

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 38/93

Fear of Torture

21 April 1993

TURKEY:

_zzet Meriç }
Atif _ah } students at Hacettepe University
_lhan Demirel }
Nuray Akyürek (female) }
Bilgin Cengiz, student at the Faculty of Law, Istanbul University
Gülcan Yavuz (female) }
Ibrahim Do_an } students at Ankara University
Mesut Sevimli, student
Hakan Y_lmaz]
Tülay Çakmak (female)] high school students
Zeynep Erdo_an (female)]
Özgür Sar_o_lu } high school students and members of musical group
Eylem Kaya (female) } Genç Türkü
_hsan Cibelik, member of Grup Ekin musical group
Necati Erbasan, reporter for the Ankara Worker's Journal
Ali Alper Kara, worker at Tav r magazine
Bülent Han, reporter for Ye il, an environmental newspaper
Bülent Ba_c_, worker at Konya Özgür-Der, Association for Rights and Freedoms
_ahin Sat_c_, worker at Ankara Özgür-Der, Association for Rights and Freedoms
Sevim Fidan (female), member of Ankara People's Theatre
Tülay Gencay (female) } workers for organization for Photographic and
Nail Yollu } Cinematic Workers' Association

Sibel _ahano_lu (female)	Murat Öcal
Özlen Cibelik (female)	Ercan Mirik
Emine Karaçay (female)	Özgür Sar_kaya
Elmas Gümü_o_lu (female)	Ecevit Çetinkaya
Özgür Bar__ Özçelik	Alper Yeniay
Günay Eren	_rfan Ortakçi
Polat Han	Erkan Özbilge
Naci Acar	

Amnesty International is concerned that the 37 people named above, who were arrested at the Ekin Arts Centre in Ankara on 18 April 1993, may be being interrogated under torture.

On 18 April 1993 at 5 pm a large number of plainclothes and uniformed police raided the Ekin Arts Centre in Ankara. Witnesses report that the police broke musical instruments and other equipment, and that during the operation some of the police officers used an electric truncheon on people who moved or refused to obey instructions. Approximately 85 people were detained, of whom a number were later

released. Those named above are currently being interrogated at the Anti-Terror Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters.

Several of the detainees named above have previously been detained.

In November 1990 Bülent Ba_c_ was interrogated at Ankara Police Headquarters, where he reported that he was given electric shocks, hosed with cold water and beaten (see follow-up to UA 488/90, EUR 44/184/90).

Members of the families of Eylem Kaya, Özgür Bar__ Özçelik and Tulay Gencay applied to the Ankara State Security Prosecutor for access to their relatives but were refused on the grounds that the detainees were being interrogated for suspected membership of an armed organization.

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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. New legislation to shorten the maximum detention period came into force on 1 December 1992. Now the normal maximum period of 24 hours, for which a non-political detainee may be held before being formally charged or released, may be extended to eight days in cases of ordinary crimes involving three or more suspects. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences to be tried in State Security Courts may be held without charge for 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in provinces under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in 10 provinces in the southeast of Turkey.

Following three visits to Turkey to investigate allegations of torture the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) of the Council of Europe published in December 1992 for the first time its findings. The ECPT concluded "that the practice of torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment of persons in police custody remains widespread in Turkey and that such methods are applied to both ordinary criminal suspects and persons held under anti-terrorist provisions".

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of 37 people (naming some) arrested at the Ekin Arts Centre in Ankara on 18 April 1993 and who are being held at the Anti-Terror Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters,
- seeking assurances that they are not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- noting the findings of the ECPT regarding the practice of torture in Turkey as published in its December 1992 report;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against them.

APPEALS TO

1) Minister of the Interior:
Mr _smet Sezgin

Salutation: Dear Minister

çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

2) Minister of Culture:

Mr Fikri Sa_lar

Ministry of Culture

Kültür Bakanl____

06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Minister of Culture, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 417 04 76

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

nsan Haklar_ Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 May 1993.