

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/68/96

EXTRA 63/96

Fear of torture / Health concern

9 May 1996

TURKEY Ferzende Abi, Kurd aged 36

_irin Abi, wife of Ferzende Abi

Bazi Bor

Ahmet Abi

Aziz Timur

and 17 others (names unknown)

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of around 20 people who have been taken into police custody in Van.

According to testimony given by their children, Ferzende and _irin Abi were detained at their home in the Hac_bekir district of Van by officers from the Van Police Headquarters. Ferzende Abi, who suffers from a heart condition, was reportedly so severely beaten with rifle butts that one of his arms and one of his legs were fractured. According to reports his condition deteriorated in custody and he went into a coma. He was transferred on 5 May to the Van State Hospital where he is being treated in intensive care.

Ferzende Abi is a former board member of the Hakkari branch of the now defunct Democracy Party (DEP). He and _irin Abi have seven children.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency in the east and southeast such as Van, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is often applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for assumed support of illegal organizations.

Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of _irin Abi, Bazi Bor, Ahmet Abi, Aziz Timur and the people held with them in incommunicado detention at Van Police Headquarters;
- seeking assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- expressing particular concern for the health of Ferzende Abi, transferred on 5 May from police custody to intensive care in Van State Hospital;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against the detainees.

APPEALS TO:

1. Van Chief Prosecutor:

Cumhuriyet Ba_savc_s_

Van Savc_l____

Van, Turkey

Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Savcısı, Van, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

2. Interior Minister:

Mr Ülkü Güney

Ministry of Interior

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

3. Chief of Political Police:

Mr Fevzi Erdo_an

Van Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

_skele Caddesi

Van, Turkey

Telegrams: Mr Erdogan, Emniyet Mudurlugu, Van, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Emre Gönensay

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

D__i_leri Bakanl____

06100 Ankara

Faxes: +90 312 419 1547

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 12 June 1996.