

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**Unacknowledged detention/Torture**

**24 September 1993**

**TURKEY**

Behçet Ekinçi

Ahmet Bayram and his wife and child

plus at least another five people (names unknown)

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Behçet Ekinçi who is in unacknowledged police custody in Diyarbakır. He was reportedly tortured during the first three days of his detention. The organization is also concerned about seven people who are in police custody after visiting his house. It is feared that they are being subjected to torture while held in incommunicado detention.

On the night of 21 September 1993, between 1am and 2am, officers of the political police from the Anti-Terror Branch of Diyarbakır Police Headquarters, armed with automatic weapons, raided the home of the Ekinçi family in Diyarbakır. Reportedly, they pulled Behçet Ekinçi from his bed, grabbing him by the hair and knocking him to the ground. They handcuffed him and took him away. Police officers then occupied the house during the following three days and detained everyone who visited, seven people in all, including Ahmet Bayram with his wife and child.

The following night around the same time the police brought Behçet Ekinçi back to his home, covered in blood and bruises and barely recognizable. They did not beat him in front of his family, but swore at him and demanded to know where the explosives were hidden. They searched the house but found nothing and took Behçet Ekinçi back to the Police Headquarters.

On 23 September, the family submitted a petition to the prosecutor at Diyarbakır State Security Court asking for confirmation of his detention. The prosecutor responded that he could not acknowledge Behçet Ekinçi's detention as he had no current list of detainees from the police. The family fear for the life of Behçet Ekinçi.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority estimated at some 10 million people, living mainly in southeastern Turkey. Since August 1984, when guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) started armed attacks against the security forces, more than 6,000 lives have been lost on both sides and among the civilian population. In mid-March 1993 the PKK declared a unilateral ceasefire and its intention to end the fighting and to enter the democratic process as a political party. Operations by the security forces against the PKK continued. The ceasefire was broken when on 24 May guerrillas of the PKK ambushed a convoy of soldiers, killing 33 soldiers and two civilians. The security forces responded with large-scale military operations covering the entire region. A state of emergency continues to be in force in 10 provinces in the region and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbakır has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces.

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 program of visits to Turkish police stations in 1990, 1991 and 1992, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT - established by the Council of Europe) reported: "In the light of all the information at its disposal, the ECPT 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

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provisions".

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 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 10 provinces under emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Behçet Ekinçi, detained at his home on the night of 21 September, reportedly tortured during the following three days and since held in unacknowledged police custody in Diyarbakır;
- expressing concern also for the safety of Ahmet Bayram, his family and other visitors to the home of Behçet Ekinçi who are being held in incommunicado detention in Diyarbakır urging that they are not subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- urging that immediate steps are taken to establish the whereabouts of Behçet Ekinçi and to prevent further torture or ill-treatment;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against him and any of his visitors.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Chief of Diyarbakır Police:

Mr Ramazan Er

Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürlüğü

Diyarbakır, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Diyarbakır, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

2) Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Ünal Erkan

Olağanüstü Hal Valiliği

Diyarbakır, Turkey

**Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakır, Turkey**

**Faxes: +90 832 26 174**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

3) President Süleyman Demirel

Cumhurbaşkanı

Çankaya

Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: President Demirel, Ankara, Turkey**

**Telex: 42303 kosk tr**

**Faxes: +90 44 68 50 12 (via Press Office)**

**Salutation: Dear President**

**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 5 November 1993.