

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
2001		21	Turkey	Emrullah Karagoz, archeology student

*Announcement:*

Amnesty International reports that Turkish archaeology student Emrullah Karagoz and two others, arrested on 27 March 2001 in Diyarbakir, are at risk of torture. We hope that you can send the recommended urgent appeals immediately. Please remember to write in your professional capacity.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGENT ACTION APPEAL**

28 March 2001 -- UA 22/01: Fear of torture -- **TURKEY**

Emrullah Karagoz (male), student, aged 23

Saliha Ekinici (female), student, aged 22

Gullu Ekinici (female), sister of the above, aged 16

The Turkish authorities have arrested three students. They are being held at the Diyarbakir Police Headquarters, where it is thought that they are being tortured.

Plainclothes police officers arrested Emrullah Karagoz, Saliha Ekinici and her sister, Gullu Ekinici, on the streets of Diyarbakir, a town in southeastern Turkey, on 27 March. The same evening, the police brought Emrullah Karagoz to his home for a short while, presumably in order to search the house. He had apparently been tortured, and was reportedly unable to walk without the support of two plainclothes police officers.

During the past few weeks, the police have reportedly threatened Emrullah Karagoz on several occasions. Plainclothes police apparently raided his house several times shortly before Newroz, the Kurdish New Year which is celebrated on 21 March. Also, a detainee held at the Diyarbakir Police Headquarters between 17 and 23 March was reportedly questioned about Emrullah Karagoz, whom the police threatened indirectly.

Emrullah Karagoz was previously detained in June 1999 and November 2000 for political reasons. He was reportedly tortured in custody in 1999, and trial proceedings are currently under way in connection with the torture.

Emrullah Karagoz studies archeology, and Saliha Ekinci German language at the university in Diyarbakir.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Under Turkish law, people suspected of offences that fall under the jurisdiction of the State Security Courts can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to four days. They then have the right - often denied - to see a lawyer, and may then be held for a further six days in provinces under emergency rule, such as Diyarbakir.

With no access to the outside world, detainees are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is regularly used to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers, or as unofficial punishment for presumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, suspension by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that Emrullah Karagoz has been tortured in custody at Diyarbakir Police Headquarters;
- urging the authorities to guarantee that he and Saliha and Gullu Ekinci are not subjected to further torture or ill-treatment;
- calling for the detainees to be given immediate access to lawyers, their families and any medical attention they require;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against them;
- calling for an immediate and impartial investigation into the allegations of torture, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;

- reminding the Turkish government of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which states: 'No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.'

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan

Iciseri Bakanligi, 06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: 011 90 312 418 17 95

Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice

Prof Hikmet Sami Turk

Ministry of Justice, Adalet Bakanligi, 06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: 011 90 312 417 3954 / 418 5667

Salutation: Dear Minister

Diyarbakir Chief of Police

Mr Atilla Cinar

Diyarbakir Emniyet Muduru, Diyarbakir Emniyet Mudurlugu, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Telegrams: Diyarbakir Emniyet Muduru, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Chief of Police

Governor of the Provinces under Emergency Rule

Olaganustu Hal Valisi

Diyarbakir, Turkey

Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Faxes: 011 90 412 224 3572

Salutation: Dear Governor

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Rustu Kazim Yucelen

Office of the Prime Minister

Basbakanlik

06573 Ankara

Turkey

Faxes: 011 90 312 417 0476

The Turkish ambassador in your country.

Please send appeals immediately. Check with NCH if sending appeals after May 9, 2001.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. In its preamble it recognizes ‘the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world’. We encourage NCH participants to quote relevant articles of this document when writing their appeals. We include here relevant article/s to this action.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.