

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/03/96

9 January 1996

Further information on EXTRA 161/95 (EUR 44/152/95, 15 December 1995) and Update of 5 January 1996 - Prisoners of Conscience / Fear of ill-treatment

TURKEY

Orhan Özen

R_za Boyba_ [note correct spelling]
Abdülmecit Seçkin

new: Metin Göktepe, journalist, aged 27

Hundreds of participants at the funeral

Metin Göktepe, journalist for *Evrensel* (Universal) newspaper, died on 8 January after being detained during the funeral of two political prisoners who had been beaten to death at Umraniye prison in Istanbul on 4 January.

During the morning of 8 January hundreds of relatives and mourners gathered at the *cemevi* (centre for the Alevi religious minority) in the Alibeyköy district of Istanbul for the funeral of R_za Boyba_ and Orhan Özen. More than 600 mourners, including relatives of the dead, were detained by police before the bodies were brought to the *cemevi*. When the bodies finally arrived, the remaining relatives refused to proceed with the funeral until the detainees were released. The police meanwhile carried out the burials.

An estimated 300 of those detained were taken to Eyüp Sports Centre. Many were reportedly women and children. Journalists took photographs of the mourners being kicked and beaten by police. Most have now been released.

The detention of Metin Göktepe at the *cemevi* was witnessed by journalists for *Cumhuriyet* (Republic) and *Yeniyüzyıl* (New Century) newspapers. Although Metin Göktepe showed his press card, he was beaten and dragged away by the police. Reportedly, detainees at Eyüp Sports Centre talked to Metin Göktepe before he was taken to the basement for interrogation, from where they heard his cries.

The lawyers for the *Evrensel* newspaper were told by the Eyüp Prosecutor and the Eyüp Police Headquarter that Metin Göktepe was detained, but released on the evening of 8 January.

On 9 January the Turkish authorities confirmed the death of Metin Göktepe, claiming that "police found Metin Göktepe dead in a teagarden in Eyüp where he had collapsed after his release."

There are still about 50 prisoners in Bayrampa Hospital, of whom six are in a serious condition with head injuries. The autopsy report of the three prisoners appears to confirm that they died of head injuries.

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

- urging the Turkish authorities to conduct an impartial and thorough investigation into the death of Metin Göktepe and that those responsible be brought to justice;

- asking for all detained mourners to be released promptly and unconditionally;

- urging the Turkish authorities to establish an impartial expert commission of inquiry into the pattern of deaths resulting from incursions of security forces into prisons;

- urging that those wounded in the disturbances at Ümraniye Prison should promptly receive appropriate medical treatment.

APPEALS TO:

1. Justice Minister:

Mr Firuz Çilingiro_lu

Adalet Bakanl____

06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 3954

Salutation: Dear Minister

2. Interior Minister:

Mr Teoman Ünisan

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Icisleri Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President Süleyman Demirel

Office of the President

Cumhurba_kanl____

06100 Ankara

Telegrams: Cumhurbaskanligi, Ankara, Turkey

Telex: 42303 kosk tr

Faxes: +90 312 468 5026

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 6 February 1996.