

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 148/96

Fear of "disappearance" / Fear of torture 24 September 1996

TURKEY Nesime Sevinç (f)

Tar_k Dolan
Murathan Be_enk
Cemal Ayy_ld_z
Iskender Azizo_lu
Hüseyin Akdo_an

The six people named above were detained in a police operation in Diyarbak_r between 15 and 19 September 1996. They have since been held incommunicado in unacknowledged detention, presumably at the Anti-Terror Branch of Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters. Amnesty International fears they will remain at risk of torture and "disappearance" as long as they are so held.

Nesime Sevinç was detained on 15 September in front of an insurance company in Diyarbak_r where she works.

Tar_k Dolan was detained on 16 September by members of the security forces. Murathan Be_enk was detained on 17 September. For two days the police occupied his home following his detention. The prosecutor's office, where all detentions should be registered, has not given a written reply to a petition seeking information of his whereabouts.

Cemal Ayy_ld_z was detained on 18 September. Police occupied his home for two days following his detention.

Iskender Azizo_lu was detained on 18 September. No information could be obtained regarding his whereabouts.

Hüseyin Akdo_an was detained on 19 September at his home in the centre of Diyarbak_r.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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 such as Diyarbak_r, 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 is often applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. 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.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Nesime Sevinç, Tar_k Dolan, Murathan Be_enk, Cemal Ayy_ld_z, Iskender Azizo_lu and Hüseyin Akdo_an who were detained in Diyarbak_r between 15 and 19 September 1996 and have since been held in unacknowledged detention;
- urging that their whereabouts be established without delay, their detention registered and their relatives and lawyers promptly informed;
- seeking insurances that they are not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- asking to be informed of any charges brought against them.

APPEALS TO:

1. Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbak_r State Security Court:

Mr Bekir Selçuk

DGM Ba_savc_s_

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

2. State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Lütfü Esengül

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

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476

Salutation: Dear Minister

3. Diyarbak_r Chief of Police:

Mr R_dvan Güler

Diyarbak_r Emniyet Müdürü

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Demir Berbero_lu

nsan Haklar Inceleme Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

Fax: +90 312 420 5394

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 1996.