

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "Disappearance"/Torture

23 April 1992

TURKEY:

Nazmiye Sevgin (female), aged 17

Nazmiye Sevgin was reportedly detained after she left her home in Istanbul on 29 March 1992. The authorities have refused to acknowledge her detention.

Her mother Suphiye Sevgin, who called a press conference at the office of the Human Rights Association in Istanbul, alleged that officers of the Political Branch of the Istanbul police force had harassed her daughter for a long time, urging her to work for them. According to an official complaint submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office in Fatih, Istanbul, and reported in the daily newspaper *Cumhuriyet*, Nazmiye Sevgin had left home to buy paint in a shop in Hulusi Noyan Street, Aksaray quarter of Istanbul. Afterwards she went to another shop in connection with the repair of some tools. She was then approached by two men in plainclothes who took her by her arms to make her get into a car with a civilian number plate. When Nazmiye resisted, they showed police identity cards whereupon Nazmiye got into the car.

On 2 April, Nazmiye Sevgin was reportedly seen at the Political Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. However, when her family made inquiries as to her whereabouts, they were told that there was no record of her being detained. On 15 April, her father Abdullah Sevgin was detained, but released later that day. The reason for his detention is not known to Amnesty International.

In 1991, two people "disappeared" after being taken into police custody in Istanbul: Yusuf Eri_tı in March and Hüseyin Toraman in October (See UA 360/91, EUR 44/139/91, 29 October 1991 and most recent follow up EUR 44/161/91, 20 December 1991 for details of Hüseyin Toraman's case.) Amnesty International is concerned about the safety of Nazmiye Sevgin. It is feared that she may be subjected to torture while in incommunicado detention at Istanbul Police Headquarters.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (NOTE TO TRANSLATORS: Please note paragraph below is reproduced in EXTRA 42/92 (EUR 44/41/92, 13 April 1992) except for one change in the final sentence).

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. 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. In August 1990, the 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. Under current legislation the maximum period a detainee may be held 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 10 provinces in the southeast of Turkey.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the unacknowledged detention of Nazmiye Sevgin, who was reportedly seized by plainclothes police officers in Istanbul on 29 March, and seen by several witnesses at Istanbul Police headquarters;
- seeking information as to her current whereabouts;
- urging that if she is in detention that she be granted immediate access to her family and a lawyer and seeking assurances that she is not being subjected to any ill-treatment while being held.

APPEALS TO:

1) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR; 30812 EMMH TR; 26177 IEMT TR

Faxes: + 90 1 272 81 82

[Salutation: Dear Sir]

2) Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr;
42099 basb tr; 42875 bbk tr**

Faxes: + 90 41 17 04 76

+ 90 42 30 88 96

[Salutation: Dear Prime Minister]

3) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 118 1795

[Salutation: Dear Minister]

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

and 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 4 June 1992.