

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/81/93

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 74/93

Fear of Torture

27 August 1993

---

TURKEY: Ahmet \_bili, correspondent for weekly newspaper Mücadele in Mersin

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Ahmet \_bili who was detained in Mersin on 18 August 1993.

Ahmet \_bili worked for the political weekly newspaper Mücadele whose office was raided by the police on 18 August 1993. Allegedly, the police had no search warrant and ransacked the office. Ahmet Ibili is said to have resisted and to have been beaten in response, and, when he shouted "Human dignity will win over torture", to have his head hit against the floor until he lost consciousness. Ahmet \_bili and others present in the office at the time were then taken to Mersin Police Headquarters.

Those detained with Ahmet \_bili, but since released, reported that he was being subjected to severe torture and death threats and that he was being denied water. Under current legislation he may be held in police custody until 1 September 1993.

#### 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. Following a programme of visits to Turkish police stations in 1990, 1991 and 1992, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT - established by the Council of Europe) reported: "In the light of all the information at its disposal, the CPT can only conclude 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-terrorism provisions".

Most allegations of torture 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 non-political detainees may be held for up to eight days before being formally charged or released. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be held without charge for up to 15 days. In the provinces of southeast Turkey which are under emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days respectively.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail

**letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern about the alleged torture and ill-treatment of Ahmet \_bili while being detained on 18 August 1993 and subsequently in police custody at Mersin Police Headquarters;
- urging that all steps are taken to ensure that Ahmet \_bili is not subjected to further torture or any other form of ill-treatment while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against him.

**Page 2 of EXTRA 74/93**

**APPEALS TO**

1) Chief of Police in Mersin:

Mr Halil \_brahim Özkan  
Mersin Emniyet Müdürlü\_ü  
Mersin, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Mersin, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Mehmet Gazio\_lu  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Hikmet Çetin  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
D\_\_i\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 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 10 September 1993.