

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/115/91
Distrib: PG/SC

To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Europe
Date: 20 August 1991

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**@Dr Hüseyin Özkahraman
TURKEY**

Keywords

Theme: torture/ill-treatment

Profession/association: doctor

Summary

Dr Hüseyin Özkahraman was arrested on 6 July 1991 along with other members of a *Halkevi* (People's House), a community centre in the Kadiköy district of Istanbul. They were taken to Yelde_irmeni Police Station. Dr Özkahraman was taken for interrogation where he was beaten and attempts were made to force him to sign prepared statements. Forensic examinations later established that he had a perforated eardrum, and signs of injury to the face and other parts of the body. AI is urging that his ill-treatment be investigated by the authorities and the perpetrators brought to justice.

Recommended Actions

Letters from medical professionals, preferably written in English or your own language, should be sent to the addresses below:

Please write as soon as possible

- expressing concern at the arrest of Dr Hüseyin Özkahraman in early July 1991
- noting that Dr Özkahraman was ill-treated while in detention, suffering a perforated eardrum and various signs of injury to other parts of his body
- urging that his complaints be investigated and that those responsible for his ill-treatment be brought to justice

Addresses

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanlik
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +99 41 17 04 76 Prime Minister
+99 42 30 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

Istanbul Chief of Police

Mr Memet A_ar
Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
Istanbul, Turkey
Faxes: +90 1 172 81 82

COPIES TO:

President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Eyüp A_ik
Insan Haklari Ara_tirma Komisyonu Ba_kani
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 4 11 91 664 ; +90 4 42 06 941

Turkish Medical Association

Türk Tabipleri Birli_i
Mithapasa Caddesi, 62/18
Kizilay-Ankara
Turkey

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/115/91
Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 20 August 1991

MEDICAL CONCERN
Dr Hüseyin Özkahraman
TURKEY

Dr Hüseyin Özkahraman is a regional representative for Kadiköy, Istanbul, of the *Halkevleri*¹. On 3 July 1991, the *Halkevi* in Kadiköy was closed down by the authorities. On 6 July 1991, members of the organization gathered in front of their branch premises and issued a press statement. The branch chairperson, secretary, and a number of committee members were taken to Yelde_irmeni Police Station and beaten.

Dr Özkahraman was interrogated by two police officers who beat him, following which he had difficulty breathing and swallowing. They attempted to force him to sign prepared statements which he refused to do. After being released by the Kadiköy State Prosecutor he asked to be sent to a Forensic Medical Institute (FMI) and he was subsequently sent to Cerrahpa_a FMI from where he was referred to Haydarpa_a Numune Hospital. There it was established that he had sustained a perforated eardrum, and marks of blows to one eyebrow, face and various parts of his body were also noted. These medical reports were sent to Kiziltoprak police station. Kadiköy FMI certified that he was unfit to work for 15 days.

Amnesty International urges the Turkish authorities to investigate the allegations that Dr Özkahraman was beaten and placed under duress to sign a prepared statement while in police custody. It urges that the findings be made public.

Background

The *Halkevi* movement was founded in the 1930s, banned in the 1950s, re-established by Senator Ahmed Yıldız in the early 1960s, closed after the military coup of September 1980, and allowed to function again in the 1980s after the transfer of power to a civilian government in 1983.

The *Halkevi* community centres, which exist throughout Turkey, are independent of any political party, and carry out cultural, educational, and advisory as well as solidarity activities. In recent months the *Halkevi* movement has come under increasing pressure by local government, in particular in Ankara and Istanbul, leading to detentions and the closure of some houses. The *Halkevi* in Kadiköy in Istanbul had previously been raided by the police in April 1991 and several people detained.

¹ *Halkevleri* is the plural form of *Halkevi*, the Turkish word for "People's House"; it is a community based social movement.