

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/05/95
Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 03/95

Fear of Torture

10 January 1995

TURKEY Hüseyin Aksoy
Zöhre Aksoy (female)
Tacim _im_ek
Mürüvvet Günel (f), ward representative of Media trade union
ükrü Ta
Kemal Yad_rg_
_eyda Gül (female)
Hüseyin Demirli
Kiraz Özcan (female)
Emine Akcan (female)
_smet Dursun
Osman
plus 18 others whose names are not yet known to AI

In a police operation on 4 January 1995, 30 suspected members of the illegal Turkish Revolutionary Communist Party (TDKP) were detained in Istanbul, including those named above. They are being held incommunicado at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters, where it is feared they are being interrogated under torture. It has been reported that the prosecutor has authorized the police to hold the detainees until 17 January.

Some of the detainees have been detained previously and alleged at the time that they were subjected to torture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be held without charge for up to 15 days under current legislation. In the 10 provinces under emergency legislation in the southeast the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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. 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.

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) of the Council of Europe, of which Turkey is a member, and the UN Committee against Torture (UN CAT) have both published reports to the effect that torture is widespread and systematic in Turkey.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of 30 people detained in Istanbul on 4 January 1995 [naming some of them] who are being held at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters;
- seeking assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- urging that they are granted access to their relatives and lawyers;
- asking to be informed of any charges brought against them.

APPEALS TO

1) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir
 Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü
 _stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey
Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR; 30812 EMMH TR; 26177 IEMT TR
Faxes: +90 212 272 8182 and +90 212 527 7181
Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Chief Prosecutor at Istanbul State Security Court

Mr Ahmet Köksal
 DGM Ba_savc_s_
 Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi
 Istanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Ba_savc_s_, _stanbul, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Sir

3) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Azimet Köylüo_lu
 Office of the Prime Minister
 Ba_bakanl_k
 06573 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz
 nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
 TBMM
 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

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 1995.