

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 79/93

Fear of Torture

22 September 1993

TURKEY: Rukiye \_eker (female), aged 13-14 ) all detained at  
Sevda \_eker (female), aged 13-14 ) at their homes  
Ercan \_eker ) on 14 September  
Adnan \_eker )  
\_evket Aslan )  
Bar\_\_ Karaa\_ar )  
\_skender Elter, paralysed in one eye, arm and leg  
  
Fuat Atalay ) both detained as  
Cahit Ece ) they left work on 17 September)

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above-named nine people (all Kurds) held in incommunicado detention at the Police Headquarters in Van, eastern Turkey near the Iranian border. It is feared that the nine detainees are being subjected to torture during interrogation.

The two girls, Rukiye and Sevda \_eker are reported to have been taken to the state hospital in Van on several occasions. They and five of the men were detained at their homes in Van on 14 September 1993, while Fuat Atalay and Cahit Ece were detained on 17 September as they left work.

The reason for their detention is not known, but the security forces have been detaining suspected supporters of the illegal Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) all over the country in the context of their all-out war against the guerrillas of the PKK.

#### 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 (ECPT - established by the Council of Europe) reported: "In the light of all the information at its disposal, the ECPT 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 10 provinces under emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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

- expressing concern for the health and safety of the two girls, Rukiye and Sevda\_eker, as well as the seven men detained with them on 14 and 17 September, respectively, who are being held in incommunicado detention at the Police Headquarters in Van;

- urging that the two girls in particular are given immediate access to their families and lawyers;

- noting the findings of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture regarding the practice of torture in Turkey as published in its December 1992 report;

- urging that the nine detainees in Van are brought promptly before a judge, and that they are not subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Chief of Police in Van:

Mr Ertu\_rul Çak\_r  
Van Emniyet Müdürlü\_ü  
\_skele Caddesi  
Van, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Van, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Mehmet Gazio\_lu  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) 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

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:  
Mr Hikmet Çetin  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
D\_\_i\_\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 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 20 October 1993.