

4 May 2001

Further information on UA 368/00 (EUR 44/66/00, 1 December 2000) - Fear of torture**TURKEYSelahattin Bayram, aged 30
Cemile Durmaz (f), aged 26**

Amnesty International has learnt that Selahattin Bayram and Cemile Durmaz were released from Diyarbakır Police Headquarters on 4 December 2000. They had been held incommunicado since 26 November, when they were arrested on suspicion of helping the armed opposition group *Kurdistan Workers' Party* (PKK).

Selahattin Bayram has complained that he was tortured in custody. He was reportedly beaten, given electric shocks, had his testicles squeezed and threatened with death. The following is extracted from his testimony, which AI has recently received:

"A few civil police suddenly collared me. When I asked them why they were arresting me, one of pulled out his gun and threatened me, saying 'don't speak or I'll kill you'. Marching me about 300 metres, they brought me to their vehicle. At this point they were continually punching and kicking me, and striking me with the butts of their rifles. When I asked the reason for all this, they said 'you joined the protest'.

Afterwards they put me in a vehicle and said 'take us to your sister's household'. So I took them to my sister's house. They made me wait in the vehicle and some police went upstairs to my sister's home. After being made to wait there for about half an hour, they detained my 13-year-old nephew, blindfolded us and took us to a place known to belong to the riot police... About 10-15 minutes later they put me in a vehicle and took me to the emergency ward of the state hospital... Blood was still flowing from both my head and face... I was scared of the police who were accompanying me, so when the doctor asked the reason for the bleeding, I said 'I fell'.

Afterwards, they put me in a car again and brought me back to the riot police station... I subsequently learnt that they had let my nephew go three or four hours later, after he had been made to sign some papers.

I was made to wait in a cell for 10-15 minutes, and they then took me for interrogation... They stripped me naked and made me lie on my back. They tied my arms and feet and attached a cable to my sexual organ. They gave me electric shocks by applying another cable to my left nipple. Later, they placed that cable against my stomach and gave electric shocks again. Afterwards, while I was lying in the same position, they poured water over me and squeezed my testicles. When I did not accept their accusations, they repeated the torture...

Later on, they untied my arms and legs and took me somewhere else. They began to spray pressurised water at me. Afterwards they handcuffed me to a door completely naked, and made me stand in this fashion for three or four hours. Because I was blindfolded while they were carrying out all these acts of torture, I could not see those who were torturing me...

Afterwards, they wanted me to put my clothes on... they took me to a cell... I stayed in the cell for nine days. They took me for interrogation every

night except for one... they did not use torture on these occasions, though. They only swore and threatened me...

I was made to sign a lot of papers during the time I was in custody. Because I was blindfolded while I signed these papers, I had no knowledge at all about the contents of the papers. Anyhow, I can't read or write. In spite of this, they did not read the papers out to me."

Selahattin Bayram made an official complaint to the Chief Prosecutor of Diyarbak_r on 7 December, and an investigation has begun. He is receiving treatment at the Diyarbak_r branch of the *Türkiye _nsan Haklar_ Vakf_ (T_HV)*, the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey.

Those who wish to do so may send a final round of appeals. Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern that Selahattin Bayram was reportedly tortured in custody and reminding the government of its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights to which Turkey is a state party, which says that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the torture allegations, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to suspend any officers accused of torture and ill-treatment from duty while they are under investigation, and to dismiss them if they are convicted;
- asking for Selahattin Bayram to be compensated for any psychological or physical damage resulting from the alleged torture, and urging that he is provided with appropriate treatment and rehabilitation;
- expressing concern that he was repeatedly made to sign statements that he was unable to read, and the contents of which he did not know;
- urging the authorities to ensure that any statements made as a result of torture are excluded from evidence in any proceedings against him;
- expressing concern at the reported detention and ill-treatment of Selahattin Bayram's nephew, who is a minor, and calling for an investigation into this.

APPEALS TO:

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 Ministry of Justice
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Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: + 90 312 417 3954 / 418 5667
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights
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and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.