

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

25 September 1990

TURKEY: Cemal Turan
 Erdal Karakali
 Ibrahim (second name not known)
 + one other, unnamed

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Cemal Turan, Erdal Karakali, and two others were detained in the Kartal district of Istanbul on 24 September 1990. They were first taken to Soganlik Police Station, but on the following day they were transferred to the First (Political) Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters.

Cemal Turan is the Istanbul representative of the political magazine Isçi Dunyasi, which started publication two years ago but has not appeared for several months. Cemal Turan and the other three people were detained when they distributed leaflets announcing that Isçi Dunyasi was to appear again. They are being held incommunicado and it is feared that they may be subjected to torture under interrogation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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. 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: Telexes/faxes/telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- urging that Cemal Turan, Erdal Karakali and the two people detained with them are granted prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut
Office of the Prime Minister
Basbakanlik
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 BBMT TR, 42099 BASB TR or 42875 BBK TR
Faxes: +90 41 17 04 76 or +90 42 30 88 96 (attn. Prime Minister)

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
Istanbul Chief of Police
Hamdi Ardali
Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürü, Istanbul, Turkey
Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR
Faxes: + 90 1 172 8182

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 November 1990.