

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/132/95

EXTRA 141/95

Fear of Torture / Health Concern

13 November 1995

TURKEYAli Güden, member of Turkish Human Rights Association (HRA)

Turkish Human Rights Association member Ali Güden has been in police custody in Mersin since 7 November 1995. Amnesty International fears that he may be facing torture during interrogation and is particularly concerned for his health and safety as he is reported to be suffering from a serious heart condition and there is the possibility of heart failure. He should be medically examined as a matter of urgency and receive treatment in a medical institution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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. When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

Founded in 1986 the Turkish Human Rights Association has 56 branches throughout the country and a membership of 15,000. The HRA is not linked to any political party or movement. As well as monitoring abuses by government forces, the HRA has on numerous occasions condemned human rights abuses by armed opposition groups. The HRA continues its monitoring of human rights violations in the face of considerable pressure from the authorities. Many of its leading officials are standing trial on various charges and several members are serving prison sentences. Most branches in the southeast have had to close because of police harassment and threats.

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

- expressing concern for the health and safety of Ali Güden, who has been in detention at Mersin Police Headquarters since 7 November 1995, and who suffers from a serious heart condition;
- urging that he be medically examined without delay and be given treatment in a medical institution as there is the possibility of heart failure;
- appealing that he not be subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- asking to be informed of any charges brought against him.

Appeals from doctors or other health professionals would be useful.

APPEALS TO:

1) Chief State Prosecutor in Mersin:

Cumhuriyet Ba_savc_s_
Hükümet Kona__
Mersin, Turkey

Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Bassavcisi, Mersin, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Deputy Prime Minister

Mr Deniz Baykal
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr
Faxes: +90 312 417 0476
Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:
Mr Adnan Ekmen
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 417 0476
Telegrams: Adnan Ekmen, Prime Minister's Office, Ankara, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:
Mr Sabri Yavuz
nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

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 15 December 1995.