

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

19 December 1990

**TURKEY: Hasan Hüseyin Reyhan, lawyer  
his wife and their three-month old child**

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It has been reported that the lawyer Hasan Hüseyin Reyhan was detained in Iskenderun on 14 December, together with his wife and their three-month old child. Their house was searched. The reason for their detention is not known. They are thought to be held at Iskenderun Police Headquarters and it is feared that the husband and wife may be tortured.

Hasan Hüseyin Reyhan, who is the President of the Iskenderun branch of the Turkish Human Rights Association, was detained briefly and ill-treated in August this year. A medical report certified injuries which would prevent him from working for three days. He filed a complaint against those responsible for the ill-treatment he suffered. The result is not known to Amnesty International. The organization appealed on 21 August for an independent and impartial investigation into Hasan Hüseyin Reyhan's allegations of ill-treatment.

#### **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, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights.

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

- urging that Hasan Hüseyin Reyhan and his wife are given prompt access to their family and lawyer and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;

- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

**APPEALS TO**

President Turgut Özal  
Devlet Ba\_kanli\_i  
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: President Ozal, Ankara, Turkey  
Telex: 42875 bbk tr

Iskenderun Emniyet Müdürü (Iskenderun Chief of Police)  
Iskenderun  
Turkey

**Telegrams: Same address**

**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 1 February 1991.