

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 66/92 Fear of Torture

21 February 1992

TURKEY: Hasan Durna

Reports have been received that Hasan Durna was detained in _zmit on the night of 19 February 1992. He has been wanted by the police ever since his escape from _zmit prison some 10 years ago. It is feared that Hasan Durna is being interrogated under torture while in incommunicado detention at Bursa Police Headquarters.

It is possible that Hasan Durna was detained during police operations following an armed attack in Bursa on 19 February 1992 in which the Public Prosecutor was seriously wounded and killed his driver and his guard were killed. Four other people were also wounded in the incident.

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. 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 period a detainee may be held 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. Emergency legislation is currently in force in ten provinces in the east and southeast.

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

- urging that Hasan Durna is granted prompt access to his lawyer and that he is not ill-treated while in detention;

- asking whether he has been charged and if so, what the charges against him are.

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APPEALS TO

1) Governor of Bursa Province:

Mr Necati Çetinkaya

Bursa Valili_i

Bursa, Turkey

Telegrams: Mr Çetinkaya, Bursa Valiligi, Bursa, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Governor

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 118 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

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr

42099 basb tr

42875 bbk tr

Faxes: + 90 41 17 04 76 PRIME MINISTER

+ 90 42 30 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Ahmet Türk

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

- 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 3 April 1992.