

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/13/96

29 January 1996

Further information on EXTRA 161/95 (EUR 44/152/95, 15 December 1995) and follow-ups (EUR 44/02/96, 5 January 1996; EUR 44/03/96, 9 January 1996 and EUR 44/04/96, 11 January 1996)) - Use of excessive force / Fear for safety / Prisoners of conscience / Fear of ill-treatment

TURKEYOrhan Özen, political prisoner, killed in prison
R_za Boyba_, political prisoner, killed in prison
Abdülmeçit Seçkin, political prisoner, killed in prison
Metin Göktepe, journalist, died following detention
Gültekin Beyhan, political prisoner, died in hospital

Following the investigation by the Interior Ministry into the circumstances of Metin Göktepe's death, at least 15 police officers, including the Eyüp Police Chief, have been suspended from duty.

According to Turkish newspaper reports they may be accused of "intentional killing and having inflicted torture". A police chief is reportedly held responsible for having ordered the detentions, another for "not having taken the necessary measures to safeguard the lives of detainees", while several named police officers were found to have beaten Metin Göktepe and other named officers to have left him lying when fatally wounded. The Eyüp Police Chief is accused of having "neglected his duties and concealed Metin Göktepe's death".

Several of the scores of police officers interrogated in connection with Metin Göktepe's death have alleged that they in turn were subjected to torture during detention. One police officer, released after interrogation, was treated in hospital for a head injury and received a medical report certifying that he was unable to work for seven days. He filed a complaint at the Public Prosecutor's Office in Istanbul.

Amnesty International has written to the Turkish authorities concerning the torture allegations by police officers.

Mourners detained at the funeral on 11 January have since been released.

No further action by the UA network is required at this stage. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.