

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 447/90 (EUR 44/162/90, 7 November) -
Fear of Torture/Health Concern (new concern)

TURKEY: Kenan Kutlu (note correct spelling)
Melek Güçlü (f)
Mehmet Ta_
Yusuf Sonar
Emine _ahin (f)

new names: Emine Arikan, nurse (f)
Ökke_ Güçlü, husband of Melek Güçlü
Fatma Koyupinar, student (f)
Birgül (f)

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On the night of 4 November 1990, the police raided a number of houses in Gaziantep in southeast Turkey and detained about 50 people. Most were released some hours later but the police stated that they were holding between 10 and 15 of them, including those in the first list of names above.

On 8 November the branch in Gaziantep of the Turkish Human Rights Association (_HD) held a press conference, following the release of 12 detainees which included the president of _HD Gaziantep branch and his wife. Seventeen people are still being held at Gaziantep Police Headquarters, including all those named above. Kenan Kutlu, Melek Güçlü, Mehmet Ta_, Emine _ahin and Emine Arikan are members of _HD.

Those released reported that the detainees were taken in turn for interrogation during which, it is alleged, they were subjected to physical and psychological torture. Emine _ahin in particular is said to be in a poor condition and to be in need of medical attention, suffering from low blood pressure.

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 Turkish 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 17 detainees still held at Gaziantep Police Hq including those named above are given prompt access to their lawyers and families, and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- appealing that Emine _ahin is granted all medical attention she may require;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against those detained.

APPEALS TO

President Turgut Özal
Office of the President
Devlet Ba_kanli_i
06100 Ankara
Turkey

Telegrams: The President, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 42303 kosk tr

Gaziantep Emniyet Müdürü
Tezcan Özkanli
Gaziantep Chief of Police
Gaziantep, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Gaziantep, Turkey

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 19 December 1990.