

UA 162/00

Fear for**TURKEYAli Ekber Palabiyik and his family**

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Ali Ekber Palabiyik and his family. Ali Ekber Palabiyik was recently harassed by police and has received death threats. Ali Ekber Palabiyik was one of five eyewitnesses in the trial against police officers accused of killing the journalist Metin Goktepe in January 1996.

Ali Ekber Palabiyik, who owns a greengrocer's shop in the predominantly Alevi Kurdish neighbourhood of Gaziosmanpasha in Istanbul, lodged a formal complaint with the State Prosecutor in Gaziosmanpasha in April 2000. The complaint was about the conduct of a police officer, whom he believes is called Kamil, who insulted and threatened him on 12 April. The police officer, who arrived in an official police jeep with the number plate 34 A 81227, reportedly told Ali Ekber Palabiyik, "We'll get even with you. I'll break your shop around your head, fuck off, get lost, you useless jerk."

Ali Ekber Palabiyik believes that he has been targeted because he was a witness in the Metin Goktepe trial and is afraid that either he or a member of his family could be harmed. He fears that his life may be in danger.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Metin Goktepe, journalist of *Evrensel* (Universal) newspaper, was detained with numerous others on 8 January 1996 after he attended the funeral of two political prisoners beaten to death at Umraniye prison in Istanbul on 4 January. He died the same day. The autopsy revealed that: "the death of the person found with one broken rib and many traumatic lesions inflicted with a blunt object, resulted from subdural and subarachnoidal brain haemorrhage associated with trauma to the head from a blunt object and internal bleeding". A trial against 11 police officers concluded in April this year. Five of the policemen were acquitted, five were sentenced to seven- and-a-half year prison terms and another officer was sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment.

Ali Ekber Palabiyik was amongst those detained at the same time as Metin Goktepe and held in detention at Eyup Sports Stadium and was one of five eyewitnesses in the trial against the policemen.

The witnesses in the trial against the police were harassed and persecuted by police officers. Ali Ekber Palabiyik began to receive police threats after coming forward as a witness. Another witness, Deniz Ozcan, was threatened, followed and detained on several occasions. He said that he was tortured in detention at the Anti-terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters in March 1996. Other witnesses were also threatened and followed.

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

- urging the Turkish authorities to ensure the safety of Ali Ekber Palabiyik.
- asking for information as to whether any investigation was opened as a result of the complaint made by Ali Ekber Palabiyik to the State Prosecutor, Gaziosmanpasha on 14 April 2000, and if so what its findings were and whether any disciplinary or other action has been taken against any police officers.

**APPEALS TO:**

Istanbul Chief of Police

Mr Hasan Ozdemir  
Istanbul Emniyet Muduru  
Istanbul Emniyet Mudurlugu  
Vatan Caddesi, Istanbul, Turkey  
**Telegrams: Istanbul Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey**  
**Faxes: +90 212 532 3939 Note: this number has been given as the fax for police headquarters but when checked is constantly engaged.**  
**Salutation: Dear Chief of Police**

Minister of the Interior  
Mr Saadettin Tantan  
Icisleri Bakan\_  
Icisleri Bakanligi, 06644 Ankara, Turkey  
**Telegrams: Icisleri Bakani, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: + 90 312 418 1795**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Minister of Justice  
Professor Hikmet Sami Turk  
Adalet Bakan\_  
Adalet Bakanligi,  
06659 Ankara, Turkey  
**Telegrams: Adalet Bakani, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: + 90 312 418 5667**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights  
Mr Rustu Kazim Yucelen  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara  
Turkey  
**Faxes: + 90 312 417 0476**

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 26 July 2000.