

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/04/93

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 05/92

Fear of Torture/"Disappearance"

15 January 1993

TURKEY:

Nedim Köro_lu	Ayd_n Erol
Mustafa Metin Yüce	Gürsel Dursun
Salih_en	Hüseyin Aksoy
Hamdi Genç	_engül Karada_
Fazil Ahmet Ayar	Ya_mur Battal_
Orhan Akyol	Hayriye Dalo_lu
Erkan Sabri Ünivar	Aynur K_l_ç
Adnan_nan	Kubilay Kurmu_
Mehmet Ali Aksoy	Hamit Ta_
Bülent Durmaz	Ali Durmaz
Salih Ersen Kütükçü	Hüseyin Durmaz
_skender Bayhan	Salman K_l_nç
Murat Demir	Ethem Tepeli

Amnesty International is concerned about the 26 people named above, most of whom are students, who were recently detained during a police operation in Istanbul. According to newspaper reports, the police operation was directed against the illegal organization Turkish Revolutionary Communist Party/Turkish Union of Communist Youth. All those named above, with the exception of Nedim Köro_lu, were detained on 8 January 1993 and are currently being interrogated at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. Nedim Köro_lu was allegedly detained on 12 January 1993 but police and prosecutors deny that Nedim Köro_lu was taken into custody and claim that they have no knowledge of his whereabouts. It is feared that all those named are being interrogated under torture, and that an attempt may be being made to "disappear" Nedim Köro_lu.

Lawyers who hold power of attorney for two of the detainees were given permission by the prosecutor to see their clients but were subsequently refused access by the police.

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. Following a programme of visits to Turkish police stations in 1990, 1991 and 1992, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT - established by the Council of Europe) reported: "In the light of all the information at its disposal, the CPT can only conclude that the practice of torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment of persons in police custody remains widespread in Turkey and that such methods are applied to both ordinary criminal suspects and persons held under anti-terrorism provisions".

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. New legislation to shorten the maximum detention period came into force on 1 December 1992. Now non-political detainees may be held for up to eight days before being formally charged or released. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be held without charge for up to 15 days. In the provinces of southeast Turkey which are under emergency legislation, the maximum detention periods for political and non-political detainees may be doubled to 30 and 16 days respectively.

Page 2 of EXTRA 05/93

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

- expressing concern that those named above are being held in incommunicado detention in Istanbul Police Headquarters;
- urging that the detainees named above are permitted access to their families and lawyers;
- requesting that the family of Nedim Köro_lu are informed without delay of his place of detention and be granted access to him;
- seeking assurances that none of the detainees mentioned above will be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

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

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

and 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 12 February 1992.