

"No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Article 37, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Turkey in 1995

"The preliminary interrogation in crimes committed by minors shall be carried out in person by the State Prosecutor or by assistants appointed by him."

Law 2253, Article 19

"If the person in detention or defendant is less than 18 years old... then a defending lawyer is appointed for him without his making the request."

Turkish Criminal Procedure Code, Article 138

"They put my head in a bucket until I almost drowned. They did it again and again... They tied my arms to a beam and hoisted me. I was blindfolded. When I was hanging I thought my arms were breaking. ...The torture lasted for eight days."

Testimony of 16-year-old girl

"...they began to give me electric shocks. First I thought my toe had been cut off, then it was as if my body did not work from the waist down..."

Testimony of 13-year-old boy

Contact:

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In many AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL sections there are Working Groups for Children who take up the cases of child victims of human rights violations. They press governments and armed opposition groups to respect those national laws and international conventions which define children's human rights and lay down minimum standards for their protection.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is a worldwide voluntary movement that works to prevent some of the gravest violations by governments of people's fundamental human rights.

Join Amnesty International's campaign against human rights violations in Turkey. Contact the address below, or the International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ United Kingdom

Sign and send the attached postcard.

What you can do:

IF CHILDREN ARE NOT SAFE IN TURKISH POLICE CUSTODY, THEN WHO IS?

“WE CAN DO MUCH WORSE TO YOU NEXT TIME”

Police officers who allegedly tortured a 16-year-old girl in Turkey in 1995

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Turkey is failing to meet its commitments to protect children against torture because it is not implementing or enforcing the necessary safeguards. Reports of the torture of children in Turkey are on the increase. Children as young as 12 are tortured; some have been subjected to electric shocks.

This is despite the fact that Turkey ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995. The Convention states that “no child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”.

According to Turkish law, a lawyer should be provided for children under 18 years of age during interrogation and while statements are taken. In practice, children are held alone, blindfold, and sometimes naked, at the mercy of unidentified police officers.

If the Turkish authorities were sincere about the rights of the child, they would abolish incommunicado detention and children would be protected from torture.

If the Turkish authorities were sincere about the rights of the child, anyone found responsible for torture would be brought to justice. This could serve as an important deterrent against the torture of children in the future...

“WHAT HAPPENED TO MY SON TODAY, WILL IT NOT HAPPEN TO OTHERS TOMORROW?”

Mother of a 13-year-old boy wrongly accused of theft and tortured in Istanbul

Please see over for what you can do

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Signature:

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