

**EXTERNAL**

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**EXTRA 114/95**

**Torture / Fear of further torture**

**28 September 1995**

**TURKEYHabib Çiftçi, a Kurd**

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Habib Çiftçi was detained in Istanbul on 3 September 1995 and interrogated for 15 days at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. According to a detainee, now released, who heard him whisper his name, Habib Çiftçi was very severely tortured during that time. The released detainee has stated that after interrogation sessions, Habib Çiftçi was thrown into the cell unconscious and left lying with a towel thrown over his face. As soon as he stirred trying to remove the towel, he was taken back for further torture.

On 19 September, Habib Çiftçi was transferred to the Police Headquarters in Batman. The state prosecutor in Batman has given permission for him to be held and interrogated there for another 13 days. Under emergency legislation in force in Batman province he could be held there for a total of 30 days. Amnesty International continues to fear for Habib Çiftçi's safety while he is held incommunicado in Batman Police Headquarters, where severe torture has been reported in the past (see background).

Habib Çiftçi was previously detained in July 1994. During a police operation in Istanbul against suspected members and supporters of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) he was one of 24 people then taken into police custody. No further details are known.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Three people died during interrogation at Batman Police Headquarters in 1992, apparently as a result of torture. People interrogated at the same time as those who died reported particularly brutal torture and medical evidence of torture was suppressed with misleading medical certificates. On 4 August 1994, Abdullah Baskin, a young villager, died after interrogation at Batman Gendarmerie Headquarters, where he had been subjected to hanging by the wrists tied behind the back, beatings and electric shocks.

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. 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 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.

Any person suspected of supporting the PKK or any other illegal armed organization is at serious risk of torture, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution. At least 20 cases of "disappearance" in police custody and six deaths in police custody have been reported in 1995 so far.

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

- expressing grave concern about the reported torture of Habib Çiftçi in custody at Istanbul Police Headquarters between 3 and 19 September; and expressing

fears for his safety since being transferred to Batman Police Headquarters for further interrogation;

- urging that he be granted immediate access to his lawyer and any medical attention he may require;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against him.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. State Prosecutor in Batman:

Cumhuriyet Savc\_s\_  
Hükümet Kona\_\_  
Batman, Turkey

**Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Savcisi, Batman, Turkey**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

2. General Chief of Security:

Mr Mehmet A\_ar  
Emniyet Genel Müdürlü\_ü  
Bakanl\_klar  
Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Genel Muduru, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

3. State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Algan Hacalo\_lu  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476; +90 312 420 5394 (if voice, ask for fax)**  
**Telegrams: Algan Hacaloglu, Basbakanlik, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz  
\_nsan Haklar\_ Ara\_t\_rma Komisyonu Ba\_kan\_  
TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 420 5394 (if voice ask for fax)**

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 20 October 1995.