

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**EXTRA 42/93**

**Fear of Torture**

**30 April 1993**

**TURKEY:**

**Ahmet Kösemehmeto\_lu**

**Hasan Yüksel**

**Erkan Çelebi**

**and seven others (names unknown to Amnesty International)**

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Ahmet Kösemehmeto\_lu, Hasan Yüksel, Erkan Çelebi and seven others who were detained by police in the Bakırköy-Güngören district of Istanbul on 27 April 1993. All ten detainees are now being interrogated in incommunicado detention at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters and it is feared that they may be subjected to torture.

It is reported that Ahmet Kösemehmeto\_lu, an asthma sufferer, has previously been detained and remanded in custody for membership of the Turkish Revolutionary Communist Party.

#### **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. 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. New legislation to shorten the maximum detention period came into force on 1 December 1992. Now the normal maximum period of 24 hours, for which a non-political detainee may be held before being formally charged or released, may be extended to eight days in cases of ordinary crimes involving three or more suspects. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences to be tried in State Security Courts may be held without charge for 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in provinces under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in 10 provinces in the southeast of Turkey.

Following three visits to Turkey to investigate allegations of torture the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) of the Council of Europe published in December 1992 for the first time its findings. The ECPT concluded "that the practice of torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment of persons in police custody remains widespread in Turkey and that such methods are applied to both ordinary criminal suspects and persons held under anti-terrorist provisions".

Medical experts accompanying the ECPT examined prisoners who had been

interrogated in police in Istanbul and found "haematomas consistent with their allegations that they had recently been subjected to *falaka* (beating on the soles of the feet) and to beating on the palm of the hands", and interviewed a prisoner who showed lesions on his penis "consistent with his allegation that an electrode had been placed by the police on that part of his body".

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Ahmet Kösemehmeto\_lu, Hasan Yüksel, Erkan Çelebi and the seven others who were detained in Istanbul on 27 April 1993 and are being held at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters;
- noting the findings of the ECPT regarding the practice of torture in Turkey as published in its December 1992 report;
- seeking assurances that Ahmet Kösemehmeto\_lu and his fellow-detainees are not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against them.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Governor of Istanbul:

Hayri Kozakç\_o\_lu  
\_stanbul Valili\_i  
\_stanbul  
Turkey

**Telegrams: Istanbul Valili\_i, Istanbul, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 1 520 7774**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

2) Istanbul State Security Court Prosecutor:

Ahmet Köksal  
\_stanbul Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi  
Istanbul  
Turkey

**Telegrams: Istanbul State Security Court Prosecutor,  
Istanbul, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz  
\_nsan Haklar\_ Ara\_t\_rma Komisyonu Ba\_kan\_  
TBMM  
Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: + 90 4 420 5394**

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 May 93.