

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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~~UA 360/91~~ ~~Fear of Torture/Health Concern~~ ~~29 October 1991~~

**TURKEY:** Hüseyin TORAMAN, aged 24

Hüseyin Toraman was detained in Istanbul on or around 25 October. He was wanted by the police who had detained his father, Ali Riza Toraman, some six months ago. It is alleged that the father was tortured until he agreed to take the police to his son's address. There the police officers waited for the son. Hüseyin Toraman, however, had gone into hiding. He is said to be wanted for his alleged activities for an illegal political organization.

Hüseyin Toraman is suffering from asthma and a slipped disc (herniated intervertebral disc). He is held in incommunicado detention, presumably at Istanbul Police Headquarters, and it is feared that he is being subjected to interrogation under torture. There is added concern that torture may bring on asthma attacks.

#### **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. 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. This period may be extended to 30 days in areas under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in 10 provinces in the southeast.

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

- urging that Hüseyin Toraman's lawyer and family are allowed to see him in detention and that he is not ill-treated while in police custody;
- appealing that he will be given all medical attention he may require;

- asking whether he has been charged and what the charges against him are.

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**APPEALS TO**

1) (Istanbul Chief of Police)

Mr Mehmet A\_ar

Dear Sir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

\_stanbul, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey**

**Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR or  
26177 IEMT TR**

2) (Minister of the Interior)

Mr Sabahattin Çakmakolu

Dear Minister

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR**

**Faxes: +90 4 118 1795 or**

**+90 4 125 6520 (Ministry of Interior)**

3) (Prime Minister)

Prime Minister Mesut Y\_lmaz

Dear Prime Minister

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba\_bakanl\_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr or**

**42099 basb tr or 42875 bbk tr**

**Faxes: +90 41 17 04 76 (attn: Prime Minister) or**

**+90 42 30 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)**

**COPIES TO:**

(President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission)

Mr Eyüp A\_k

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TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 4 11 91 664 or +90 4 42 06 941**

and 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 10 December 1991.