

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 103/91 (EUR 44/48/91, 18 March) and follow-ups EUR 44/48/91 (29 April) and EUR 44/67/91 (23 May) - Fear of Torture

TURKEY: Dr Cemal Kahraman, President of Human Rights Association,
Nusayin branch

Mecit Akgün, member of HRA, journalist of Ülke newspaper
Süleyman Balan, HRA member, chief editor of Nysaybin newspaper
Mehmet Baysal, HRA member
Abdülhamit Aslan, HRA member, driver
Muhittin Tezeanter, (not Muhittin Anter as previously
indicated) HRA member, Nusaybin municipal council member

_ükrü Ekmen, Mardin municipal council member
Aydin Do_an, driver
Mehmet Orhan
Mehmet Ya_iz

Dr Cemal Kahraman, Mecit Akgün, Süleyman Balan, Mehmet Baysal, Mehmet Yagiz, Muhittin Tezeanter, Abdülhamit Aslan, together with four other defendants - Mehmet Arslan, Hasan Bozkurt, Mahmut Elçeo_lu and Ahmet Yi_it, appeared at the first hearing in Diyarbakir State Security Court which was attended by an Amnesty International observer. The defendants were charged variously with membership of the illegal Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), and harbouring members of the Kurdish Workers' Party. They stated during the hearing that they had been tortured during their detention at Mardin Gendarmerie Regimental Headquarters. All the defendants who had been remanded in custody were released from prison. Amnesty International will continue to monitor their trial which is continuing.

Dr Cemal Kahraman alleged that immediately after his detention he was subjected to a mock execution, and beaten for what he estimated to be three and a half hours. He further claims that at Mardin Gendarmerie Headquarters he was suspended by the arms with his wrists tied behind his back up to three times a day for between 45 minutes and one hour; that he was beaten on the soles of his feet; that he was subjected to psychological torture which included threats to rape his wife. He also claims that his interrogators showed him appeals from members of the Urgent Action network which had arrived at Mardin Gendarmerie Regimental Headquarters. The appeals were torn up before his eyes and thrown into a waste bin.

Mecit Akgün claims that he was tortured in the presence of Dr Cemal Kahraman, that the methods of torture included being forced into a car tyre and rolled back and forth, beating, and having a truncheon forced into his anus. He alleges that he was tortured in front of Dr Cemal, while the interrogators jeered: "Here is the Human Rights Association representative - why isn't he doing anything to help you?" Mecit Akgün stated that the torture continued for 22 of the 27 days of police detention.

Ahmet Yi_it, Mehmet Baysal, Mehmet Aslan, Hasan Bozkurt and Mehmet Orhan also stated in court that they had been tortured while in police custody.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/airmail letters:

- urging an independent and impartial investigation into the incommunicado detention at Mardin Gendarmerie Regimental Headquarters, and subsequent allegations of torture made by Dr Cemal Kahraman, Mecit Akgün, Ahmet Yi_it, Mehmet Baysal, Mehmet Aslan, Hasan Bozkurt and Mehmet Orhan;

- urging that detainees should be permitted access to legal counsel while in police custody, as required by Article 136 of the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code, and the circular issued on 7 May by Ministry of Justice reminding prosecutors of their duty in this respect.

APPEALS TO:

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COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

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PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.