

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/162/90
Distr: UA/SC

UA 447/90

Fear of Torture

7 November 1990

TURKEY: Kenan Mutlu
Melek Güçlü (f)
Mehmet Ta_
Yusuf Sonar
Emine _ahin (f)

On the night of 4 November 1990, the police raided a number of houses in Gaziantep in southeast Turkey and detained about 50 people. Most were released some hours later but the police have stated that they are still holding between 10 and 15 of those originally detained, including the people named above, at the Gaziantep Police Headquarters. The detainees are being held incommunicado and it is feared that they may be ill-treated.

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

- urging that Kenan Mutlu, Melek Güçlü, Mehmet Ta_, Yusuf Sonar, and Emine _ahin should have prompt access to their lawyers and families, and that they should not be ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO:

President Turgut Özal
Office of the President
Devlet Ba_kanl____
06100 Ankara
Turkey

Telegrams: The President, Ankara, Turkey
Telex: 42303 kosk tr

Gaziantep Emniyet Müdürü
Tezcan Ozkanl_
Gaziantep Chief of Police
Gaziantep, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Gaziantep, Turkey

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 19 November 1990.