

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 60/93 Fear of Torture

21 June 1993

TURKEY: from the office of Mücadele magazine:

Erdo_an Ya_ar Kopan

Cafer Çakmak

Türkan Balaban (female)

Zeynel Polat

Gülây Yücel (female)

Zeynep Ar_kan (female)

Murat Yücel

Necla Can (female)

_lker Altan

Tuncer Ba_datl_o_lu

Fatma Gülten _e_en (female)

Sava_ Karakurum

Levent Yanl_k

Camil Gülba_

Kudret Sar_gül

Ethem Elma

and four visitors to the office whose names are not known to
Amnesty International

from the office of Halk_n Gücü monthly magazine.

Yemlihan Kaya (female)

and five people whose names are not known to Amnesty International

from the office of Özgür-Der, Association of Rights and Freedoms:

Sava_ Dörtyol

Solmaz Artar, vice president of Marmara Özgür-Der

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the people listed above who were detained in a police operation in Istanbul on 21 June.

In a police raid on the premises of the political magazine *Mücadele* (Struggle), the monthly *Halk_n Gücü* (People's Power) and the organization Özgür-Der (Association of Rights and Freedoms) in the afternoon of 21 June, at least 28 people were detained and documents confiscated. Two lawyers of the magazine were present during the search and alleged that it was carried out without a search warrant. The detainees are held in incommunicado detention at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters on unknown charges and it is feared that they are being interrogated under torture.

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. Following a programme of visits

to Turkish police stations in 1990, 1991 and 1992, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT - established by the Council of Europe) reported: "In the light of all the information at its disposal, the CPT can only conclude 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-terrorism provisions".

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 non-political detainees may be held for up to eight days before being formally charged or released. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be held without charge for up to 15 days. In the provinces of southeast Turkey which are under

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emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the 28 people detained in Istanbul on 21 June 1993, and held incommunicado 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;
- urging that Erdo_an Ya_ar Kopan and his fellow-detainees be permitted to speak to their lawyers, that they be brought promptly before a judge, and that they not be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against them.

APPEALS TO:

1) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir
Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR or 26177 IEMT TR

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Prime Minister:

Mrs Tansu Çiller
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr

42099 basb tr

42875 bbk tr

Faxes: +90 4 417 04 76 PRIME MINISTER

+90 4 230 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

3) President Süleyman Demirel

Office of the President

Devlet Ba_kanl____
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: President Demirel, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 42303 kosk tr

Salutation: Your Excellency

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.

The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of Turkey in Austria during June at the following address:

TURKISH EMBASSY:

The Ambassador

Botschaft der Türkei

Prinz-Eugen-Strasse 40, 1040 Wien

AUSTRIA

Faxes: + 43 1 505 36 60

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 July 1993.