

**EXTERNAL**

**AI Index: EUR 44/141/95**

**EXTRA 148/95**

**Fear of "disappearance"/ Fear of torture 24 November 1995**

**TURKEYDüzgün Tekin, aged 21**

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Düzgün Tekin has not been seen since 21 October 1995 when he left the house of a relative in the Güne\_li district of Istanbul. It is believed that he was taken into police custody. Amnesty International fears for his safety.

Before he went missing, Düzgün Tekin had reportedly been followed by three cars for about a week. One of these cars had the registration number 34 F 6676, according to a note which Düzgün Tekin left at home.

His family has made inquiries with the relevant authorities as to his whereabouts, without success. However, on 27 October the family received an anonymous telephone call claiming that Düzgün Tekin was in detention. His family then went once more to the Istanbul Police Headquarters, but again to no avail.

At the prosecutor's office at Istanbul State Security Court, where all people detained on suspicion of a political offence have to be registered, they were told that nobody by that name was on the list of detainees.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Two other recent cases of detention and alleged torture in Istanbul have heightened fears for the safety of Düzgün Tekin. On 10 November 1995, Rohe Harman was taken into police custody. She had visited a prisoner in Sa\_malc\_lar Prison, Istanbul. As she left the prison, three men grabbed her and forced her into a Kartal car, registration number 34 ULE 71, and drove her away. As she was taken, she shouted to people witnessing the incident, "I am Rohe Harman". Reportedly, witnesses, who tried to intervene, were hindered by the three men and told that they were police. When her family sought to establish her whereabouts, they were told by the prosecutor's office at Istanbul State Security Court that there was no record of her detention. On the night of 16 November Rohe Harman reportedly was pushed out of a car in Tekirda\_. She alleged that she had been tortured for seven days in what appears to be a place of secret detention north of Tekirda\_.

On 15 November 1995, Ali Ihsan Ay was reportedly seen by people being forced into a car in front of Sa\_malc\_lar Prison, Istanbul. When making inquiries at the State Security Court prosecutor's office, his family were told that nobody by that name was registered as being in detention. On 20 November Ali Ihsan Ay was released blindfolded on a motorway near Ye\_ilköy. In a press conference on 21 November he claimed that he had been detained by plainclothes officers who dragged him into a minibus in front of the prison. He was then taken to three different locations, one of them a military post, where he was tortured. He showed marks of torture and reported that he had been burned with cigarettes, cut with a razor and had salt rubbed into the wound, and had been beaten about the head with an iron rod. He stated, "Those who abducted me called themselves contra-guerrilla".

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency in the southeast and for up to 15 days in the rest of Turkey. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Düzgün Tekin believed to be held in unacknowledged detention since 21 October 1995;
- urging that his whereabouts be established without delay and that his family and lawyer be informed accordingly;
- requesting to be informed of the results of the investigation;
- appealing that he not be subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Deputy Prime Minister

Mr Deniz Baykal

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba\_bakanl\_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr**

**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 +90 312 419 1547**

**Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister**

2) Chief Prosecutor at Istanbul State Security Court

Mr Ahmet Köksal

DGM Ba\_savc\_s\_

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Istanbul, Turkey

**Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Istanbul, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

3) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Orhan Ta\_anlar

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

\_stanbul, Turkey

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

**Telexes: 30812 EMMH TR; 26177 IEMT TR**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

4) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Adnan Ekmen

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba\_bakanl\_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

\_nsan Haklar\_ Ara\_t\_rma Komisyonu Ba\_kan\_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

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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 30 December 1995.