

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 322/92 **Fear of "disappearance/fear of torture"**

16 October 1992

TURKEY: **Cengiz U_uz**

Amnesty International is concerned about the safety of Cengiz U_uz who is feared to have "disappeared" while in detention in Istanbul.

Cengiz U_uz is reported to have been detained at his home in _çerenköy, _stanbul on 11 October 1992 and then taken away in a car with the licence number 34 PF 262. His family and lawyer went to the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters and were told that no such person was being held there.

On 12 October 1992, the news editor of *Yeni Ülke* (New Land), Celil _ener, was detained and held at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. After his release Celil Sener reported that a fellow-detainee was giving his personal details while he was waiting next in line to be questioned. This detainee stated that he was born in Naz_miye, had studied at Cerrahpa_a Medical Faculty, was one of eight children - four brothers and four sisters - and that his name was Cengiz. All these details apply to Cengiz U_uz. When on 14 October 1992 the President of the Istanbul Human Rights Association branch and Cengiz U_uz' lawyer went to the Prosecutor's Office at Istanbul State Security Court and to the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters to seek confirmation of Cengiz U_uz' detention, they were again told that no such person was being held at the branch.

Amnesty International has no information about the reason for Cengiz U_uz' detention. In view of several cases of "disappearance" in detention in Istanbul over the past 18 months, there is grave concern for the safety of Cengiz U_uz.

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. 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. In August 1990, the 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. Under current legislation the maximum period a detainee may be held 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.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Cengiz U_uz who has been unaccounted for since 11 October 1992 when he was reportedly detained at his home in _çerenköy and taken away in a car with the licence number 34 PF 262;
- noting that he was reportedly seen shortly afterwards in detention at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters;

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- urging that immediate steps be taken to establish Cengiz U_uz' current whereabouts and state of health;
- requesting to be informed of the results of that investigation.
- seeking assurances that he will not be tortured or ill-treated while in detention;

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of the Interior

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR

Faxes: +90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Istanbul Chief of Police

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey

Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR, 30812 EMMH TR, 26177 IEMT TR

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

and 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 27 November 1992.