

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/160/90
Distr: UA/SC

UA 442/90

Fear of Torture

1 November 1990

TURKEY: **Kemal Yazar**
 Hasan Açıan
 Haydar Güler
 R_za Yavuz
 Mustafa Peköz
 Dursun Armutlu
 Kemal Çal

Reports have been received that following detentions at a demonstration in Istanbul on 27 October, some homes were searched the following day and further detentions were carried out. The reports are contradictory, but agree that some of those detained have been injured, presumably during armed clashes with the police. The seven people named above are believed to be held in police custody, but so far the police have only acknowledged the detention of Dursun Armutlu, who is held at the First (Political) Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. Hasan Açıan is believed to be detained injured at Göztepe Hospital. Despite their continuing attempts, families and lawyers have been unsuccessful in establishing the whereabouts of the remaining five detainees. It is feared that they are being 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.

In August 1990, the government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

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

- urging that the seven people named above are given prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of the whereabouts of the five people still unaccounted for;
- appealing that those injured receive all medical attention they may require;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO:

_stanbul Emniyet Müdürü
Mehmet A_ar
Istanbul Chief of Police
_stanbul, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey
Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR
Faxes: + 90 1 172 8182

Prime Minister Y_ld_r_m Akbulut
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 BBMT TR; 42099 BASB TR; 42875 BBK TR
Faxes: +90 41 17 04 76; +90 42 30 88 96

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 December 1990.