

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR/44/56/93

Distr: UA/SC

23 June 1993

Further information on EXTRA 38/93 (EUR 44/40/93, 21 April 1993) - Fear of Torture

TURKEY:

_zzet Meriç	Eylem Kaya (female)	Emine Karaçay (female)
Atif _ah	_hsan Cibelik	Elmas Gümü_o_lu (female)
_lhan Demirel	Necati Erbasan	Özgür Bar__ Özçelik
Nuray Akyürek (female)	Ali Alper Kara	Günay Eren
Bilgin Cengiz,	Bülent Han	Polat Han
Gülcan Yavuz (female)	Bülent Ba_c_	Naci Acar
Ibrahim Do_an	_ahin Sat_c_	Murat Öcal
Mesut Sevimli,	Sevim Fidan (female)	Ercan M_r_k
Hakan Y_lmaz	Tülay Gencay (female)	Özgür Sar_kaya
Tülay Çakmak (female)	Nail Yollu	Ecevit Çetinkaya
Zeynep Erdo_an (female)	Sibel _ahano_lu (female)	Alper Yeniay
Özgür Sar_o_lu	Özlen Cibelik (female)	_rfan Ortakç_
		Erkan Özbilge

On 2 May 1993, Günay Eren, Mesut Sevimli, Emine Karaçay, Erkan Özbilge, Özlen Cibelik, Sibel _ahano_lu, Özgür Özçelik, Özgür Sar_o_lu, _brahim Do_an, Ali Alper Kara, Nail Yollu, _zzet Meriç, At_f_ah, Ercan M_r_k, _lhan Demirel, Hakan Y_lmaz, Bülent Han and Özgür Sar_kaya were formally arrested by Ankara State Security Court and committed to prison to await trial on charges of membership of the illegal armed organization Devrimci Sol (Revolutionary Left).

All others were released, some on 1 May, the others on 2 May. _ahin Sat_c_ had his detention period extended by a further 15 days and was transferred to Urfa Police Headquarters. He was released by Urfa state prosecutor after a total of 23 days in police custody.

Amnesty International received written testimony from seven of the detainees describing their treatment while in police custody. Below follow excerpts from six of their statements alleging torture at Ankara Police Headquarters.

Tülay Gencay: We were taken to Ankara Police Headquarters, where we were beaten on entry and then taken to DAL's [Derin Ara t rma Laboratuvar - Deep Research Laboratory, a name commonly given to the interrogation centre in the basement of Ankara Police Headquarters] infamous cells, which were dark and filthy, as well as very cold. I was beaten, insulted and made to listen to the screams of people being tortured. We were told that we were "lucky" - I was "lucky" in not being tortured as heavily as during previous detentions.

Polat Han: I was detained at the Ankara office of *Tav_r* [Attitude] magazine by plainclothes and uniformed police officers carrying guns and truncheons. They dragged me out and took me to the police station. Constantly being knocked about and insulted, I was made to wait in a room. They took me for questioning under torture with cold water and punches. It was the first time I had ever been detained. I felt as if I was existing in another world.

Gülcan Yavuz: I was taken from the office of *Tav_r* magazine on 18 April. I was taken to Ankara Police Headquarters where I was beaten and insulted. On the third day, they took me out of

the cell and interrogated me under torture. I was soaked with pressurized cold water, beaten on the soles of the feet [*falaka*], and suspended by the arms. While I was hung up they gave me electric shocks and soaked me with water. Then I was again subjected to *falaka*. I was sexually assaulted. They were trying to get me to sign a prepared confession.

rfan Ortakç : I was detained at the *Tav_r* office on 18 April. For the first two days I was tortured badly. Twice I was subjected to "palestinian hanging" [hung by the arms with hands tied behind the back], and I was hosed with hot and cold water. I was made to hear the screams of other people being tortured. My sexual organ was pulled and squeezed and flicked.

Tülay Çakmak: I was detained at the *Tav_r* office on 18 April. When I arrived I was searched. When I refused to sign the search report, they swore and insulted me. One of them came to me and said: you got out quickly at Nevruz [21 March], but you won't escape so easily this time. They took me to the place of torture. Before they started, they told me to take off my clothes. I refused and they removed my clothes by force and hoisted me up by my arms tied behind my back. While I hung there they gave me electric shocks and sprayed me with cold water. After this I was put in a cell. I was taken to the Forensic Medicine Institute. On the way there they beat me for talking to my friends who were in the vehicle. When I came back, they tried to get me to give up the hunger strike which I had started. They suspended me by my arms (not tied behind but bound to a pole). While I was in this position they continued to give me electric shocks. They showed me press cuttings about the 12 Devrimci Sol guerrillas who had been killed near Tunceli, and said, "This is how you will end up".

Eylem Kaya: They constantly tried to get me to confess to having thrown a Molotov cocktail. They tried to get me to say that *Tav_r* was a Devrimci Sol magazine. While I was in the cell, I could hear that people were being tortured. One night they came and got me, blindfolded me. They took me to the bathroom. They told me to say what actions I had participated in. They said, "We will do such things to you as will make sure you never have any children". They beat me and soaked me with water. I refused to say anything and they let me go.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received many reports of torture at Ankara Police Headquarters, and there were two deaths resulting from torture there in 1991. Ankara Police Headquarters were visited on a number of occasions by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) of the Council of Europe, of which Turkey is a member. In December 1992 the ECPT made its findings public for the first time ever. The ECPT announced that during an impromptu visit to Ankara Police Headquarters they had found "a low stretcher-type bed equipped with eight straps (four each side), fitting perfectly the description of the item of furniture to which persons had said they were secured when electric shocks were administered to them. No credible explanation could be proffered for the presence of this bed in what was indicated by a sign as being an 'interrogation room' ... the delegation's discoveries caused considerable consternation among police officers present; some expressed regret, others defiance."

The ECPT concluded "that the practice of torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment or persons in police custody remains widespread in Turkey and that such methods are applied to both ordinary criminal suspects and persons held under anti-terrorist provisions".

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

- expressing concern about the allegations of torture at Ankara Police Headquarters by detainees held there during the last two weeks in April;
- reiterating the findings of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) of the Council of Europe as published in its December 1992 report, in particular those concerning Ankara Police Headquarters;
- urging that all allegations of torture are fully and impartially investigated and that those responsible are brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Prime Minister:

Mrs Tansu Çiller

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr

42099 basb tr/42875 bbk tr

Faxes: +90 4 417 04 76 PRIME MINISTER

+90 4 230 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country. The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of Turkey in Austria during June at the following address:

Turkish Embassy:

The Ambassador

Botschaft der Türkei

Prinz-Eugen-Strasse 40, 1040 Wien

Austria

Faxes: + 43 1 505 36 60

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 July 1993.