

Manuscript for Turkey Briefing

[Title]

TURKEY

No security without human rights

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- In the name of security
- Human rights and the arms trade
- Reform is possible
- Campaigning for human rights

amnesty international briefing

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TURKEY

No security without human rights

an amnesty international briefing

Amnesty International Publications

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On the cover

A vigil in protest against “disappearances” held at Galatasary, Istanbul, in May 1996. © _.

Dayanan

AI mandate for inside front cover [please use the version of the mandate used for the annual report 1996]

[Page 1]

[Headline]

No security without human rights

[Text]

The human rights picture in Turkey is bleak. Torture and ill-treatment have long been routine. The 1990s have seen the emergence of “disappearances” and extrajudicial executions. Turkey’s citizens do not enjoy true freedom of expression.

The security forces are the most powerful group in the country and they have treated human rights with contempt.

Political violence has been a serious problem for almost three decades. Recent Turkish history has seen three military coups and, since the 1980s, armed conflict between the security forces and opposition groups based in the mountains of the southeast and the cities of west Turkey. Armed opposition groups have also abused human rights. The largest armed opposition group is the Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK).

Successive governments have either denied that human rights violations occur, or justified them as the inevitable consequence of defending national security.

The result is that no one in Turkey enjoys true personal security. Despite repeated promises of reform, Turkish citizens can still be arbitrarily detained. In custody, they will be unprotected against torture, still a standard method of interrogation. Since 1980 more than 400 people have reportedly been tortured to death in custody. “Disappearances” and political killings have claimed thousands of victims since 1991.

Even people fighting alongside the security forces are put at risk by the state’s lawless methods. In January 1996 the government announced that the PKK had massacred 11 men near the remote village of Güclükonak. Seven of the victims were members of the local village guard force.

Independent investigations suggested that the massacre was the work of the security forces. The international community has turned a blind eye to Turkey’s human rights record. They have echoed the Turkish Government’s claim that the threat to national security must be defeated at any cost to human rights. They have accepted official window-dressing as progress towards human rights protection. They have put the interests of trade and political allegiance before the security of Turkish citizens.

[Quote]

‘We’ll finish terrorism but we are being held back by democracy and human rights.’

Turkish Deputy Chief of Staff, General Ahmet Çörekçi, July 1995

[caption]

Turkish soldiers. Members of the security forces have treated human rights with contempt and are responsible for gross human rights violations.

[photo credit]

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[Box]

Facts and figures

Population: About 61 million. More than 99 per cent are Muslims. The Kurdish people are a large minority group. Other minority groups include Alevis, Arabs, Assyrians, Armenians and Yezidis. There are also many African and Iranian migrants and asylum-seekers.

Two million people from southeast Turkey have been displaced by the conflict between PKK and government forces.

Economy: Key sectors are agriculture, industry, manufacturing and tourism. Exports are dominated by textiles and textile goods, iron and steel. Principal imports are machinery, crude petroleum, iron and steel, transport vehicles and chemical products. More than two million Turks are migrant workers living mainly in western Europe. In 1994 their remittances earned the Turkish economy US\$2,664,000.

The security forces: The combined strength of the Army, Navy, Airforce and Gendarmerie is 573,800 (including 410,200 conscripts). Military service is compulsory. The defence budget accounts for 13 per cent of gross national expenditure.

In the past 36 years the Turkish military have overturned three governments, suspended three parliaments, hanged a prime minister and imprisoned thousands of civilians, some of whom are still in jail. Army officers still preside over civilian trials in state security courts.

In southeast Turkey the security forces have formed a paramilitary village guard force to provide frontline defence against the PKK. Often conscripted under duress, village guards have also been targeted by the PKK.

[Pages 2 & 3]

[Headline]

Suppressing the truth

[Subheading]

The assault on freedom of expression

[Text]

Turkish society has made significant progress towards freedom of expression since military rule ended in 1984.

Under the generals, all political parties and most trade unions were banned. Hundreds of people were tortured and imprisoned because of their non-violent beliefs. News-papers were shut down and journalists imprisoned. The military banned the Kurdish language and locked up anyone who used it.

After the end of military rule, the number of prisoners of conscience fell. The notorious laws under which they had been jailed were repealed. Restrictions on the use of Kurdish eased, resulting in the publication of Kurdish language newspapers and books. Left-wing groups which do not advocate violence are now treated as less of a threat and fewer of their members are prosecuted or jailed.

By 1990 some newspapers and many members of parliament were openly arguing that a healthy society needs free and open political debate. After the government monopoly on broadcasting was broken, radio and television stations developed all over the country. Political and social issues are aired with a freedom unimaginable a decade ago.

While this is a true picture of freedom of expression in Turkey, it is only a partial picture. The state still severely restricts any discussion of issues it regards as central to national integrity.

These are: the behaviour of the security forces, the institution of military service, and the military goal of defeating Kurdish “separatism”.

Draconian new laws have been passed to imprison people found guilty of “separatist propaganda”, whether or not they used violence.

Article 8 of the Anti-Terror Law, passed in 1991, includes non-violent forms of political dissent within its wide definition of “terrorism”. Many people have been sentenced to imprisonment and heavy fines under its provisions. They include publishers, writers and academics, as well as political activists. The government has defended the Anti-Terror Law on the grounds that Turkey’s grave security problem makes such measures necessary.

Political violence is a serious problem in Turkey. However, most people imprisoned under Article 8 of the Anti-Terror Law employed no weapon more violent than a pen or a microphone. Some had publicly denounced violence.

Lawyer Ahmet Zeki Okçuo_lu served a 20-month sentence for participating in a discussion panel on the problems of southeast Turkey. Shortly before starting his sentence he told the press:

“For years I have declared my opposition to terrorism and opposed violence. I have never used a weapon. I have opposed those who take up arms. But the state has convicted me as a terrorist. Now I am branded as a terrorist throughout the world.”

“Thought-crime” does not even have to be committed on Turkish soil to be punished under the Anti-Terror Law. In May 1994 Mehdi Zana, former mayor of Diyarbakır, began serving a two-year sentence because, at a press conference in Brussels, he had read out testimony he had just given before the European Parliament’s human rights committee. He was later released pending a review of his sentence.

There are now fewer prisoners of conscience in Turkey than at any time since the 1980 military coup. But while the risk of imprisonment for exercising freedom of expression is lower, the risk of being killed is higher than ever before.

The 1990s have seen journalists and human rights defenders targeted and killed by the state to prevent them investigating and campaigning against human rights violations by the security forces.

No less than 10 members of the Turkish Human Rights Association (HRA) have been killed since 1991. The HRA has outspokenly condemned human rights violations. The authorities have chosen to interpret their opposition to the torture or killing of members of armed groups as support for those groups.

Fourteen journalists covering human rights issues in southeast Turkey have died in custody, “disappeared” or been killed by the security forces since 1992. Most of them worked for Kurdish-owned newspapers. Journalists are not much safer in west Turkey. In January 1996 Metin Göktepe, a daily newspaper photographer, was beaten to death by police in Istanbul. He was one of hundreds of people detained to prevent them attending the funeral of political prisoners beaten to death by gendarmes a few days earlier.

Demonstrations can not be held without official permission and people who stage unofficial peaceful demonstrations risk imprisonment. Relatives of the “disappeared” staging weekly sit-downs in central Istanbul have been beaten, dragged along the ground, and held in custody overnight. Relatives of Hasan Ocak, who was found dead after “disappearing” in police custody, were among 42 people detained during a protest in July 1995. The protest was brutally broken up by police. “All you could see was truncheons rising and falling, and kicking feet”, said Maside Ocak, Hasan’s sister.

Turkish trade unionists taking industrial action have also been attacked by the police.

In December 1995 a demonstration in Izmir against the sacking of 43 members of the transport workers union, TÜMTİS, was violently dispersed by the local police force.

Halil Dinç, president of the local TÜMTİS branch, was beaten over the head and received an injury that required seven stitches.

[Quote]

‘I feel the dishonour of this shame and ask your forgiveness. After a time society will ask your forgiveness.’

Culture Minister, visiting two people imprisoned under the Anti-Terror Law in 1994

[Quote]

‘All you could see was truncheons rising and falling, and kicking feet.’

Maside Ocak, Hasan Ocak’s sister

[Caption, page 2]

Trade union demonstration, May Day 1996. All demonstrations must be officially authorized. People who stage unofficial demonstrations risk imprisonment.

[photo credit]

© _. Dayanan

[Caption, page 3]

Istanbul HRA president (centre) is detained for protesting over prison conditions.

[photo credit]

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[Box, page 2]

Interrogated under torture

Mensure Yüksel Erdohan, a journalist working for a Kurdish-owned newspaper, was detained by gendarmes in December 1995. She was interrogated by the Anti-Terror police in Edirne and later in Istanbul.

She eventually appeared in court on charges of belonging to an illegal organization. She told the judge that she had been tortured: stripped naked, sexually assaulted and given electric shocks. She said that the judge deliberately prevented her complaint being properly registered.

Imprisoned for an ‘insult’

In April 1995 post officer worker Mahmut Kaçar became a prisoner of conscience, serving a four-and-a-half year sentence for “insulting” Kemal Atatürk.

He had interrupted a televised memorial service for Atatürk, founder of the Turkish republic, by holding up a copy of the Koran, saying “I call you to God.”

His motives were as peaceful as his actions. “I wanted to communicate the truth through a live broadcast.”

[photo credit]

©Anadolu Ajansi

[Box, page 3]

Will they send him to jail?

E_ber Ya_murdereli is a lawyer and an outspoken advocate of human rights. He has been blind since birth.

In December 1991 he made a speech in Istanbul in which he referred to the Kurdish minority. He is now appealing against a 10-month sentence for this “offence”.

If he loses the appeal, he will have to serve this and the remainder of a suspended sentence imposed by a military court after an unfair trial in the 1980s. He faces imprisonment until 2018.

Attack on freedom of thought

The novelist Ya_ar Kemal is one of Turkey’s most renowned citizens. A former political prisoner, he has consistently spoken out for human rights.

In 1995 he was tried under the Anti-Terror Law on charges of “separatist propaganda”. The charges arose from an article he had written, describing the situation in southeast Turkey.

Ya_ar Kemal was acquitted of this charge. But in early 1996 he was on trial again, for his contribution to a book entitled Freedom of Thought in Turkey. He was given a 20-month suspended sentence.

[photo credit]

© AP

[pages 4 & 5]

[Headline]

In the name of security

[subheading]

Torture, ‘disappearance’ and extrajudicial execution

[text]

Human rights violations are criminal offences in Turkey. Torture, “disappearance” and political killings by the security forces are outlawed in Turkish domestic legislation and by international human rights treaties which Turkey is obliged to uphold. Yet these abuses are committed on a gross scale. No government has ever made a systematic attempt to eradicate them.

In 1995 alone there were more than 35 “disappearances”, 15 reported deaths in custody as a result of torture, and more than 80 political killings. During demonstrations in Istanbul in March, 23 demonstrators were shot dead by police. In September three prisoners were beaten to death by gendarmes quelling a prison riot. 1996 began no better. In the first 10 days of the year, four prisoners were beaten to death in an Istanbul prison. So was a journalist reporting on the prisoners’ funerals.

Torture has long been endemic in Turkey, documented by Amnesty International for more than three decades. Torture is used routinely to extract confessions of guilt and obtain information. It is also used to punish or to intimidate.

The elderly, children, women, members of minority groups, lawyers, doctors, even members of parliament are at risk of torture in police custody. People have been tortured for failing to show their identity cards, or after minor traffic offences.

In March 1996 five school students from Manisa were detained on suspicion of involvement with an armed opposition group. None of them was older than 16. While in detention they were allegedly stripped naked, sexually assaulted, given electric shocks, and hosed with cold water at high pressure. Their allegations are corroborated by medical evidence.

Official failure to eradicate torture and bring those responsible to justice has resulted in the emergence of new human rights violations. In the past five years, patterns of “disappearance” and extrajudicial execution have emerged in Turkey.

Ten years ago people did not “disappear” in Turkey. In 1994, 50 “disappearances” were reported to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, more than from any other country.

Most of the “disappeared” are Kurdish villagers detained during security force operations in the southeast. Mehmet _irin Maltu, a farmer in Batman province, was taken into custody in January 1995. His family have since had no news of him and the public prosecutor has denied he was ever detained.

“Disappearances” also take place in the big cities of west Turkey, such as Istanbul and Ankara. In October 1995 Fehmi Tosun, a former political prisoner, was abducted in Istanbul by three men carrying walkie-talkies. His wife and daughter have since had no news of him.

“Disappearance” is a means of torturing an entire family. Not knowing whether the “disappeared” are alive or dead causes untold suffering to their families. To add to their plight they are treated callously, if not brutally, by the authorities. Relatives staging public demands for information have been beaten, ridiculed, insulted and detained by police officers.

More than 100 people have “disappeared” since 1991. The government has pledged to uphold the UN declaration on “disappearances”, which requires it to investigate all reports of “disappearance”. Not one such investigation has occurred.

1991 saw an unprecedented wave of political killings which swept through southeast Turkey and onto the streets of Ankara and Istanbul. It began in the spring, with increasing numbers of Kurdish villagers being killed by what appeared to be “death squads”.

By mid-1991 Kurdish political leaders were being targeted. Many were members of legal political parties such as HADEP, the People’s Democratic Party. Muhsin Melik, founder of HADEP in the southeast town of anl_urfa, was killed in June 1994, apparently by members of the security forces. More than 1,000 people have died in political street killings since 1991. In the rural southeast most victims of extrajudicial killings are Kurdish villagers who refuse to join the civil defence system of village guards. Villagers in Budakl_, Mardin province, have suffered five years of persecution because they refused to form a village guard force. The security forces have repeatedly raided the village, burning homes and crops, and detaining large number of villagers. Seven villagers are reported to have been extrajudicially executed.

Extrajudicial executions have also been reported in west Turkey. When police killed a man and two women during a raid on a flat in Ankara, Algan Hacalo_lu, government minister for human rights, stated:

“The killing ... was examined by a delegation from my Ministry. This is an extrajudicial execution”.

[Quote]

‘People do not worry so much about torture nowadays.

If your son or daughter just comes out of police custody alive, it is cause for rejoicing.’

Turkish lawyer

[quote]

‘The killing ... was examined by a delegation from my Ministry. This is an extrajudicial execution.’

Algan Hacalo_lu, the government minister for human rights after three people were killed during a police raid.

[caption]

Detentions during an operation against the PKK in southeast Turkey

[photo credit]

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[Headline]

Bitter irony

[subheading]

Turkey’s armed opposition

[text]

Armed opposition groups in Turkey are killing unarmed civilians, including women and children, prisoners, Kurdish peasants and even their own members.

Amnesty International opposes hostage-taking, the torture or killing of prisoners and the deliberate and arbitrary killing of people who have taken no part in the conflict, by armed opposition groups.

It is a bitter irony that during the 12 years in which the PKK has pursued its objective of some autonomy for southeast Turkey, most of its victims have been Kurdish villagers. Hundreds have been deliberately and arbitrarily killed because they joined the village guard system.

Armed opposition groups have an obligation to respect the basic principles of humanitarian law. Yet they have knowingly put civilians at risk and have murdered others who took no part in the conflict.

In October 1993 PKK forces reportedly killed 11 children during an attack on a village near Siirt.

[caption]

Victims of the PKK

[credit]

© Rex Features

[Box, page 4]

Children and torture

“They tied me up and connected a wire to my fingers. One of them switched on the generator. They gave me shocks to my face. One of them hit me on the head with his walkie-talkie. They punched me in the stomach.”

Döne Talun, aged 12, was arrested on suspicion of stealing bread and held for five days at Ankara Police Headquarters without access to her family or a lawyer.

After her release she was examined by a doctor who found injuries consistent with her allegations of torture. The police officers responsible were not charged.

Victim of the PKK

“There are so many things I would like to share with him. Soon my son has to change school and I would like to discuss it with Bekta_.

“Even cooking meals is very difficult because it seems senseless to cook his favourite dishes.”

Selma Avc_ has had no news of her husband Bekta_ since he was abducted in October 1993 by members of the PKK. Bekta_ Avc_ was a teacher.,

Since 1984 the PKK have killed 90 teachers on the pretext that state education is delivered in Turkish and that education in Kurdish is forbidden.

[Box, page 5]

‘Disappeared’

Seyhan Do_an was 13 years old when he “disappeared”. He was among 100 people detained in October 1995 when the security forces raided Dargeçit village, Mardin province, in southeast Turkey. The raid followed a PKK attack in which three people were killed.

Six of the detainees, including Seyhan, have not been seen since.

Refugees at risk

Dozens of Iranian and Iraqi refugees are at risk of being forcibly returned to Iran and Iraq where they may face imprisonment, torture and even execution.

In many cases these refugees are returned because they have not registered their asylum claims within five days of arriving in Turkey. However, failure to comply with a procedural requirement does not justify deporting someone to a country where they risk human rights violations.

Asylum-seekers who have successfully registered are still at risk of abuse. In March 1995 two Ghanaian refugees were detained because they were not carrying their passports. They were reportedly beaten for two hours, hosed with cold water, and faced with an axe-wielding police officer who threatened to cut off their genitals.

[caption]

African refugees are at risk in Turkey

[photo credit]

© R. Maro

[page 6]**[Headline]**

Human rights and the arms trade

[text]

The world's arms traders have ignored human rights in their rush to do business with Turkey. Three decades of political unrest on the streets and internal conflicts have made the country a lucrative market for military arms and equipment.

Foreign governments are well aware of the extent of human rights violations in Turkey. The findings of several UN experts, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ECPT), and international human rights organizations, all point to an appalling level of human rights abuse. Yet governments are still permitting arms and equipment that have been used to violate human rights to be sold to Turkey. US-made Sikorsky and Super Cobra helicopters were deployed during raids on villages around Tunceli, east Turkey, in October 1994. Seventeen villages were burned and at least one of the villagers detained died as a result of torture.

Helicopters made abroad have been repeatedly deployed on operations in southeast Turkey which have resulted in extrajudicial executions, "disappearances", and the wholesale destruction of villages and crops. In the 1990s France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the USA have sold military helicopters to Turkey.

Foreign-built armoured vehicles have also been used when human rights violations were committed. Bedri Tan, who died in custody, was reportedly last seen being forced into a British armoured "land rover". Armoured patrol vehicles based upon Land Rover components have been used in Turkey for many years, the most recent being built locally under licence from Land Rover in the United Kingdom. Germany, Russia and the USA have all supplied armoured cars and combat vehicles to Turkey and France supplies parts for local production.

zzet Tu_al was abducted in November 1995, by security forces equipped with armoured cars, while he was visiting his parents in Çavundur, southeast Turkey. He was found dead one month later.

Amnesty International takes no stand on the legitimacy of military or security relations with countries where human rights are violated. However, it opposes the transfer of military, security or police equipment, personnel, training or logistical support whenever there is reason to believe that they contribute to human rights violations.

[caption]

So many reports of human rights violations mention helicopters that, in 1995, Amnesty International called for an immediate end to sales or transfers of helicopters to Turkey.

[photo credit]

© Popperfoto

[quote]

'I am concerned at the persistent and grave allegations of violations of the right to life in Turkey.'

UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

[Box]**Ignoring the facts**

Foreign governments have done little to press for human rights reform in Turkey. Either they are silent, or they offer token criticism. Economic and political considerations take precedence over human rights. Turkey is an important trading partner for many states and is seen by Western governments as a strategic bulwark against instability in parts of the Middle East and the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Not only does the international community overlook abuses in Turkey. In some European countries Turkish migrants and refugees have been victims of human rights violations ranging from forcible deportation to beatings and racist ill-treatment by police officers.

In March 1994 Murat Fani (above), his wife and five children were forcibly deported to Turkey by the German authorities. The family had been living in Germany since 1989 and Murat Fani had sought political asylum there. When the family arrived in Turkey, Murat Fani was detained and allegedly interrogated under torture. He was detained again in November 1994 and tortured.

The UN and the Council of Europe's expert bodies have consistently monitored and reported the violations, but governments have failed to address the human rights problem in Turkey.

[page 7]**[headline]****Reform is possible****[text]**

There are many economic, social and cultural factors which will enable swift and effective reform, if the Turkish Government finds the political will to end human rights violations.

Turkey has many of the institutions necessary to safeguard human rights. It has enjoyed nearly half a century of democracy. It has a comprehensive justice system and outspoken professional lawyers' associations. The independent Turkish Human Rights Association, with 15,000 members, is an effective watchdog on state abuses. Sections of the media have consistently monitored and reported violations. Most important, there is pressure for change from a wide cross-section of Turkish society.

The overall human rights picture in Turkey in the 1990s is one of rapid deterioration, but there has been some progress. There are fewer prisoners of conscience than a decade ago, and the Turkish parliament has steadfastly held back from approving death sentences. The last judicial execution took place in 1984.

There are simple steps the Turkish Government could take which would dramatically improve the prospects for human rights. There are many reports of vicious beating of political prisoners when they are being transferred by gendarmes, or when gendarmes and police are called in to quell prison riots. Nine prisoners have been beaten to death since 1984. If political prisoners were guarded or managed by prison officers, instead of gendarmes and police officers, lives might be saved.

Another simple step which could improve human rights protection would be to ensure that village guards are not deployed outside their own locality. The gendarmerie now use village guards as an auxiliary force during security raids on neighbouring villages and even on cross-border operations into northern Iraq. Village guards do not undergo full training and are not part of a chain-of-command structure. Similar forces in other countries are often used to commit human rights violations. A Turkish parliamentary commission described the present village guard system as "an investment in social discord".

Perhaps the most crucial step is to end the immunity from prosecution extended to police officers and gendarmes who commit human rights violations. A security force ridden with flawed, improper and even criminal practices, in which individual police and gendarmes have the power to kill with impunity is both inefficient and dangerous. No government has yet found the will to challenge abuses by the security forces. But while there is state protection for state torturers and murderers, there is no prospect of ending the cycle of political violence in Turkey.

[quote]

‘The state should not kill ... Once an execution has taken place, it is impossible to remedy.’
Retired military prosecutor and judge, Colonel Nejat Özta_kent

[caption]

This monument shows Kemal Atatürk, founder of the modern Turkish state.

[photo credit]

© Peter Jordan/Network

[box]

Turkey’s legal obligations

European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: this treaty, ratified by Turkey in 1954, prohibits torture and guarantees the right for freedom of expression.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: ratified by Turkey in 1995. Article 37 affirms the right of children not to be tortured or subjected to other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment.

UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Turkey has been a state party since 1988. In November 1993 the UN Committee against Torture reported that "the existence of systematic torture in Turkey cannot be denied".

UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees: Turkey has ratified the convention and its 1967 protocol. The convention requires that state parties do not forcibly return asylum-seekers and refugees to countries where they might be at risk of serious human rights violations.

European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Turkey was the first Council of Europe member to ratify this Convention. However, the government has refused to implement recommendations from the Convention's expert body and has vetoed publications of reports prepared under the terms of the Convention.

In 1992 ECPT, the Council of Europe's monitoring body on torture, found torture equipment during an unannounced visit to Ankara police headquarters. The equipment remains in use today.

[caption]

Lawyer Irfan Güler was detained and reportedly beaten by police in Izmir in September 1995.

[page 8]

[Headline]

Support human rights in Turkey

[text]

Every Saturday since May 1995 a group of people has gathered on İstiklal Street in Istanbul to stage a peaceful public protest. They are the relatives of people who have “disappeared” after being taken into custody by the security forces. They have one simple demand. They want to know what happened to their loved ones. Their protests have kept “disappearances” in Turkey in

the public eye. They are regularly dispersed by police officers who beat and insult them, and sometimes detain them, but this has not stopped them.

In 1995 protests erupted over charges brought against the novelist Ya_ar Kemal under the Anti-Terror Law. More than 1,000 writers, publishers and artists produced a book entitled, Freedom of Thought in Turkey. As a result, 185 of them, representing a major section of Turkey's literary and artistic elite, are being tried under the Anti-Terror Law. They have risked imprisonment in their struggle for free speech.

The 1990s have seen improvements in human rights in Turkey. But that has not come from government action. Nor is it the result of international pressure from other governments on the Turkish Government to abide by human rights treaties it has sworn to uphold. The gains that have been made are the result of courageous struggles by politicians, workers, writers, human rights activists and ordinary men, women and children who have risked torture, imprisonment and worse to challenge violations of their fundamental human rights.

People like these deserve your support. They are demanding that their government uphold the international human rights standards to which it has publicly committed itself. They have been betrayed by their own government, and they have also been betrayed by the world community of governments, the supposed guarantors of human rights standards.

Amnesty International's campaign gives you the opportunity to support the struggle for human rights in Turkey. It doesn't take much. You could sign a petition, write a letter or support a demonstration in protest at human rights violations in Turkey.

Whatever you do will make a difference, because you will add your voice to the growing number of people around the world who will not stay silent in the face of human rights violations.

[quote]

‘In its foreign relations, Turkey is facing a human rights problem. If this continues to grow Turkey will begin to encounter very grave problems.’

President Süleyman Demirel, May 1995

[caption]

Relatives of the “disappeared” protest every Saturday in Istanbul.

[photo credit]

© _. Dayanan

[recommendations]

Recommendations to the Turkish Government

- 1 End incommunicado detention and give all detainees access to a lawyer.
- 2 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- 3 Take steps to prevent "disappearances" and investigate all reported cases.
- 4 Take steps to prevent extrajudicial executions and investigate all reported cases.
- 5 Release all prisoners of conscience. Reform or repeal the Anti-Terror Law.
- 6 Ensure that village guards are not deployed in security force operations outside their locality.
- 7 Ensure that remand and convicted political prisoners are not guarded by police or gendarmerie officers.
- 8 End immunity from prosecution for members of the security forces responsible for human rights violations.
- 9 Abolish the death penalty.
- 10 Ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers are not forcibly returned to countries where they might be at risk of human rights violations.

11 Ensure that all law enforcement personnel receive effective training in human rights protection.

Recommendations to the international community

1 Make sure that arms supplied to Turkey are not used to commit human rights violations.

2 Urge the Turkish Government to promote and protect human rights.

Recommendations to armed opposition groups

1 Abide by international humanitarian law.

2 Prohibit deliberate and arbitrary killings and torture of prisoners, the taking of hostages and the torture of anyone under their control.

[AI Publications for inside back cover]

Amnesty International Report 1996.

This report, covering 146 countries, exposes human rights violations in every region of the world.

China: No one is Safe. Amnesty International's March 1996 report on abuse of power and political repression in China in the 1990s.

Afghanistan: International responsibility for human rights disaster. Amnesty International's November 1995 report on the human rights catastrophe in Afghanistan.

Human rights are women's rights.

This report, covering human rights violations against women in some 75 countries, launched Amnesty International's 1995 campaign on women.

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