

EXTRA 82/99

Fear of t**TURKEY** **Hakk_ Alpan, aged 43**

Amnesty International is concerned that Hakk_ Alpan is at risk of torture in police custody.

He was detained on 29 June 1999 at the Ipsala border post when he tried to enter Turkey from Greece using a false passport. He was initially held in police custody in Edirne and later transferred for questioning to Istanbul Police Headquarters Anti-Terror Branch. The Police Headquarters in Tunceli, in eastern Turkey, subsequently informed the police in Istanbul that they had a warrant for his arrest, and on 6 July he was sent to Tunceli where he is now in custody at Tunceli Police Headquarters.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

People suspected of offences under Turkey's Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to four days. The maximum period in detention may be increased to 10 days in the provinces currently under State of Emergency, which include Tunceli province, and to seven days in the rest of Turkey (in this case, it is feared that the period of Hakk_ Alpan's detention may be recorded as starting again from the day that he was transferred to Tunceli Police Headquarters). During the extended detention period detainees have the right of access to a lawyer, but in most cases this right is denied.

When not being interrogated detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is often applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods in Turkey documented by Amnesty International include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electro-shock torture, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- urging that Hakk_ Alpan, currently detained at Tunceli Police Headquarters, is not tortured or ill-treated;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against him;
- reminding the authorities of their obligations under Law 4229 which states that anybody in police custody should be allowed access to legal counsel, and should be brought before a judge within a specified period of time;
- reminding the government of Turkey of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a state party, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

APPEALS TO

Tunceli Chief of Police
Tunceli Emniyet Müdürü
Tunceli Emniyet Müdürlü_ü,

Tunceli, Turkey

Telegrams: Tunceli Emniyet Müdürü, Tunceli, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

Minister of the Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan,

İçişleri Bakan_

İçişleri Bakanl___, 06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: İçişleri Bakan_, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes:+ 90 312 418 9208

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Professor Hikmet Sami Türk

Adalet Bakan_,

Adalet Bakanl___,

06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Adalet Bakan_, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes:+ 90 312 418 5667

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Mehmet Ali Irtemçelik

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara

Turkey

Faxes:+ 90 312 417 0476

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.