

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/33/91
Distr: UA/SC

UA 93/91

Fear of Torture

11 March 1991

TURKEY: Ahmad Seyid Ahmad
Daryü_ Lorestani
Manije Mahacar Saliyani (f)
Naser Hodapanani (Hodabandeh)
Abbas Rüstami Gomi
Hamid Hamidyan
Mahdi Javadi Nejad
Seyid Monnirirad
Bijan Barzinmer
Samad Ma_adban

Since around 2 March 1991 the Political Police in Ankara have detained some 12 Iranians, two of whom were released on 6 March. The others are reported to be held incommunicado at Ankara Police Headquarters and to be interrogated under torture. They are alleged to have been stripped naked and hosed with pressurized cold water. Two had to be transferred to hospital, but are said to have been taken back to Police Headquarters meanwhile. One of them is Daryü_ Lorestani, who was sent to Numune Hospital on 6 March, reportedly because of deteriorating health due to torture. The second, unnamed detainee was said to be in poor health, having difficulty breathing. According to Amnesty International's information, the detainees are political refugees living in Ankara who are registered with UNHCR. The UNHCR representative is reported to have tried to see the two detainees while they were in hospital, but was refused access.

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. This period may be extended to 30 days in areas under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in ten provinces in the southeast of Turkey.

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 the detainees named above are given prompt access to the UNHCR representative and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO:

Ankara Chief of Police:
Hasan Özdemir
Ankara Emniyet Müdürü
Konya-Samsun Karayolu
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 43 42 22 27

Minister of the Interior:
Abdülkadir Aksu
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister Aksu, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR
Faxes: +90 41 28 43 46

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 22 April 1991.