

UA 368/94

Torture / Death after Torture

6 October 1994

TURKEY

Abdulkerim Ba_dur
Yalç_n K_l_ç, student

There is serious concern for the life of Abdulkerim Ba_dur, who, it is feared, is being tortured in police custody in Adana. This fear is heightened by the reported death after torture of Yalç_n K_l_ç, detained a few days earlier in Adana.

On 4 October 1994 at 9am, Abdulkerim Ba_dur was travelling by car from the _akirpa_a district to the city centre of Adana, when he was stopped and detained by police. At midnight that day, police brought him to his parents' house. According to his family, his clothes were torn, he was bleeding from the face and throat, appeared totally exhausted and was unable to stand. The police searched the house and, finding nothing, they left, taking Abdulkerim Ba_dur with them. His family fear for his life.

Yalç_n K_l_ç, a student born in Suruç/Urfa province, was detained in the Barbaros district of Seyhan near Adana on 24 September. On 2 October at 1.30am, the police took him to Adana Bus Terminal where they left him on a bench. People found him there, collapsed and exhausted, and asked him who he was. He replied that he was Yalç_n K_l_ç and that he had been interrogated for eight days under torture and that he felt very ill, saying "*the police gave me 300,000 Turkish Lira so that I would not die in Adana.*" He was taken by taxi to the emergency service of the Medical Faculty.

The police then returned and searched the Bus Terminal for Yalç_n K_l_ç. After taking a statement from the taxi driver who had driven him to the hospital, they went there and kept Yalç_n K_l_ç under guard until he died the same day, 2 October. A certificate from the Forensic Institute reportedly states that he had internal bleeding from various blows, that his arms were dislocated and that he had drunk poisoned soup.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Two people died in police custody in Adana in 1992: Agit Salman, a 42-year old taxi driver, in April, and Remzi Basalak, a political activist, in October (see EXTRA 89/92, 29 October and update). Members of Adana Anti-Terror Branch are on trial in connection with the death of Remzi Basalak. The press and public are not allowed access to the trial.

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. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be held

without charge for up to 15 days. In the 10 provinces under emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days. Adana is not under a state of emergency.

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

- expressing concern about the reported death after torture of the student Yalçın Kılıç in Adana on 2 October 1994 and about the reported torture of Abdulkerim Bağdur, in police custody in Adana since 4 October 1994;
- urging an immediate investigation into both incidents and asking to be informed of the findings;
- calling for Abdulkerim Bağdur to be given prompt access to his family and lawyer and seeking assurances that he is not being subjected to torture;
- requesting to be informed of the charges brought against him.

APPEALS TO

1) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Azimet Köylüoğlu
Office of the Prime Minister
Bağbakanlık
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 417 0476
Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Nahit Menteşe
İçişleri Bakanlığı
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
Dışişleri Bakanlığı
06100 Ankara, Turkey
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 17 November 1994.