

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 03/92 Fear of Torture

14 January 1992

**TURKEY: Fahri T_rpan
 Haydar Emrah
 Co_kun K_l_çkaya
 Bekta_ Özkan
 Ali Özkan
 Gazi Köksal
 Ali Haydar Emre**

**Ercan Karata_
and his wife (first name unknown)**

On 10 January 1992 the nine people named above were detained in a police operation in Ankara. They are currently held at the First Branch (Political Police) of Ankara Police Headquarters. The prosecutor's office at Ankara State Security Court is said to have authorized an extension of their detention period until 25 January. It is feared that the detainees are being interrogated under torture.

Fahri T_rpan, who served a long prison sentence after the military coup of 1980, was last detained in July 1991 and put on trial in Istanbul State Security Court in connection with the illegal organization Turkish Communist Party/Marxist Leninist (see: UA 24/1/91, EUR 44/98/91, 16 July 1991).

Co_kun K_l_çkaya was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment in 1985 in connection with the same political organization.

Bekta_ Özkan was previously detained in February 1989 and alleged that he was tortured during interrogation (see: UA 44/89, EUR 44/14/89, 9 February 1989 and follow-up EUR 44/19/89, 28 February 1989).

Gazi Köksal was convicted in 1984 in connection with the same political organization.

Ercan Karata_ was previously detained in July 1987. His brother Erdo_an is said to have been killed by the security forces in 1991.

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.

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

- **urging that Fahri T_rpan and all those detained with him are granted prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;**
- **requesting to be informed whether the detainees have been charged and what the charges are.**

APPEALS TO

1) Ankara Chief of Police:

**Mr Hasan Özdemir
Ankara Emniyet Müdürü
Konya-Samsun Karayolu
Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, Turkey**

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Minister of the Interior:

**Mr _smet Sezgin
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR
Faxes: + 90 4 1 18 1795**

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Prime Minister:

**Mr Süleyman Demirel
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telex: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr
42099 basb tr
42875 bbk tr
Faxes: + 90 41 17 04 76 or
+ 90 42 30 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)**

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Ahmet Türk

Insan Haklar_ Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

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

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 11 February 1992.