Günaydin  
Mehmet Tuzcu  
Alp Aslan  
and some five unnamed people

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Those mentioned above were among some 10 people detained in Ankara on or around 17 February 1991, who are now being held in incommunicado detention at the Political Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters. Both \_brahim Bingöl and Cavidan Kocaacar are in poor health. Ibrahim Bingöl was released only in May last year, after having spent nine years in prison, while on trial before Istanbul Military Court. The trial still continues. The reason for the detentions is not known, but it is feared that the detainees may be interrogated under torture while held incommunicado.

On 16 January 1991 Birtan Altunba\_, a medical student, died in hospital after six days in incommunicado detention at the Political Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters. The results of the autopsy, performed the same day, have not been disclosed to family or lawyers. A fellow-detainee reported hearing Birtan Altunba\_'s screams and shouts for four days and nights and that he saw him between two police officers, naked, being made to run up and down the corridor outside the cells, a method to reduce the swelling caused by falaka, the beating of the soles of the feet.

#### 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.

In August 1990, the Turkish 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.

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

- urging that \_brahim Bingöl, Cavidan Kocaacar, Metin Günayd\_n, Mehmet Tuzcu and Alp Aslan are given 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**

Ankara Emniyet Müdürü  
Hasan Özdemir  
Ankara Chief of Police  
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, Turkey

Abdülkadir Aksu  
The Minister of the Interior  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister Aksu, Ankara, Turkey  
Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR  
Faxes: +90 41 28 43 46  
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President Turgut Özal  
Devlet Ba\_kanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: President Özal, Ankara, Turkey  
Telexes: 42875 BBK TR  
Faxes: (via Press Office) + 90 4 168 5012

**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 4 April 1991.