

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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*Please bring this action to the attention of lawyers groups.*

EXTRA 78/93

Fear of Torture

20 September 1993

Turkey      Fethiye Pek\_en (female), lawyer (see photo)  
Ali\_an Yalç\_n  
Harun Kartal  
\_brahim Dö\_ü\_  
Özlem Bilgin  
Erkan Koç  
Ye\_im Taciro\_lu  
Perihan Sürücü  
Mehmet Emin Y\_ld\_r\_m  
Kamil Kayan  
Erdo\_an Akta\_  
Bekir Yaz\_c\_  
Ayd\_n Yi\_it  
Kemal Metin Sözeri  
Murat Urersoy  
Ercan Ye\_il  
Yusuf Büyükda\_  
Sevim Ya\_an

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above 18 people who are being held in incommunicado detention at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. It is feared that they are being interrogated under torture.

The 18 were detained during police operations in Istanbul which started on 17 September 1993 with a police raid on a house in the Üsküdar district in which Gönül Dudu Özcan, a woman aged 27, was killed. According to newspaper reports they are accused of being members of the illegal armed organization Devrimci Sol (Revolutionary Left). The organization has accepted responsibility for dozens of political killings, including those of high ranking military and security personnel. Since May 1991, more than 40 suspected members of Devrimci Sol have been killed by police in raids on "safe houses" in Istanbul and Ankara. Any person suspected of links with the organization and taken into detention is at grave risk of being tortured 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. Following a program of visits to Turkish police stations in 1990, 1991 and 1992, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT - established by the Council of Europe) reported: "In the light of all the information at its disposal, the ECPT can only conclude that the practice of torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment of persons in police custody remains widespread in Turkey and that such methods are applied to both ordinary criminal suspects and persons held under anti-terrorism provisions".

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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. New legislation to shorten the maximum detention period came into force on 1 December 1992. Now non-political detainees may be held for up to eight days before being formally charged or released. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be held without charge for up to 15 days. In 10 provinces of southeast Turkey which are under emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the lawyer Fethiye Pek\_en and the other 17 people detained with her on or shortly after 17 September and held in incommunicado detention at the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters;
- noting the findings of the ECPT regarding the practice of torture in Turkey as published in its December 1992 report;
- urging that the 18 detainees are brought promptly before a judge, and that they are not subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Mehmet Gazio\_lu  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

2) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir  
Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü  
\_stanbul, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey**

**Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR or 26177**

**IEMTTR**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:  
Mr Hikmet Çetin

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
D\_\_i\_\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 Ankara, Turkey

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 October 1993.