

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

11 October 1990

TURKEY:

Nermin ALKAN (f)

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Amnesty International has received a report that Nermin ALKAN, a 16-year old schoolgirl, was detained for hanging an anti-war poster at Pendik High School in Istanbul on 3 October and has been held since then at the Political Branch of the Police Headquarters. Her mother has been informed that her daughter has begun a hunger-strike in custody. It is feared that she may be subjected to torture or ill treatment.

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. This period may be extended to 30 days in areas under emergency legislation or martial law.

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

- urging that Nermin Alkan is given prompt access to her family and lawyer and that she should not be ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against Nermin Alkan.

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
42875 bbk tr
Faxes: 90 41 17 04 76 PRIME MINISTER

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
_stanbul Chief of Police
Hamdi Ardal_
Istanbul, Turkey

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

COPIES TO: 1. Diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.
2. Günes Gazetesi, Turanli Sokak 20, Beyaz_t, Istanbul.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 November 90.