

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

2 November 1990

TURKEY: Ali Ekber Kaypakkaya - Ankara representative of the
journal Yeni Demokrasi
Re_at Çetinba_)
Begum Çetinba_ (f))
Kamil Eser) journalists
Mehmet Ali Çak_ro_lu)
Nam_k Kemal Toprak
Nilgün Ünal (f)
and two other persons whose names are unknown

On or about 27 October 1990 the police detained journalists and two visitors (unnamed) at the Ankara office of Yeni Demokrasi, while some of those named above were taken into detention from their homes. They are believed to be held at the First (Political) Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters, and it is feared that they may be interrogated under torture.

In September 1988 Re_at Çetinba_ and Mehmet Ali Çak_ro_lu were detained for a period of 15 days and subsequently made claims which were supported by medical reports that they had been tortured during that time.

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. Allegations of torture have continued since the transfer of power to a civilian government in 1983. 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. Under current legislation the maximum detention period 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.

In August 1990, the Turkish government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

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

- urging that Ali Ekber Kaypakkaya, Re_at Çetinba_, Begum Çetinba_, Kamil Eser, Mehmet Ali Çak_ro_lu, Nam_k Kemal Toprak, Nilgün Ünal and the two unnamed persons detained with them are given prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;

- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO

Prime Minister Y_ld_r_m Akbulut
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 BBMT TR; 42099 BASB TR; 42875 BBK TR
Faxes: + 90 41 17 04 76; + 90 42 30 88 96

Ankara Emniyet Müdürü
Hasan Özdemir
Ankara Chief of Police
Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 43 41 05 91 EMNIYET MUDURU
Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, Turkey

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 December 1990.