

UA 179/02

Risk of t

TURKEY Bayram Bozyel (m), Deputy Chairman of HAK-PAR
Mehmet Eren (m), Board member of Diyarbak_r branch of HAK-PAR
Kemal Aras (m), Board member of Diyarbak_r branch of HAK-PAR
+ 17 other individuals at least 12 of whom are HAK-PAR members

Twenty people have been detained in Diyarbak_r, southeast Turkey, and may be at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

At least 15 of them are members of the legal pro-Kurdish *Rights and Freedoms Party* (HAK-PAR), including the party's deputy chairman. They were detained during police raids on their homes in Diyarbak_r at around 1am on 12 June. The police reportedly confiscated a large number of books and notes.

The detainees are being held at the Anti-Terror Branch of Police Headquarters in Diyarbak_r.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HAK-PAR was officially formed in February 2002. Other legal pro-Kurdish political parties have been placed under serious pressure. The authorities are now going through the courts in an attempt to ban another party, HADEP, which is the successor to two previous parties which were closed down for "separatism". In the past year Amnesty International has received numerous reports of HADEP representatives being arrested, in Diyarbak_r and elsewhere (see EXTRA 65/01, EUR 44/066/2001, 17 September 2001; UA 280/01, EUR 44/079/2001; and UA 57/02, EUR 44/014/2002, 21 February 2002).

Torture appears to be regularly used in police stations to force prisoners to confess, or give up information about illegal organizations. It is also used to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers, or simply to punish people who are believed to support illegal organizations. Torture methods in Turkey documented by Amnesty International include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, suspending by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Bayram Bozyel, Mehmet Eren, Kemal Aras and 17 others detained at the Anti-Terror Branch of Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters, and asking the authorities to ensure that they are not tortured or ill-treated in police custody;
- urging them to ensure that all 20 are given immediate access to lawyers, brought promptly before a judge and either charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released immediately;
- reminding the government of its obligations as a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights, which says that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior
Mr Rüstü Kazım Yücelen
Ministry of Interior
İçişleri Bakanlığı
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: + 90 312 418 17 95
Salutation: Dear Minister

Governor of Diyarbakir

Mr A. Cemil Serhadli

Diyarbakir, Turkey

Telegrams: Diyarbakir Vali, Diyarbakir, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Governor

Diyarbakir Police Headquarters

Mr Atilla Çinar

Diyarbakir Emniyet Müdürlüğü

Diyarbakir Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürü, Diyarbakir, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Nejat Arseven

Office of the Prime Minister,

Ba_bakanl_k,

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Fax: + 90 312 417 04 76

Salutation: Dear Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.