

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 241/91 Fear of Torture

16 July 1991

TURKEY: Cengiz Tapan Sayim

Fahri Tirpan
Güneri Yapi_kan

During the past few days, Amnesty International has received reports of widespread detentions from Istanbul, however little is known about the background of the above detentions and their specific circumstances.

One such report concerns Cengiz Tapan Sayim, said to have been detained at around 11pm on 10 July 1991 in Umraniye district of Istanbul.

Another report concerns Fahri Tirpan and Güneri Yapi_kan who were detained at their homes in Istanbul at around 10.30pm on 10 July 1991. On 13 July 1991 their detention period was extended for 10 days by the prosecutor's office.

All detainees named above are reported to be held in incommunicado detention, presumably at Istanbul Police Headquarters. It is feared that they may be subjected to 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 east and 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:

- asking if the people named above are still held in custody;
- urging that all those detained are given prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in police custody;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO:Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Mehmet A_ar

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey**Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR; 30812 EMMH TR; 26177 IEMT TR****Faxes: +90 1 172 81 82**

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz

Office of the Prime Minister

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06573 Ankara, Turkey

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Mr Mustafa Kalemli

Içi_leri Bakanli_i

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR****Faxes: +90 4 118 1795****+90 4 125 6520 (Ministry of Interior)****COPIES TO:**President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Eyüp A_ik

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and diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

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