

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 44/93

Fear of Torture

7 May 1993

TURKEY: **Teslim Töre**

Murat Toprak
Hüseyin Bak_r
Muazzez Yüce (female)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the four people named above who were captured during raids on a number of houses in Istanbul on 5 May 1993. According to family members, Istanbul police have not registered any of the detentions with the State Security Court Prosecutor and have repeatedly denied that these people are being held at all. It is feared that they are being interrogated under torture.

In spite of police denials, Teslim Töre, who has been linked with the illegal Turkish Communist Labour Party (TKEP), was reported in newspapers and on the radio as having been detained. He and Murat Toprak have reportedly been wanted by the police for many years.

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 or 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".

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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 Teslim Töre, Murat Toprak, Hüseyin Bakır and Muazzez Yüce who were detained in Istanbul on 5 May 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 Teslim Töre 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 20 May 1993