

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/36/96

EXTRA 35/96

Fear for safety / Fear of torture

7 March 1996

TURKEY Yücel Sar\_çoban, aged 24

Ayd\_n Ipçi, aged 29

Songül Özbak\_r (f), civil servant, aged 25

Ali Baba Karaka\_, aged 33

A visitor to his house, name not known

---

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the five people named above, who were taken into police custody in Ankara on the evening of 6 March 1996.

In the course of a police operation in Ankara on 6 March, Yücel Sar\_çoban, Ayd\_n Ipçi and Songül Özbak\_r were detained in their homes. Reportedly they were all readers of the political magazine *At\_l\_m* (Surge). The authorities are said to have confirmed their detention and it is believed that they are being held for interrogation at Ankara Police Headquarters. Amnesty International fears that they are being subjected to torture.

On the same evening at around 8pm, there was a knock on the door of Ali Baba Karaka\_'s home in the Kardelen quarter of Ankara. He was, according to his wife, lying ill in bed at the time and talking to a visitor. When one of his children opened the door, three armed police in plain clothes burst in, and pointed their guns at those inside. They said that they were "sivil polis" (civilian police) and wanted to take Ali Baba Karaka\_ with them. They cut the telephone line, grabbed the children and tried to take them away. As their mother tried to prevent this, both she and her children were brutally beaten.

The police eventually let go of the children, dragged Ali Baba Karaka\_ from his bed and took both him and his visitor away. Neighbours also witnessed the incident. Their detention has not been acknowledged by the authorities and the family now fear for their lives.

Ali Baba Karaka\_, who is also a reader of *At\_l\_m*, was previously detained two or three years ago in Adana. During eight days in detention he allegedly was heavily tortured and is still suffering from the effects of torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency in the southeast, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators.

Torture is often applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for assumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized

ice-cold water, hanging 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 telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Yücel Sar\_çoban, Ayd\_n Ipçi and Songül Özbak\_r, detained in Ankara on 6 March; and in particular for the safety of Ali Baba Karaka\_ and his visitor, also detained in Ankara on 6 March and since held in unacknowledged detention;
- urging that the whereabouts of Ali Baba Karaka\_ and his visitor be established without delay and their families and lawyers informed immediately;
- asking to be informed of the results of this investigation;
- seeking assurances that the five detainees are not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO:**

**1. Prosecutor at Ankara State Security Court:**

**Mr Cevdet Volkan**  
**Ankara DGM Savcili\_i**  
**Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telegrams: DGM Savcili\_i, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**2. Ankara Chief of Police:**

**Mr Ramazan Er**  
**Ankara Emniyet Müdürü**  
**Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**3. Prime Minister:**

**Mr Mesut Y\_lmaz**  
**Office of the Prime Minister**  
**Ba\_bakanl\_k**  
**06573 Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister Yilmaz, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr/42099 basb tr**  
**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs:**

**Mr Emre Gönensay**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
**D\_i\_leri Bakanl\_**  
**06100 Ankara**

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 15 April 1996.