

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/169/90
Distr: UA/SC

UA 474/90

Fear of Torture

22 November 1990

TURKEY: Imam Fidan
Nazan Çelikler, secretary of KARDER (Kartal Cultural
Mustafa Eser, chairman of KARDER Support and Solidarity
Imam Dö_ü_ Association)
Ibrahim Dö_ü_
Ali Dö_ü_
Nurten Demir
Ali Ta_özü
Mithat Zafer

On or about 14 November the people named above were taken from their homes in Istanbul by the police and are reported to be held incommunicado at Istanbul Police Headquarters. The lawyer of Imam Fidan, Nazan Çelikler and Mustafa Eser was, on application to the prosecutor, granted permission to see his clients in police detention. However, when he went to see them on 16, 17 and 18 November, he was told that he could see them in half an hour, in two hours, during the night shift, and so on, before finally being told that he would not be allowed to see his clients at all.

The above detentions appear to be part of continuing police operations in Istanbul and it is feared that the detainees may be subjected to torture during interrogation.

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. 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 nine detainees 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 any charges against them.

APPEALS TO

President Turgut Özal
Devlet Ba_kanli_i
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: President Özal, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 42303 KOSK TR

Istanbul 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

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 3 January 1991.