



**amnesty
international**

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
1 Easton Street London WC1X 8DJ
United Kingdom

**URGENT
ACTION**

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: EUR 44/146/89
Distr: UA/SC**

11 December 1989

Further information on UA 470/89 (EUR 44/140/89, 28 November) and follow-up (EUR 44/143/89, 1 December) - Fear of Torture

**TURKEY: Bülent Solgun
 Durmus Erdemir
 Ibrahim Tüzün**

also further information on UA 475/89 (EUR 44/144/89, 1 December) - Fear of Torture

**Ibrahim Gündoğdu
Halit Lale
Gülây Uyan**

There were 11 people detained altogether in Istanbul on or around 27 November. On 8 December they were presented to the Istanbul State Security Court. Eight of the 11 were released, including five of those named above, while three were formally arrested and committed to prison. One of them was Ibrahim Gündoğdu.

Amnesty International learned that during the first five days of their 12-day detention, in particular, the detainees were tortured by falaka (beating the soles of the feet), beatings on other parts of the body, being suspended by the wrists and by electric shocks. Later they were subjected to continuous very loud music.

Bülent Solgun, one of those released on 8 December, had asked to see his lawyer and family while in police detention, but this was denied him. He was not even allowed to leave a note for his family informing them of his whereabouts.

Telephone: 01-833 1771 Fax: 01-956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502

Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working for the international protection of human rights. It seeks the *release* of men and women detained anywhere because of their beliefs, colour, sex, ethnic origin, language or religious creed, provided they have not used or advocated violence. These are termed *prisoners of conscience*. It works for *fair and prompt trials* for all political prisoners and works on behalf of such people detained without charge or trial. It opposes the *death penalty* and *torture* or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners.



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8 December 1989**

**Further information on UA 121/89 (EUR 44/45/89, 3 May) and follow-ups EUR
EUR 44/66/89 (15 June) and EUR 44/75/89 (18 July 1989) - Ill-treatment/
Medical concern**

TURKEY: Ilker Demir, aged 36, adopted prisoner of conscience

Ilker Demir was one of some 30 political prisoners at Nazilli E-Type Prison who went on hunger-strike in April demanding an improvement in prison conditions. He was suffering from a stomach ulcer and asthma and as one of the hunger-strikers he was beaten and transferred to an isolation cell. In July when he was refused permission to see his daughter Ilker Demir protested and was further beaten and once again put in an isolation cell. His sentences for his work as editor of two political journals total 48 years.

On 1 December 1989 Ilker Demir wrote a letter to the International Secretariat. In his letter he said:

"At the beginning of my letter I want to thank you for your concern and efforts which remind a person of being a human being and I also want to thank all those sensitive people on our planet who took an interest in my case.

[During my various trials] I told the military court that what I had done was not a crime, but they insisted that it was a crime and convicted me. All sentences [totalling over 48 years' imprisonment] were confirmed by the Military Appeal Court and according to our legislation combined to the maximum possible sentence of 36 years' imprisonment. According to my count I shall have to stay in prison until 29 August 1998.

I want to repeat my gratitude to all Amnesty International members who since the day of my imprisonment on 2 April 1984 have constantly written to me from all over the world...Words cannot explain what kind of intense morale Amnesty International's members have given to me. It is a feeling similar to knowing that you are a human being. I shall never forget that feeling. At the same time those writing taught me English to a degree that I can now read and write it.

I am faced with the problem that I cannot express these feelings and my gratitude to each of them individually. I am trying to write to the sections, but I believe that individual members will not get my letters.

In friendship, Ilker Demir"

Please note:

Ilker Demir was not only the focus of the above mentioned urgent appeals but received many letters during a Christmas cards greetings action. However, his gratitude certainly includes the numerous people who wrote to the Turkish authorities on his behalf, including those who wrote as a result of the Urgent Action appeals and follow-ups.

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1 December 1989

Further information on UA 470/89 (EUR 44/140/89, 28 November) - Fear of Torture

TURKEY: **Bülent Solgun
 Durmus Erdemir
 Ibrahim Tüzün**

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The three above-named people were detained on 27 November and taken to the political branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters, where their presence was at first denied.

The parents of Durmus Erdemir have since received confirmation that their son was held at Istanbul Police Headquarters, but the presence of Bülent Solgun has been denied by the police, not only to his parents but also to his lawyer who got permission from the prosecutor in Istanbul State Security Court to see her client. However, when she went again to the prosecutor having been refused access to the detainee the prosecutor cancelled the permission. There is fear that the detainees may be interrogated under torture. Nothing further is known about the whereabouts of Ibrahim Tüzün.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

In September 1989 the Ministry of Justice announced proposals for changes in Turkish legislation. These would shorten the maximum detention period to between four and 10 days, depending on the offence, and would grant lawyers access to detainees. A prime-ministerial decree of 26 September stated that according to Turkish legislation detainees have to be given access to lawyers on their request and by order of the prosecutor. In a few exceptional cases in Istanbul and Izmir lawyers have been granted access to detainees since 26 September, but in this case this right appears to have been denied once again.

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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/144/89
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UA 475/89

Fear of Torture

Dec
1 November 1989

TURKEY: Ibrahim Gündogdu
 Halit Lale
 Gülay Uyan

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Amnesty International has learned that three people were detained on or around 27 November and taken to the political branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. Ibrahim Gündogdu and Halit Lale were apprehended at their homes while Gülay Uyan was taken from Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul, where she is studying. It is not known whether these detentions are related and what the detainees are charged with. There is fear that all three people may be interrogated under torture.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

More than 500 political prisoners have alleged they were tortured in Turkey so far this year and 10 prisoners are reported to have died in custody after torture.

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.

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UA 470/89

Fear of Torture

28 November 1989

TURKEY: **Bülent Solgun
Durmus Erdemir
Ibrahim Tüzün**

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Amnesty International is informed that the three people named above were detained on 27 November and taken to the political branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. Their families were told by plain-clothed detectives that they could inquire about them the following morning. However, when the parents of Bülent Solgun and Durmus Erdemir went to Istanbul Police Headquarters today they were told that their sons were not held there. It is feared that all three men may be interrogated under torture.

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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- urging that Bülent Solgun, Durmus Erdemir and Ibrahim Tüzün be granted access to their families and lawyers and that they not be ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

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7 November 1989

Further information on UA 427/89 (EUR 44/129/89, 2 November) - Fear of Torture

TURKEY: Güllü Biçer (f), a nurse

 new name: Ali Binici

=====

On 31 October 1989 Güllü Biçer, a nurse, was detained at her home and taken to Ankara Police Headquarters. On or around the same time ten other people, including Ali Binici, were arrested and were held with her in police detention.

Amnesty International has now learned that Güllü Biçer was released today, 7 November. While in police custody she had been held in a dark cell for almost eight days, was sworn at and verbally abused but not physically tortured. She was accused of participation in a robbery at a jeweller's shop in Ankara in 1987, but no charges have been brought so far.

When brought before a judge six of the other ten suspects were released and three of them were charged and formally arrested. The remaining one, Ali Binici, was reportedly taken back to Ankara Police Headquarters for further interrogation. Amnesty International fears that he may be tortured.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/telegrams/express letters/airmail letters:

- urging that Ali Binici be granted immediate access to his family and lawyer and that he not be ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against him.

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6 November 1989

Further information on UA 313/89 (EUR 44/93/89, 16 August) and follow-up
EUR 44/116/89 (3 October) - Fear of Torture

TURKEY: Ali Karsilayan, member of the Socialist Party (SP)
Adil Arslan, SP member
Fevzi Ayan

=====

On 5 August 1989, 99 people were detained in Izmir when they tried to enter buses hired by the Socialist Party to go to Ankara to participate in an intended rally called "Stop Repression and Deaths in Prisons". They were charged with violating the Law on Assembly and Demonstration. All were released except the three above-named men.

Amnesty International has now learned that Ali Karsilayan, Adil Arslan and Fevzi Ayan were released on 18 October 1989. The trial in Izmir, in which they and the 96 other defendants are accused of having violated the Law on Assembly and Demonstration, continues.

No further action is required. We thank all those who sent appeals.

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UA 427/89

Fear of Torture

2 November 1989

TURKEY: Güllü Biçer (f), a nurse

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On the morning of 31 October 1989 Güllü Biçer, a nurse, was detained at her home and taken to Ankara Police Headquarters. Her husband, Ali Biçer, has been imprisoned since the early 1980s. He is serving a life sentence after having been convicted in 1983 of activities for the illegal Kurdish organization KAWA. No reason has been given for Güllü Biçer's detention. On 2 November Ankara State Security Court Prosecutor Kemal Ayhan denied her lawyer access to the detainee. He had requested to see his client, referring to a prime-ministerial decree of 26 September 1989 providing that detainees in police custody are to be given access to legal counsel on their request and by order of the prosecutor. The incommunicado detention period for Güllü Biçer has reportedly been extended to 9 November.

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. 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 September 1989 the Ministry of Justice announced proposals for changes in Turkish legislation. These would shorten the maximum detention period to between four and 10 days, depending on the offence, and would grant lawyers access to detainees. A decree of 26 September signed by Prime Minister Turgut Özal stated that according to the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code detainees have to be given access to lawyers on their request and by order of the prosecutor. With only a few exceptions, lawyers requesting access to detainees since 26 September have been denied such access by prosecutors, in many cases on the pretext that the detainee did not wish to see a lawyer.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/telegrams/express letters/airmail letters:

- urging that Güllü Biçer be granted immediate access to her family and lawyer and that she not be ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against her.

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