

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/81/91

Distr: UA/SC

UA 209/91

Fear of Torture

14 June 1991

TURKEY: Cavidan Kocaacar (f), lawyer
Murat Demir, lawyer

On the evening of 13 June, the People's Legal Aid Bureau (Halkin Hukuk Bürosu) was raided by the police, reportedly on the orders of the Public Prosecutor, who was present during the search of the premises. The two lawyers, Cavidan Kocaacar, former President of the Solidarity Association of Prisoners' Relatives (TAYAD), and Murat Demir, are said to have been dragged into the police van while being beaten. The reason for their detention is not known. They are being held at Ankara Police Headquarters and it is feared that they may be interrogated under torture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture on 25 February 1988 and the UN Convention Against Torture on 2 August 1988. However, all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and systematic in Turkey. Allegations of torture have continued since the transfer of power to a civilian government in 1983. Most allegations relate to ill-treatment of detainees in police custody during their initial interrogation when they are usually denied access to relatives or a lawyer. Under current legislation the maximum detention period before being formally charged or released is 24 hours; in cases involving three or more suspects or due to the 'nature of the crime' it may be extended to 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in areas under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in ten provinces in the southeast.

In August 1990, the Turkish government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging that the lawyers Cavidan Kocaacar and Murat Demir are given prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO

Ankara Chief of Police:

Mr Hasan Özdemir
Ankara Emniyet Müdürü
Konya-Samsun Karayolu
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, Turkey
Fax: +90 4 342 22 27

Minister of Justice:

Mr Mahmut Oltan Sungurlu
Adalet Bakanli_i
06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Adalet Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 41 25 40 66

President Turgut Özal
Devlet Ba_kanli_i
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: President Özal, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes : 42875 bbk tr
Faxes: (via Press Office) +90 4 168 5012

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Abdülkadir Aksu
Içi_leri Bakanli_i
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR
Faxes: +90 4 118 1795
+90 4 125 6520 (Ministry of Interior)

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country;

President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Eyüp A_ik
Insan Haklari Ara_tirma Komisyonu Ba_kani
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 4 11 91 664
+90 4 42 06 941

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 July 1991.