

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

19 December 1990

TURKEY: Ümmühan Çavu_o_lu
Metin Köseo_lu
_smail Arslan
Ceng Salman
_smail Ramazan Macit

Ümmühan Çavu_o_lu, Metin Köseo_lu, _smail Arslan, and Ceng Salman were taken into custody from their homes on or around 12 December 1990 and are currently held at the First (Political) Branch of Police Headquarters in Istanbul. The authorities have announced that they are being investigated for membership of an illegal organisation. _smail Ramazan Macit was taken into custody on 16 December 1990 and is also being held at the Political Branch of Police Headquarters. It is feared that they are being tortured.

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.

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

- urging that Ümmühan Çavu_o_lu, Metin Köseo_lu, _smail Arslan, Ceng Salman and _smail Ramazan Macit are given prompt access to their families and to legal counsel, and that they should not be 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

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
Mehmet A_ar
Istanbul Chief of Police
_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey
Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR

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 30 January 1991.