

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/100/96

EXTRA 99/96

Fear of torture / Torture

1 July 1996

**TURKEY Leyla Ya__z (f), aged 19
 Temerhan Ya__z, her husband, aged 23**

**Naima Ya__z (f), aged 70
 Robar Ya__z, aged 18**

Leyla Ya__z and her husband, Temerhan Ya__z, were detained on 26 June 1996 at their home in Nusaybin and are believed to be held at the Police Headquarters in Nusaybin. It is alleged that Leyla is being tortured in front of her husband.

Two cousins of Leyla Ya__z, aged 16 and 18, were detained at the same time at their family home in Nusaybin. The house and garden were reportedly wrecked during the police search, and their 70-year-old grandmother, Naima Ya__z, was allegedly so severely beaten that she had to be admitted to hospital. Both cousins have since been released. The older, Robar Ya__z, was reportedly so badly tortured that he had to be hospitalized. He has now returned home.

Temerhan Ya__z returned from military service two months ago. During the two years of his absence, his young wife Leyla and their baby son had moved in with her aunt's family. One member of that family is wanted by the police, and it is alleged that Leyla Ya__z is being threatened and tortured in police custody in order to extract information about that wanted relative.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency in the east and southeast such as Diyarbak_r, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being interrogated, detainees are often held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is often applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for assumed support of illegal organizations.

Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of 19-year-old Leyla Ya__z and her husband Temerhan, held in incommunicado detention since 26 June 1996, presumably at Nusaybin Police Headquarters;
- seeking assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- urging that they are brought before a judge without delay to be charged or released;
- expressing concern also about the reported ill-treatment of 70-year-old Naima Ya__z during the police search of her home in Nusaybin on 26 June and the reported torture of Robar Ya__z aged 18, following his detention in Nusaybin on 26 June, both having to be hospitalized as a consequence;

- calling for those responsible for these human rights violations to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1. Prime Minister:

Mr Necmettin Erbakan
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/ 44062/ 44063 bbmt tr/ 42099 basb tr

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

2. Chief State Prosecutor in Nusaybin:

Cumhuriyet Ba_savc_s_
Hükümet Kona__
Nusaybin, Turkey

Telegrams: Bassavcısı, Nusaybin, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mrs. Tansu Çiller
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
D_i_leri Bakanl____
06100 Ankara

Fax: +90 312 419 1547

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 1 August 1996.