

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 59/96

Torture / Fear of torture

26 April 1996

TURKEYMahmut Y_lmaz

Ahmet A_k_n Do_an

Bülent Karaka_
Elif Kahyao_lu (f)
Mustafa Bayram M_s_r
Haci Ferhan Temiz
Deniz Kartal (f)
Hülya Ye_ilyurt (f)
Özgür Yılmaz
Ibrahim Ethem Altun
Selda Salman (f)
Mestan Dinçer
Yunus Bakihan Çamurdan
Mehmet Horu_
Mehmet Karaman
Ender Turan
Gökçen Zorcu
Faruk Adigüzel
Murat Yurdakul
Nurdan Bay_ahan (f)
Özgür Tüfekci
Musa Ceylan
Yekbun Uzun
Hanife (family name unknown)

- all students

Twenty-four students, detained with others on 17 and 19 April 1996, are reportedly still being held incommunicado in Ankara Police Headquarters. Allegations that some have been tortured have heightened fears for their safety.

It is believed that they will be held until 2 May when they will be brought before the State Security Court and charged or released.

Released detainees have alleged that Mahmut Y_lmaz, Ahmet A_k_n Do_an and Bülent Karaka_ have been hosed with cold water and exposed to hanging. Other detainees reportedly tortured include Elif Kahyao_lu who has been seen limping in the corridor. Female students are reported to have been threatened with rape.

During the last months hundreds of students protesting against the introduction of student fees have been detained throughout the country. Amnesty International has received frequent reports of ill-treatment and torture in the context of such demonstrations. Protests have not always been peaceful.

However, it is clear that in some cases excessive force was used by the security forces, who also beat journalists covering the demonstrations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Torture is used mainly in police and gendarmerie stations during the first days or weeks following detention. It is often applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for assumed support of illegal organizations.

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being

interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging 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/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing concern about reports that students have been tortured in detention at Ankara Police Headquarters;
- urging that those still held be treated humanely in accordance with international standards;
- calling for prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into the torture allegations, and anyone found responsible for torture to be brought to justice;
- asking to be informed of any charges brought against the students.

APPEALS TO:

1) Interior Minister

Mr Ülkü Güney
Ministry of Interior
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 418 1066/418 1795

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Ankara Chief of Police:

Mr Ramazan Er
Ankara Emniyet Müdürü
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

3) Prosecutor at Ankara State Security Court:

Mr Cevdet Volkan
Ankara DGM Savcili_i
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Savcili_i, Ankara, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Emre Gönensay
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
D_i_leri Bakanl____
06100 Ankara

Faxes: +90 312 419 1547

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 26 May 1996.