

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/04/96

11 January 1996

Further information on EXTRA 161/95 (EUR 44/152/95, 15 December 1995) and follow-ups (EUR 44/02/96, 5 January 1996 and EUR 44/03/96, 9 January) - Use of excessive force / Fear for safety / Prisoners of conscience / Fear of ill-treatment

TURKEY Orhan Özen, political prisoner, killed in prison
R_za Boyba_, political prisoner, killed in prison
Abdülmecit Seçkin, political prisoner, killed in prison
Metin Göktepe, journalist, died following detention

new name: Gültekin Beyhan, political prisoner, died in hospital

On the night of 10 January 1996, Gültekin Beyhan, one of the critically wounded prisoners from Ümraniye Prison in Istanbul, died of head injuries at Haydarpa_a Numune Hospital. Five out of some 50 injured prisoners in hospital are said to be in a serious condition.

The autopsy of Metin Göktepe, who died after being detained on 8 January at the funeral of political prisoners Orhan Özen and R_za Boyba_, has revealed that "the death of the person found with one broken rib and many traumatic lesions inflicted with a blunt object, resulted from subdural and subarachnoidal brain haemorrhage associated with trauma to the head from a blunt object and internal bleeding". His funeral is being held on the afternoon of 11 January.

Meanwhile, details of the autopsy reports on Orhan Özen, R_za Boyba_ and Abdülmecit Seçkin, killed by police and soldiers in Ümraniye Special Type Prison on 4 January, have emerged, and indicate similarly savage attacks: "internal bleeding in the brain, fractures and caving in of the skull due to blows to the head with a hard object". Reportedly, their heads and faces had been smashed in such a manner that it was difficult to identify them.

It is unclear how many mourners, detained at the funeral of Orhan Özen and R_za Boyba_, are still being held. It is believed, however, that many of them may remain in detention at the Anti-Terror branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters.

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

- expressing outrage at yet another prisoner's death, that of Gültekin Beyhan, due to apparently excessive and indiscriminate use of force by soldiers called in to quell prisoners' protest at Ümraniye Special Type Prison on 4 January 1996;
- urging that an impartial expert commission of inquiry be set up without delay to investigate the pattern of deaths resulting from the use of soldiers in the context of prison disturbances;
- calling for an immediate and thorough investigation into the death of journalist Metin Göktepe following his detention on 8 January 1996;
- urging that all those wounded at Ümraniye Special Type Prison be given all medical treatment they may require;
- continuing to call for the immediate and unconditional release of any mourners, detained at the funeral on 8 January, who are still in custody.

APPEALS TO:

1. Head of State:

President Süleyman Demirel
Office of the President
Cumhur Ba_kanl____
06100 Ankara

Telegrams: President Demirel, Cankaya, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 42303 kosk tr

Faxes: +90 312 468 5026

Salutation: Your Excellency

2. Chief of the Turkish General Staff:

General _smail Hakk_ Karaday_
Bakanl_klar
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: General Karaday_, Bakanliklar, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 418 1795

Salutation: Dear General

COPIES TO:

Prime Minister:

Mrs Tansu Çiller
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 +90 312 230 8896

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 10 February 1996.