

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

9 September 1994

TURKEY

Nadire Çelik, female
_enay Hano_lu, female
Medine Göyük, female
Ayla Özcan, female
Zeynep, (family name not known), female
Tuncay (family name not known)

On 7 September 1994 members of the political police raided the premises of T_YAD (Association of relatives of political prisoners) in Istanbul. They confiscated documents and printed material and detained the above named people who were present at the office at the time. They were either working there or were visitors. Reportedly they are currently held incommunicado at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters and it is feared that they are being interrogated under torture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) and the UN Committee against Torture (UN CAT), both mechanisms of international human rights instruments to which Turkey is a State Party, have published reports to the effect that torture is widespread and systematic in Turkey.

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 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".

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored in the southeastern provinces where a State of Emergency is in force and increasingly disregarded in the rest of Turkey. Lack of proper registration and notification is not only extremely distressing for families, but also creates the conditions in which "disappearances" can occur and torture takes place. Detainees held on suspicion of political offenses to be tried in State Security Courts may be held without charge for 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in provinces under emergency legislation.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Nadire Çelik and the five people detained with her in Istanbul on 7 September 1994 and since held incommunicado at Istanbul Police Headquarters;
- seeking assurances that they are not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- urging that they are granted access to their relatives and lawyers;

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

APPEALS TO

1) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

Telex: 26177 IEMT TR

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Chief Prosecutor at Istanbul State Security Court

DGM Ba_savc_s_

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Ba_savc_s_, _stanbul, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

3) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Nahit Mente_e

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 428 4346

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Prof Mümtaz Soysal

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

D__i_leri Bakanl____

06100 Ankara

Faxes: +90 312 287 1886

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 1994.