

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

25 March 1991

TURKEY: Zeynep Aldo_an (f), student, Hacettepe School of Dentistry

On 20 March 1991 Zeynep Aldo_an was detained in Ankara during a student demonstration. Thirty other people detained at the same time were released on 25 March 1991, but Zeynep Aldo_an is still held incommunicado at the Political Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters. Her family applied to see her but were denied access. It is feared that she may be interrogated under torture, and there is added concern for her health. Zeynep Aldo_an suffered head injuries during the demonstration and any ill-treatment may seriously aggravate her condition.

Zeynep Aldo_an was previously detained in July 1988 and was allegedly beaten then. Her allegations were supported by a Forensic Medical Institute report dated 11 August 1988.

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.

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

- urging that Zeynep Aldo_an is given prompt access to her family and lawyer and that she is not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against Zeynep Aldo_an.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior:
Mr Abdülkadir Aksu
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister Aksu, Ankara, Turkey
Telex: 46369 ICSL TR
Fax: +90 41 28 43 46

Ankara Chief of Police:
Mr Hasan Özdemir
Ankara Emniyet Müdürü
Konya-Samsun Karayolu
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, Turkey

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 6 May 1991.