

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/25/92

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 20/92

Fear of Torture

26 February 1992

TURKEY: Kemal ALTUN, a glass worker, married with two children

Kemal Altun was detained in Istanbul late on Saturday night, 22 February 1992, when police came to his home stating that somebody had informed against him. Kemal Altun's detention was confirmed by the prosecutor's office which approved a detention period of 15 days. The reason for his detention is not known.

Kemal Altun was taken to the Anti-Terror Branch (new name for the Political Branch) of Istanbul Police Headquarters where political suspects are interrogated. Detainees who have been held there have frequently alleged torture during interrogation. Amnesty International is concerned that Kemal Altun may be subjected to torture while being interrogated in incommunicado detention.

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 of Turkey.

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

- urging that Kemal Altun is allowed to see his wife and that he should not be ill-treated while in police custody;
- asking what he is accused of and whether formal charges have been brought against him.

APPEALS TO

1) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR

30812 EMMH TR

26177 IEMT TR

Faxes: + 90 1 172 81 82

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) 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

3) 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

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 10 March 1992.