

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

27 November 1990

TURKEY: Sadun Do\_an  
Mehmet Seven  
Hüseyin Ay  
Hayrettin Akyol  
Selahattin Ta\_ar, aged 17  
Edip Ta\_ar  
Tanju Cengiz  
Adil Toprak  
Abdurrahman Tanr\_gen  
Ahmet Güvenç  
Mehmet Ali Ekin  
Suleyman Gültekin  
Tahsin ...  
Abdülkadir ...  
\_ehmuz ...  
Mahsun ...

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On or about Friday 23 November some 30 people including those named above were taken from their homes in \_skenderun in southeast Turkey on suspicion of providing shelter for Kurdish guerrillas. They are being held in incommunicado detention at \_skenderun Police Headquarters where it is believed that they may be subjected to torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is not officially recognized by the authorities, but is estimated to number some 10 million people. The Kurdish population lives mainly in southeastern Turkey. Frequent allegations of torture and ill-treatment have been received from the region and the number of torture allegations increased substantially after the 1980 military coup. Since August 1984, when Kurdish guerrillas - members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) - started armed attacks, an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces, where more than 2,000 lives so far have been lost in the continuing fighting.

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 all 30 detainees 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: 42875 BBK TR

Minister of the Interior:

Abdülkadir Aksu  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara

Telegrams: Interior Minister Aksu, Ankara, Turkey  
Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR  
Faxes: +90 41 28 43 46

\_skenderun Chief of Police:

\_skenderun Emniyet Müdürü  
\_skenderun,  
Hatay, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürü, Iskenderun, 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 8 January 1991.