

PUBLIC

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Fear for

**TURKEY**Selahattin Bayram, aged 30  
Cemile Durmaz (f), aged 26

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Selahattin Bayram and Cemile Durmaz, who were arrested on 26 November, have reportedly been tortured at Diyarbak\_r Police Headquarters. Amnesty International believes that they are at risk of further torture, and that others are facing arrest and torture in Diyarbak\_r.

They were arrested with several others in the Ali Pa\_a district of Diyarbak\_r. Another detainee at the police headquarters told his lawyer that he had seen the two being tortured.

Plainclothes police officers called on Selahattin Bayram's sister in the night following his arrest. They showed her his identity card and asked her if she knew him.

Under Turkish law, Selahattin Bayram and Cemile Durmaz should have been given access to lawyers and brought before a judge after four days in detention. This has not happened.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At least 10 people were reportedly arrested in Diyarbak\_r on 26 November. Further mass arrests were reported around 6 November, after student protests, and around 21 November, when **protesters** shouted slogans in support of Abdullah Öcalan, leader of the armed opposition group Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). The anniversary of the PKK's founding in 1978 falls in late November. Öcalan was sentenced to death in 1999. On 21 November the European Court of Human Rights heard an appeal against his death sentence.

Under Turkish law, 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. They then have the right - often denied - to see a lawyer, and may then be held for a further three days, or six days in provinces under emergency rule, such as Diyarbak\_r.

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 German or your own language:**

- expressing concern at reports that Selahattin Bayram and Cemile Durmaz have been tortured in custody at Diyarbak\_r Police Headquarters;
- urging the authorities to ensure that the torture is stopped immediately;
- urging that the detainees are given immediate access to lawyers, their families and any medical attention they require;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against them;
- calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;

- 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**

Diyarbakır Chief of Police

Mr Gaffar Okan

Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürü

Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürlüğü

Diyarbakır, Turkey

**Telegrams: Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürü, Diyarbakır, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Chief of Police**

Governor of the Provinces under Emergency Rule

Olağanüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbakır, Turkey

**Telegrams:Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**

**Faxes:+ 90 412 224 3572**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Rütü Kazım Yücelen

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba\_bakanlık

06573 Ankara

Turkey

**Faxes: + 90 312 417 0476**

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

**Please could appeal writers in EU member countries also send copies to their Minister of Foreign Affairs.**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 January 2001.