

TURKEY **Ibrahim Alpdo_an, Kurdish villager, aged 63**

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Ibrahim Alpdo_an who was taken into custody from his village on 20 June 1999 by soldiers from Pazarc_k Gendarmerie Command, and is now reportedly detained either at Pazarc_k Gendarmerie Command or at police headquarters in Kahraman Mara_ town, South Eastern Turkey. The fact that the authorities have not acknowledged that he is in detention increases the risk that he may be tortured or ill-treated.

Amnesty International believes that Ibrahim Alpdo_an was detained because he had given information to his local branch of the Human Rights Association (HRA) the day before about recent attacks by soldiers in his home village of Tilkiler in Kahraman Mara_ province.

He had explained to the HRA that villagers had been tortured, verbally abused and that six of them had been taken into custody (four are now released while the other two are in prison). Also that 15 houses had been destroyed by fire during the attack.

Amnesty International has received reports that, between 8 and 12 June, about 50 people from Tilkiler and four other villages in the Kahraman Mara_ province, namely, Törolar, Çöçenler, _all_u_a_ and Musolar were taken into detention at the Pazarc_k Gendarmerie Command and reportedly severely beaten and tortured. This included being forced to eat human excrement, being suspended by their arms which were tied behind their backs, being truncheoned and being sprayed with pressurized water. One of the detainees disclosed to his lawyer that: "They did not take us to toilets, so that we had to excrete where we were hung. We were covered with excrement as we could not clean ourselves while we were hung. Later, they put excrement on the truncheon, and inserted the truncheon into my mouth. They inserted the truncheon into my anus..... throughout the eight days they forced me to sit naked on the concrete floor, and without allowing to lay". On 17 June, 33 of these were formally arrested and taken to Kahraman Mara_ prison where they are now held. Thirty-two of them have been charged with supporting the illegal Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and one is charged with membership of the PKK. Seventeen others who were held in detention were released on 17 June.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification to their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can now be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to four days. This period may be increased to seven days during which detainees would have to be granted access to a lawyer, under recently amended legislation.

When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is often applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Ibrahim Alpdo_an who was taken into custody on 20 June 1999 and is now reportedly detained at Pazarc_k Gendarmerie Command or at police headquarters in Kahraman Mara_ town, South Eastern Turkey;
- urging that he is not tortured or ill-treated;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against him;
- urging that a comprehensive and impartial investigation is initiated into the allegations of torture, that the results are made public and that those responsible are brought to justice;
- reminding the government of Turkey of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights to which Turkey is a state party which states: 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.'

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie

General Rasim Betir

Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____

Bakanl_klar

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Jandarma Genel Komutan_, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes:+ 90 312 418 9208

Salutation:Dear General

Kahraman Mara_ Chief of Police

Kahraman Mara_ Emniyet Müdürü

Kahraman Mara_ Emniyet Müdürlüğü

Kahraman Mara_, Turkey

Telegrams: Kahraman Mara_ Emniyet Müdürü, Kahraman Mara_, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

Pazarc_k Gendarmerie Commander

Pazarc_k Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____

Pazarc_k, Turkey

Telegrams: Pazarc_k Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____, Kahraman Mara_, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Commander

Minister of the Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan

Içi_leri Bakan_

Içi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Içi_leri Bakan_, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 312 418 9208

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Mehmet Ali Irtemçelik

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

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and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.