

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 75/92 Fear of Torture

4 September 1992

TURKEY: Kaz_m Ceylan
Zahide Honca (female)
Filiz Tezerdi (female)
Sevim_ener (female)
Songül Demir (female)
Kenan Güler
Sayit Geçit
Küçük Ali Oruz
Dervi_Molan
Nurettin Gedik
Mehmet Zeki_ad
and six others whose names are not known

A group of 17 young people were detained on 1 September 1992 while recently visiting the village of Acarlar near K_r_khan in the province of Hatay. They were taken to Antakya where they are being held in incommunicado detention, presumably at the Anti-Terror Branch of Antakya Police Headquarters. It is not known why they were visiting the village, but 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. However, all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and systematic in Turkey. 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. In August 1990, the government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights. Under current legislation the maximum period a detainee may be held before being formally charged or released is 24 hours; in cases involving three or more suspects or due to the 'nature of the crime' it may be extended to 15 days.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging that the 17 young people, including the 11 named above, are granted prompt access to their lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in police custody;
- asking to be informed of the reason for their arrest and whether any charges have been brought against them.

APPEALS TO:

1. Hatay Chief of Police:

Mr Bülent Orako_lu
Hatay Emniyet Müdürü
Antakya/Hatay
Turkey

Telegrams: Hatay Emniyet Muduru, Antakya, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

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2. Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telex: 46369 IC SL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

3. Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telex: 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

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey

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 18 September 1992.