

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

24 March 1992

TURKEY:

Ayla Peköz (female)

Emine Güngör (female)

Nurettin Gecit, 25-30 years old

Hakan Baran

Hüseyin Çaparta_

Mehmet Akba_

Songül _artlı_ (female)

On 19 March 1992, at about noon, Ayla Peköz was detained in the house of her sister in Gaziantep together with Emine Güngör, Nurettin Gecit and Hakan Baran, who were on a visit from the province of Trakya in the northwest of Turkey. The reasons for their detention and their current whereabouts are not known.

On 20 March 1992, Hüseyin Çaparta_, Mehmet Akba_ and Songül _artlı_ were also detained in Gaziantep and the reasons for their detention and whereabouts are also not known.

It is believed that the detentions may be politically motivated and that all seven detainees are being held at Gaziantep Police Headquarters. It is feared that they may be tortured during interrogation while held incommunicado in police custody.

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. 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. In August 1990, the 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. Under current legislation the maximum period a detainee may be held 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. This period may be extended to 30 days in areas under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in ten provinces in the southeast.

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

- urging that the detainees named above be allowed to see their families and lawyers and that they are not subjected to any form of ill-treatment while being held;

- asking to be informed of the reasons for their detention.

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APPEALS TO

1) Chief of Gaziantep Police:

Mr Tezcan Özkanl_
Gaziantep Emniyet Müdürlü_ü
Gaziantep, Turkey

Telegrams: Gaziantep Emniyet Muduru, Gaziantep, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Governor of Gaziantep Province:

Mr Recep Birsen Özen
Gaziantep Valili_i
Gaziantep, Turkey

Telegrams: Gaziantep Valiligi, Gaziantep, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Governor

3) Gaziantep State Prosecutor:

Mr Ünal Ar_k
Cumhuriyet Savc_l____
Gaziantep, Turkey

Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Savcis_, Gaziantep, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

4) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 118 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Ahmet Türk
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 10 April 1992.