

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 44/65/99

29 September 1999

Further information on EXTRA 135/99 (EUR 44/64/99, 28 September 1999) - Fear for safety / Human rights activists detained

TURKEYLeman Yurtsever, board member, HRA

Musa K\_l\_ç, board member, HRA

\_en Süer Kaya, board member, HRA

K\_vanç Sert, HRA member

Nimet Tanr\_kulu, HRA member

Zaide Honca, HRA member

Ümit Efe, HRA member

Zehra (Gül) Y\_lmaz, HRA member

approximately 100 others

new name: aban Dayanan, board member, Istanbul HRA

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All those detained by police in Istanbul on 28 September 1999 have been released. They are expected to face charges under Law 2911 of assembling in a public place without permission. Amnesty International has been told by one of the detainees that they were beaten in police vehicles and threatened and verbally abused by police officers.

The situation in the country remains extremely tense following the deaths of at least 10 prisoners in Ankara Central Closed Prison on 26 September. The bodies of the prisoners who died have been returned to their families and Amnesty International is concerned that there may be more violent disturbances, leading to further detentions, as mourners gather for their funerals.

Prison guards have been taken hostage in other prisons across Turkey in response to the events in Ankara, and negotiations for their release are continuing.

The Istanbul branch of the Human Rights Association was raided by police on 29 September 1999. \_aban Dayanan, a board member of the Istanbul branch of the Human Rights Association (HRA), was detained by police and badly beaten. He had been part of a group from the HRA who went to the main post office in the Sirkeci district of Istanbul to send telegraphs to the government expressing their concern at the prisoners' deaths. He has now been released but has been given a medical report certifying that he should not work for two days because of his injuries.

Amnesty International is also concerned that prisoners wounded in the incidents in Ankara Central Closed Prison are not being given adequate medical care. About 19 prisoners are said to be in Ankara General Hospital, but others are reported to have been returned to Ankara Central Closed Prison or to other prisons. The location of nine prisoners who were reportedly severely injured is not known. Lawyers of injured prisoners are not being permitted access to their clients either in hospital or in prison. Relatives of those in hospital are being allowed to see them but only from a distance, in the presence of police officers, and on condition that they do not discuss the incidents in the prison.

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

- urging the police to exercise restraint as mourners gather for the funerals of prisoners killed at Ankara Central Closed Prison on 26 September 1999;

- expressing concern at reports that prisoners injured in violent clashes with prison guards on 26 September may not be receiving the medical care they need;
- urging the authorities to ensure that injured prisoners are given adequate medical treatment and that their families are kept informed of their condition;
- asking for information about the investigations into the deaths and injuries at Ankara Central Closed Prison reportedly opened by the Ministry of Justice and Ankara Public Prosecutor;
- expressing concern for the safety of members of the Human Rights Association;
- expressing concern at reports that \_aban Dayanan was badly beaten by police in detention and requesting the authorities to carry out a thorough and impartial investigation into his ill-treatment and bring those responsible to justice.

**APPEALS TO (please note that fax numbers can be difficult to get through to):**

Prime Minister

Mr Bülent Ecevit  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k, 06573 Ankara, Turkey  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: + 90 312 417 0476**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

Minister of the Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan  
İçiyleri Bakan\_  
İçiyleri Bakanl\_\_\_, 06644 Ankara, Turkey  
**Telegrams: İçi\_leri Bakan\_, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: + 90 312 418 9208**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

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 15 October 1999.