

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 23/00 (EUR 44/14/00, 10 March 2000) and follow-up (EUR 44/15/00, 13 March 2000) - Fear for safety / fear of torture or ill-treatment

TURKEYAli Gülmez
Ganime Bozlu (f) (name corrected)
Erol Gültekin
Namik Yüksel] husband and wife
Hayriye Yüksel (f)]

Hayriye Yüksel was released on 15 March, while Ganime Bozlu, Erol Gültekin and Nam_k Yüksel were remanded to Ümraniye prison. The charges against them have not yet been announced. Ali Gülmez was remanded to Tokat prison on 15 March. During interrogation he was charged with being the secretary general of the leftist armed organisation TKP/ML-TIKKO. He rejects this charge.

Unlike other prisoners held in similar circumstances, they were not tortured in police and gendarmerie custody. Security officers told them: "Amnesty International is making a big fuss about you. We won't do anything to you". They were ill-treated, however. At the Gendarmerie in Tokat Ali Gülmez told his lawyer, who was allowed to visit him on 13 March only with two soldiers present, that he had been prevented from sleeping, forced to stand for long periods and constantly interrogated. Ganime Bozlu, Erol Gültekin and Nam_k Yüksel reported similar treatment at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters.

Ali Gülmez does not feel safe in Tokat prison, where the other inmates are all remanded on criminal charges. He has applied for transfer to a prison in the jurisdiction of Ankara State Security Court, where he will be tried. The prison administration reportedly told his lawyer and family, who came to visit him on 20 March, that they could not guarantee his safety, and they could only see him after the other prisoners' family visits were over. They had to wait for six hours, while plainclothes security officers questioned them repeatedly, and took the names of the family members and photographed them. On their way back their car was stopped and they were searched by police, who examined the lawyer's documents, including her legal files and her address book, from which they took some notes.

The lawyer reports that when she visited Ali Gülmez on 15 March prison officers searched her and went through her documents. When she visited him on 20 March the prison administration attempted to censor communication between her and her client, insisting that they and the gendarmerie should examine the case file before Ali Gülmez saw it. They also confiscated written communication between the two. As this is a violation of the right to confidential communication with counsel the lawyer refused to hand over the file, which Ali Gülmez now cannot see.

No further action is required at this time. Many thanks to all who participated in this successful Urgent Action. Should you receive any responses from Turkish authorities please forward them immediately to the International Secretariat.