

Network of Concerned Historians				NCH
Campaigns				
Year original	Year follow-up	Circular	Country	Names
2001		21	Turkey	Emrullah Karagoz, archeology student
	2002			<i>follow-up 3</i>
	2001			<i>follow-up 2</i>
	2001			<i>follow-up 1</i>

### *Announcement*

Amnesty International reported last week that Turkish archaeology student Emrullah Karagoz (?1978–) has been interrogated and allegedly severely tortured in Diyarbakir. At one moment his life was said to be in danger. NCH already participated in several campaigns for Emrullah Karagoz (see introductory summary). Please continue to send urgent appeals. Remember to write in your professional capacity.

**SUMMARY OF NCH #21, #21ii, and #21iii** (Amnesty International sources dated 28 March, 16 August, 5 and 20 November 2001)

On 27 March 2001 plainclothes police officers arrested archeology student **Emrullah Karagoz** (?1978-) and held him at the Diyarbakir Police Headquarters, where he was reportedly tortured. In early July he was released. On 28 October he was rearrested and on 1 November brought before a judge, charged with “aiding and abetting an illegal organization” and remanded to Diyarbakir prison, but actually detained at the gendarmerie headquarters where he was again at grave risk of torture and “disappearance”. Karagoz, who works for the youth wing of the legal pro-Kurdish political party HADEP, was previously detained in June 1999 and November 2000 for political reasons. Plainclothes police apparently raided his house several times shortly before Newroz (the Kurdish New Year which is celebrated on 21 March).

### **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGENT ACTION APPEAL**

3 January 2002—Further information on UA 280/01 issued 5 November 2001 and reissued 20 November 2001

Risk of “disappearance”/fear of torture and ill-treatment—**TURKEY**

Emrullah Karagoz, (m) student, aged 23

Mustafa Yasar, (m) welder, aged 29

Remziye Dag (f) housewife, aged 51

Hatip Alay, (m) tradesman, aged 41

Fehmi Ak, (m) crane-operator, aged 26

The five people named above, have been remanded to prison, after reportedly being tortured and ill-treated while being held in prolonged gendarmerie detention in Diyarbakir, southeast Turkey.

Emrullah Karagoz and Mustafa Yasar were remanded to Sanliurfa prison on 11 December 2001. They had been held in gendarmerie headquarters in Seyrantepe, Diyarbakir since 28 October. During that time, they were reportedly made to sign blank pages and statements, they had not been allowed to read. For 44 days, they were repeatedly brought to interrogation during which they were allegedly tortured and ill-treated. They were apparently blindfolded, stripped naked, beaten, suffocated, had their testicles squeezed, were sprayed with pressurized water and left in the cold. They were further subjected to sleep deprivation and prevented from lying down.

Mustafa Yasar reportedly had electric shocks applied to his sexual organs and, at one point, was taken outside to stand in the snow.

Emrullah Karagoz was made to lie on his back with his arms above his head. His arms and legs were then wrapped in blankets and his elbows and knees were then sat on, causing him to faint. A doctor reportedly examined Emrullah Karagoz on the 33rd day of his detention and said "...if this boy carries on like this, he will die". However, Emrullah Karagoz apparently continued to be subjected to torture until he was remanded to prison on 11 December.

Mustafa Yasar reportedly now suffers from health problems resulting from the alleged torture, including trembling, insomnia, nausea, kidney pain and difficulty in standing.

Hatip Alay was reportedly tortured over 14 days and had to be taken to hospital. Following treatment he was sent to Diyarbakir E-type Prison. He had apparently been beaten and had been suspended by his arms. His testicles had been squeezed, he was hosed with pressurized water and a plastic bag had been placed over his head, causing suffocation. Remziye Dag and Fehmi Ak, who had been held in detention for 24 days, were also allegedly tortured.

All the detainees were held under Article 3/c of Legal Decree Number 430 which grants the State

Prosecutor—following a proposal from the Governor of the Region under State of Emergency—permission to ask a judge to return a person already in remand or imprisoned to police or gendarmerie custody for up to ten days. Emrullah Karagoz and Mustafa Yasar had their detention at gendarmerie headquarters extended four times. On 10 December 2001, the State President Ahmet Necdet Sezer criticized the use of such decrees and the length of detentions in Diyarbakir, which is currently under a state of emergency.

#### **FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible:

expressing concern that Emrullah Karagoz, Mustafa Yasar, Remziye Dag, Hatip Alay, and Fehmi Ak have reportedly been tortured in gendarmerie custody, and reminding the government that it is a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights, which says that “No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”;

calling for a full and impartial investigation into the torture allegations, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;

asking for the above named to be compensated for any psychological or physical damage resulting from their alleged torture, and urging that they are provided with appropriate treatment and rehabilitation;

urging the authorities to suspend any police or gendarmerie officer accused of torture and ill-treatment from duty while they are under investigation, and to dismiss them if they are convicted;

expressing concern that Emrullah Karagoz and Mustafa Yasar were reportedly made to sign statements they had not been allowed to read;

urging the authorities to ensure that any statements made as a result of torture are excluded from evidence in any proceedings against them.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

Minister of the Interior

Mr Rustu Kazim Yucelen

Ministry of Interior

Icisleri Bakanligi

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Fax: 011 90 312 418 17 95

Salutation: Dear Minister

Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie

General Aytac Yalman

Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanligi

Bakanliklar

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: General Yalman, Ankara, Turkey

Fax: 011 90 312 418 9208

Salutation: Dear General

Minister of Justice

Prof Hikmet Sami Turk

Ministry of Justice

Adalet Bakanligi

06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Fax: 011 90 312 417 3954 / 418 5667

Salutation: Dear Minister

**COPIES TO:**

*State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights*

Nejat Arseven

Office of the Prime Minister,

Basbakanlik

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Fax: 011 90 312 417 04 76

Salutation: Dear Minister

*Ambassador Faruk Logoglu*

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

2525 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Washington DC 20008

Fax: 202 612 6744

Please send appeals immediately. Check with NCH if sending appeals after February 14, 2002.

Amnesty International is a worldwide grassroots movement that promotes and defends human rights.