

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "Disappearance"/Torture

6 November 1992

TURKEY:

Ayhan Efeo_lu, student

Amnesty International is concerned about the "disappearance" of Ayhan Efeo_lu who has been in unacknowledged police detention since 6 October 1992.

Ayhan Efeo_lu, a student aged 25, was last seen in Istanbul on 6 October 1992. He is a political activist who has been detained previously on numerous occasions and there is reason to believe that he has been taken into police custody again. It is thought that he is being held unregistered and incommunicado at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. Detention procedures require that the police notify the prosecutor's office of any detention and obtain authorization for the period they want to hold a detainee. Ayhan Efeo_lu's lawyer submitted a written inquiry to the prosecutor's office asking whether he had been taken into police custody and if so, for how many days authorization was given. The prosecutor's office at the Istanbul State Security Court replied on 19 October 1992 that no such authorization had been given.

However, another political detainee held at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters since the end of September testified in a written statement that the police cheered on hearing the news of a fresh detention in the early evening of 6 October. On 8 October this detainee was shown a photograph of Ayhan Efeo_lu and was asked, "Is this Aslan?". The detainee said "No". The police interrogated the detainee again the following day, saying, "Why are you lying - Ayhan is in our hands and has been broken. He confessed to being Aslan." The detainee is convinced that Ayhan Efeo_lu has indeed been taken into police custody.

On 28 October Ayhan Efeo_lu's father and lawyers filed a law suit against the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police with the chief public prosecutor's office in Istanbul.

Since March 1991, at least four people have "disappeared" in detention in Istanbul and remain unaccounted for to this day: Yusuf Eri_ti since March 1991, Hüseyin Toraman since October 1991, Hasan Gülünay since July 1992 and Tu_rul Özbek since October 1992. It is feared that they may have been killed under torture. Since 2 November, 20 relatives of the "disappeared", many of them elderly, have been on hunger-strike in Ankara. They are demanding information from the authorities as to the fate of their "disappeared" relatives.

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. However, all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and

systematic in Turkey. 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. 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. Under current legislation the maximum period a detainee may be held 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.

Page 2 of UA 343/92

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

- expressing concern about the "disappearance" of Ayhan Efeo_lu who allegedly has been held in unacknowledged police detention at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters since 6 October 1992;
- noting that another political detainee testified that he was interrogated about Ayhan Efeo_lu at the time of Ayhan Efeo_lu's "disappearance" and that the police claimed to have "broken" him;
- urging that Ayhan Efeo_lu is not ill-treated while in custody;
- calling for an immediate, full and impartial investigation to establish his present whereabouts and state of health;
- requesting to be informed of its findings.

APPEALS TO

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr, 42099 basb tr, 42875 bbk tr

Faxes: + 90 4 417 04 76, + 90 4 230 88 96

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

3) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR, 30812 EMMH TR, 26177 IEMT TR

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

The hunger-striking relatives, c/o the Human Rights Association:

Konur Sokak 15/3

K_z_lay, Ankara

Turkey

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

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 18 December 1992.