

EXTRA 69/98 Fear of "Disappearance" / Fear of Torture

30 September 1998

TURKEY      Selahattin Ökten from Çatak/Yorgançay\_r village, Karl\_ova,  
                 Bingöl

Ahmet Çiftçi, aged 56	}
Selim Y_ld_r_m, aged 37	}
Yüksel Demiralp, aged 37	}
Celalettin Harmanc_, aged 62	}from Kargapazar_ village, in
Karl_ova, Bingöl	}Karlioiva, Bingö
Allahverdi Söylemez, aged 48	}
Izzet Söylemez, aged 62	}
Ali Ince, aged 38	}
S_rr_ Çiftçi, aged 28	}

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There is grave concern that the above-named villagers, who have been in unacknowledged incommunicado detention for a period of between four to five days, in violation of Turkish legal requirements, are at risk of torture and possible "disappearance". The reason for their arrests is not known.

On 26 September 1998, eight people from Kargapazar\_ village in Eastern Turkey were detained by gendarmes and Special Team members (heavily armed police). Bingöl Police Headquarters initially admitted holding them, but later, however, denied this.

Selahattin Ökten was detained the following day by Special Team members in the village of Karl\_ova, Eastern Turkey, where he had been visiting for the day. His place of detention is also not known despite repeated attempts by Amnesty International and relatives to ascertain this information. The Karlioiva Public Prosecutor has refused to confirm whether Selahattin Ökten is in custody. It has also not been possible to gain information from either the Bingöl Police Headquarters, who initially said he was in the custody of their narcotics branch, or the Karlioiva Gendarmerie Headquarters.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Selahattin Ökten had been detained and reportedly tortured on a number of previous occasions since 1990. During this period, he was also tried in a State Security Court, but was acquitted.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification to their families, are still frequently ignored. This results in a great deal of distress to families of those detained, particularly as the subsequent risk of their "disappearance" and torture is increased.

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can now be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to four days. This period may be increased to 10 days in the six provinces currently under State of Emergency, which no longer include Bingöl, and to seven days in the rest of Turkey, during which time detainees must be granted access to a lawyer.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Selahattin Ökten and the other eight above-named villages who were detained on 26 and 27 September 1998 respectively in Kargapazar\_ and Karl\_ova villages;
- urging that their family and lawyer be informed of their whereabouts without delay;
- urging that they not be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against them;
- expressing dismay that Turkish citizens can be held in unacknowledged incommunicado detention, in contravention of the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code (CMUK).

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Kutlu Akta\_  
İçişleri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312 418 9208**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Minister of Justice:

Mr Hasan Denizkurdu  
Adalet Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06659 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312 418 5667**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Hikmet Sami Türk  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: + 90 312 417 0476**

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 29 October 1998.

***"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman  
or degrading treatment or punishment".***

*Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights*