

**TURKEY Cevat Soysal (37)**

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Amnesty International is gravely concerned at reports that Cevat Soysal was severely tortured while held at the National Intelligence Agency in Ankara and later at Ankara Police Headquarters.

Cevat Soysal, a Turkish citizen who had been granted political asylum in Germany in 1995, was reportedly apprehended in Moldova by five or six unidentified men at about 8pm on 13 July 1999. He was flown to Turkey later that day. He was reportedly interrogated for a total of 11 days, first at the headquarters of the National Intelligence Agency in Ankara from 13 July to 21 July, and then at Ankara Police Headquarters Anti-Terror Branch from 21 July until 23 July. On 23 July he was brought before a judge and committed to Ankara Central Closed Prison. It is expected that he will face charges of membership of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

Cevat Soysal told his lawyer that he was tortured in detention. He described methods of torture including electro-shock torture, being hung by the arms, being forced to lie naked on ice, being sprayed with pressurized water and not being allowed to sleep. He also reported being badly beaten and forced to swallow a drug, which made him tearful and subject to mood swings, weakened his resolve and forced him to relax. In a method known as 'Chinese torture' he described being made to stand in a tiny cell in which it was impossible to sit and water being dripped onto his head. Unofficial sources have reported that Cevat Soysal was twice hospitalized while he was in detention because of the severity of the torture he had undergone.

Cevat Soysal's lawyer noted needle marks, bruising and other signs consistent with his client's allegations of torture, particularly newly healing injuries on the legs, back and arms, at his meeting with him on 26 July. The allegations seem to be further supported by a photograph taken on 21 July by a reporter from the Turkish daily newspaper *Star* who saw Cevat Soysal being brought to court in Ankara by police officers for a medical examination at the Forensic Institute. Looking drained and lifeless, Cevat Soysal was supported by two police officers because he was unapparently unable to walk unaided.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In Turkey, under Law 4229, people suspected of committing offences under the Anti-Terror Law may be held in incommunicado police custody without any access to legal counsel, or to family or friends, for up to four days. Detainees may then be held for a further period of six days in the provinces under emergency rule, or three days in the rest of Turkey (including Ankara). During the extended period they have the right to access to a lawyer. In practice, however, such access is rarely permitted. With no access to the outside world detainees are at the mercy of their interrogators.

Torture is regularly used in Turkey to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers, or as informal punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations.

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

- expressing deep concern about the allegations of torture made by Cevat Soysal;

- urging the government to carry out a full and impartial investigation into Cevat Soysal's allegations of torture and to urgently authorize an independent medical examination in order to establish the truth of his allegations;
- reminding the government of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a state party, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";
- reminding the authorities of their obligations under Law 4229 to bring detainees before a judge within seven days and noting that Cevat Soysal was held for four days beyond that period;
- asking to be informed of the results of any investigation into Cevat Soysal's allegations of torture.

**APPEALS TO:**

Ankara State Prosecutor

Ankara Cumhuriyet Ba\_savc\_l\_\_i,

Ankara,

Turkey

**Telegrams:** Ankara Cumhuriyet Ba\_savc\_l\_\_\_\_, Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes:** +90 312 313 3940

**Salutation:** Dear Prosecutor

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

**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 6 September 1999.