

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 77/00

Risk of torture and ill-treatment

13 October 2000

TURKEY

\_ehmuz Temel (46)

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A Kurdish man, who has reportedly been tortured by the Turkish authorities previously, has been arrested and may be at risk of torture.

\_ehmuz Temel was arrested on 12 October by plainclothes police officers with walkie-talkies, who came to his home in the Fikirtepe neighbourhood of Istanbul at around 11pm. On 13 October, his family learned that he is being held at Istanbul Police Headquarters.

\_ehmuz Temel has reportedly been arrested and tortured several times. In October 1994 he was arrested by police in the province of Mardin and was severely tortured. The torture included hanging by the arms, and he has apparently been unable to move his arms since. He was imprisoned until 1998, convicted of aiding and abetting the armed opposition group, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

People suspected of offences that fall under the jurisdiction of the State Security Courts can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to four days. If held for longer, detainees have the right of access to a lawyer under certain conditions. In most cases this right is denied.

With no access to the outside world, detainees are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is regularly used to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers, or as unofficial punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, suspending by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of \_ehmuz Temel;
- urging that he is not tortured or ill-treated;
- urging that he is given immediate access to a lawyer, and to his family;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against him;
- reminding the Turkish government of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

#### APPEALS TO:

Minister of Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_

06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312 418 17 95**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Minister of Justice

Prof Hikmet Sami Türk

Ministry of Justice

Adalet Bakanl\_\_

06659 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 312 417 3954 / 418 5667**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Istanbul Chief of Police

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürlüğü

Vatan Caddesi, Istanbul, Turkey

**Telegrams: Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü, Istanbul, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Chief of Police**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Rü\_tü Kaz\_m Yücelen

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba\_bakanl\_k

06573 Ankara

Turkey

**Faxes: + 90 312 417 0476**

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 27 October 2000.