

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/83/96

EXTRA 88/96

Fear of Ill-treatment /
Possible Prisoners of Conscience

10 June 1996

TURKEY

Zeynep Baran (f), lawyer and board member of the Istanbul Human Rights Association

Songül Beydili, board member of Turkish Health Professionals Union (Tüm Sa_l_k Sen)

Mahmut Pulgu, member of Tüm Sa_l_k Sen

Abdullah Sa_men

Mehdi Perinçek

Neriman Berbero_lu

Songül Özkan

Bar__ Arça

Yildiz İçer

Gül Vidan

Metin Karabulut

and more than 200 other detainees

On 8 June 1996, more than 600 people were reportedly detained in connection with a regular Saturday vigil in Istiklal street in Istanbul in protest at "disappearances". Police and gendarmes reportedly beat relatives of the "disappeared", lawyers and human rights activists who were present at the vigil. Among those injured were Hasene Türko_lu, wife of Talat Türko_lu who recently "disappeared", and the lawyer Hüsnu Öndül, General Secretary of the Turkish Human Rights Association.

About 400 detainees were taken to the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters and about 180 to the Gayrettepe Police Headquarters. Most of those detained at the Anti-Terror Branch were released on 9 June 1996. However, Songül Beydili, Mahmut Pulga, Abdullah Sa_men, Mehdi Perinçek, Neriman Berbero_lu, Yildiz İçer, Songül Özkan, Gül Vidan, Bari_ Arça and Metin Karabulut are known to be still held there.

Out of about 180 detainees at Gayrettepe Police Headquarters only 14 had been released by 7pm of 9 June. Among those still held is Zeynep Baran, lawyer and board member of the Istanbul Human Rights Association. She was detained while on her way from the vigil to the Human Rights Association's office.

On 9 June more people were detained, among them about 35 people who had joined a gathering in front of the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters in protest at the detentions. They have been taken to _ehremi Police Station.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This wide-ranging police operation, marked by reports of brutal treatment of detainees, was apparently aimed at suppressing public political demonstrations during the United Nations *Habitat II* summit being held in Istanbul. If the detentions were carried out solely in order to suppress non-violent expressions of opinion, Amnesty International would consider all those detained to be prisoners of conscience.

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency in the southeast, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey.

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

- expressing concern at the detention of hundreds of participants at a vigil, held in protest at "disappearances" in Turkey, and at allegations of ill-treatment of the detainees;
- urging that those still in detention be released unless they are to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- urging that the detainees should not be subjected to any kind of ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO:

President Süleyman Demirel

Office of the President

Cumhur Ba_kanl____

06100 Ankara

Fax: +90 312 4685026

Telegrams: Cumhurbaşkanlığı, Ankara, Turkey

Salutation: Your Excellency

Istanbul Chief of Police

Mr Kemal Yaz_c_o_lu

Emniyet Müdürü

Istanbul, Turkey

Fax: +90 212 3246689

Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürü, Istanbul, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

Ministry of Interior

Iç_i_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara

Fax: +90 312 4181795

Telegrams: İç_i_leri Bakanl____, Ankara, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES 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 8 July 1996.