

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 44/46/99

2 July 1999

**Further information on EXTRA 78/99 (EUR 44/45/99, 30 June 1999) - Fear of torture or ill-treatment / Fear of "disappearance"**

**TURKEYSelami Altay**

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Amnesty International has learnt that Selami Altay was brought to Urfa Prosecutor's Office on 27 June 1999 and formally charged with assisting an illegal organization, under Article 169 of the Turkish Penal Code. He was committed to Urfa Prison, where he is now held.

Selami Altay told his lawyers that he had been tortured in detention at Gaziantep police headquarters in an attempt to extract a confession from him, and that he had suffered a heart attack after electro-shock torture. His lawyers noted that he still had blood around his mouth at their meeting with him. However, doctors who examined him at Urfa State Hospital did not record that he had any injuries or health problems caused by torture. It is thought that the police held Selami Altay in custody for only one day because they were afraid he might die under torture. In breach of procedures laid down by Article 181 of the Turkish Penal Code, Gaziantep police headquarters failed to inform his relatives that he was held in police custody and apparently kept no record of his detention.

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

- (to the Minister of Justice) asking for an independent and comprehensive investigation into Selami Altay's allegations that he was tortured in police custody, and that those responsible should be brought to justice;
- (to the General Director of Prisons) asking that Selami Altay be given access to adequate medical treatment while he is held in prison;
- (to the Minister of the Interior) reminding the authorities of the need to open detention records for scrutiny by families of detainees and by lawyers, and urging them to prosecute officers who fail to keep proper records as set out under Article 181 of the Turkish Penal Code.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Justice

Professor Hikmet Sami Türk  
Adalet Bakan\_, Adalet Bakanl\_\_\_\_,  
06659 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Adalet Bakan\_, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312 418 5667**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

General Director of Prisons

Mr Ali Suat Ertosun  
Ceza ve Tevkifevleri Genel Müdürü,  
Adalet Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06659 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Ceza ve Tevkifevleri Genel Müdürü, Adalet Bakanl\_\_\_\_, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312425 4819**

**Salutation: Dear Director**

Minister of the Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan, İçi\_leri Bakaný

Içiyleri Bakanl\_\_\_, 06644 Ankara, Turkey  
**Telegrams: İçi\_leri Bakanÿ, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: + 90 312 418 9208**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights  
Mr Mehmet Ali Irtemçelik, 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 2 August 1999.