

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/88/93

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 80/93 Fear of Torture

23 September 1993

TURKEY: Memik Horoz
 Sezemis Horoz, wife of Memik
 _smail Y_lmaz
 Ülkü Dar_c_o_lu
 Ethem Ç_lg_n

 Ahmet Polat }
 Mehmet Polat } brothers

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the seven people named above who are being held in incommunicado detention at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. It is feared that they are being interrogated under torture.

Memik Horoz and his wife Sezemis were detained in Istanbul on 17 September 1993 at the office of the political magazine, Partizan. Reportedly, Sezemis Horoz' arm was broken when she was being detained.

_smail Y_lmaz, Ülkü Dar_c_o_lu and Ethem Ç_lg_n were detained at their homes in Istanbul on the same day. Ahmet and Mehmet Polat were taken into custody on 20 September, also at their homes in Istanbul.

The reason for their detention is not known. The police in Istanbul, however, are constantly carrying out operations against suspected sympathizers or members of illegal political organizations. The lawyer of one detainee held after such a police operation in Istanbul was able to see her client, Muzaffer Öztürk, apparently while still in police custody during the week of 13 September, which is most unusual. The lawyer reported at the end of the week that injuries and bruises were visible on the exposed parts of the detainee's body and that his hair and moustache had been partially pulled out.

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 in southeast Turkey under emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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

- expressing concern for the health of Sezemis Horoz, who reportedly suffered a fracture of her arm when being detained in Istanbul on 17 September, urging that she be given all medical attention she requires;

- expressing concern also for the safety of her husband Memik Horoz and the five people named above, who were detained on 17 and 20 September, respectively, and are now held in incommunicado detention at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters;

- 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 seven named detainees in Istanbul are not subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment and that they are brought promptly before a judge;

- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against them.

APPEALS TO

1) Deputy Prime Minister:

Mr Murat Karayalçın
Office of the Prime Minister
Başbakanlık
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Deputy Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr

42099 basb tr

42875 bbk tr

Faxes: +90 44 17 04 76 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

+90 42 30 88 96 (attn: Deputy Prime Minister)

Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

2) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir
Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
İstanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR or 26177 IEMT TR

Salutation: Dear Sir

3) 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

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 21 October 1993.