

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/35/91

Distr: UA/SC

UA 97/91

Fear of Torture

13 March 1991

TURKEY:

Murat Böbrek	)	
Hüseyin Ataman	)	Law Students
Bayram Atsay		Journalist with <u>Mücadele</u> magazine
Burhan Karda_		Journalist with <u>Mücadele</u> magazine
Bayram Do_an		<u>Mücadele</u> reader
Can Bal_canl_		<u>Mücadele</u> reader
Recep Ünal		Student at Gazi University Ankara
Gönül Matur (f)		Student at Gazi University Ankara

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All those named above were taken into custody from home or their place of study in Ankara between 6 and 8 March 1991 and are now being interrogated at the Political Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters.

In a statement made after his release from an earlier period of detention, Murat Böbrek claimed that he talked to Birtan Altunba\_ at the Political Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters shortly before his death, allegedly as a result of torture, on 16 January 1991. Inquiries into the circumstances of his death are continuing and it is feared that Murat Böbrek is therefore at serious risk on account of the allegations he has made.

Ankara police continue to detain and interrogate students and political activists whom they suspect of being linked to illegal organizations. The interrogation is carried out in a manner which breaches national legislation and international standards - the detainees are generally not permitted access to lawyers, and in recent weeks a number of detainees have been held far beyond the maximum time permitted by the Criminal Procedure Code. In consequence, there have been many allegations of torture, as well as deaths in custody which appear to result from torture.

#### 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. 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.

In August 1990, the Turkish 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.

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

- urging that Murat Böbrek, Hüseyin Ataman, Bayram Atsay, Burhan Karda\_, Bayram Do\_an, Can Bal\_canl\_, Recep Ünal, and Gönül Matur are given prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they should not be ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

**APPEALS TO**

Mr Abdülkadir Aksu  
 \_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
 06644 Ankara, Turkey (Minister of the Interior)

**Telegrams: Interior Minister Aksu, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR**  
**Faxes: +90 41 28 43 46**

Ankara Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi Cumhuriyet Ba\_savc\_s\_  
 Mr Nusret Demiral  
 Ankara DGM  
 S\_hhiye (Chief Prosecutor of the  
 Ankara, Turkey Ankara State Security Court)

**Telegrams: Ankara DGM Ba\_savc\_s\_, Ankara, Turkey**

**COPIES 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 24 April 1991.