

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/60/91  
Distr: UA/SC

UA 164/91

Fear of Torture

10 May 1991

TURKEY:

Bedri Uzunboy, aged 28  
Ibrahim Türk, aged 32  
Aziz Özalp, aged 34  
Abdurrahman Sansarkan, aged 25  
Ahmet Özalp, aged 28  
Zeki Alyaparak, aged 32  
Remzi Tanrikulu, aged 23  
Fahri .....

---

People in Bismil, a town in the southeast of Turkey, recently wanted to collect food, clothes and blankets for the Kurdish refugees from Iraq. When they applied to the local authorities for permission, they allegedly received no response and therefore started collecting for the refugees without official permission. The donated goods and funds were then confiscated. This provoked a spontaneous demonstration, again not officially authorized as required. An investigation against some 230 people was begun and on 6 May the eight people named above were detained. They were taken to the headquarters of the "Rapid Force" anti-riot police (Çevik Kuvvet) in Diyarbakir where they are said to be held in incommunicado detention. It is feared that they are being subjected to torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is not officially recognized by the authorities, but is estimated to number some 10 million people. The Kurdish population lives mainly in southeastern Turkey. Frequent allegations of torture and ill-treatment have been received from the region and the number of torture allegations increased substantially after the 1980 military coup. Since August 1984, when Kurdish guerrillas - members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) - started armed attacks, an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces, where more than 2000 lives so far have been lost in the continuing fighting.

In May 1990 the Turkish government issued Decrees 424 and 425 (in December replaced by Decree 430), further extending the already extraordinary powers of the Emergency Legislation Governor. Subsequently, 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.

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. 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, including Diyarbakir.

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

- urging that the eight detainees named above are given prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO

Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Hayri Kozakçio\_lu  
Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi  
Diyarbakir, Turkey

Telegrams: Diyarbakir Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Telexes: 72110 OHVT TR  
72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the  
Governor"

72090 JASY TR  
Faxes: + 90 831 26174

Diyarbakir Chief of Police:

Mr Ramazan Er  
Diyarbakir Emniyet Müdürü  
Diyarbakir, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 831 11956

President Turgut Özal  
Devlet Ba\_kanli\_i  
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: President Özal, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 42875 bbk tr  
Faxes: (via Press Office) +90 4 168 5012

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Abdülkadir Aksu

Iç\_i\_leri Bakanli\_i  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

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

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Eyüp A\_k  
Insan Haklari Ara\_tirma Komisyonu Ba\_kani  
TBMM  
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: IHA Komisyonu, TBMM, Ankara, Turkey  
Faxes: + 90 4 42 06 941

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 21 June 1991.