

TURKEYYasin Karada_ (m), student, 22

Yasin Karada_ was arrested on 6 August and allegedly tortured by police. He was remanded to prison on 15 August, but taken back into police custody for questioning two days later. Amnesty International believes he is at risk of further torture or ill-treatment. His family have not been allowed to see him.

His brother was arrested with him in Diyarbak_r, but released on 15 August. Yasin Karada_ told him that he had been tortured four times.

He was taken back into police custody under the so-called "Repentance Law", which allows former members of illegal armed organizations to give evidence against these organisations in exchange for reduced prison sentences. The Governor of the Region under State of Emergency can apply to a court for permission to return such prisoners to police custody for questioning for up to 10 days. Amnesty International has received numerous reports of such prisoners being exposed to torture and ill-treatment during this period.

Yasin Karada_ had reportedly been detained and tortured by police in 1993. The police allegedly beat him, squeezed his testicles, hung him up by his arms and gave him electric shocks to his genitals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Whereas torture is rarely reported from prisons, in police stations torture appears to be regularly used to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as unofficial punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods in Turkey documented by Amnesty International include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, suspending by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

Turkey is a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 3 of which states that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, German or your own language:

- expressing concern that Yasin Karada_ has allegedly been tortured by police, and that he has now been returned to police custody in Diyarbak_r;
- urging the authorities to guarantee that he will not be tortured or ill-treated, and that he will be allowed any medical care he needs;
- calling for Yasin Karada_ to be returned to prison immediately;
- calling for a full and impartial investigation into allegations that he has been tortured, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- asking the authorities to take action to prevent the torture of detainees at Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters, pointing out the government's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior
Mr Rütü Kazım Yücelen

Ministry of Interior

Çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Fax: + 90 312 418 17 95

Salutation: Dear Minister

Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters

Mr Atilla Ç_nar

Diyarbak_r Emniyet Müdürü

Diyarbak_r Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürü, Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

Governor of the Provinces under Emergency Rule

Ola_anüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams:Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Faxes:+ 90 412 224 3572

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

E. Safter Gaydali,

Office of the Prime Minister,

Ba_bakanl_k,

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Fax: + 90 312 417 04 76

Salutation: Dear Minister

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 3 October 2001.