

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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PLEASE ORGANIZE UP TO TEN APPEALS PER SECTION

UA 270/91

Fear of Torture

7 August 1991

TURKEY: Fikri I__k

Amnesty International has received information that Fikri I__k was arrested by police on the way to his place of work on Friday 2 August 1991. An application by his lawyer for access has been refused and he is now held in incommunicado detention at the First (Political) Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters where it is feared he may be subjected to torture.

Fikri I__k was a prisoner of conscience in the early 1980s, convicted of membership of the Progressive Democratic Cultural Association (DDKD), an organization concerned with Kurdish issues which was legal before the military coup. He was conditionally released while the trial continued and was finally sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is estimated to number some 10 million people. Any activity for a separate Kurdish political or cultural identity is punishable under Turkish law.

Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture on 25 February 1988 and the UN Convention Against Torture on 2 August 1988. However, all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and systematic in Turkey. Allegations of torture have continued since the transfer of power to a civilian government in 1983. 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. In August 1990, the government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights. Under current legislation the maximum detention period before being formally charged or released is 24 hours; in cases involving three or more suspects or due to the 'nature of the crime' it may be extended to 15 days.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging that Fikri I__k is given prompt access to his family and lawyer and that he is not ill-treated while in detention;

- requesting to be informed of any charges against him.

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APPEALS TO

President Turgut Özal (Salutation: Dear President)
Devlet Ba_kanl____
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: President Özal, Ankara, Turkey
Telex: 42875 bbk tr
Faxes: (via Press Office) +90 4 168 5012

Minister of Justice:

Mr _akir _eker (Salutation: Dear Minister)
Adalet Bakanl____
06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Adalet Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 41 25 40 66

Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Mehmet A_ar (Salutation: Dear Sir)
Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey
Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR or 26177 IEMT TR
Fax: +90 1 172 81 82

COPIES TO: - Diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country;

President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Eyüp A__k
nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey

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PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 September 1991.