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TURKEY: TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT OF DETAINEES AND PRISONERS

On 7 December 1985 the European Commission of Human Rights approved a "friendly settlement" of the inter-state complaint against Turkey submitted by Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden on 1 July 1982. Under the terms of the settlement, the Government of Turkey undertook to inform the European Commission of Human Rights at periodic intervals during 1986 of the measures it had taken to ensure the effective implementation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights ("No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"). A final report is to be prepared by the European Commission of Human Rights by 1 February 1987.

In spite of this undertaking, Amnesty International continues to receive allegations that both political prisoners and detainees suspected of having committed criminal offences are tortured or subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, while in police custody and in military and civilian prisons. Although the Turkish authorities have stated repeatedly that all complaints of torture are investigated and that those responsible for torture will be prosecuted, Amnesty International has not observed any fundamental changes in the attitude or the practice of the police or prison officials in Turkey relating to the torture of detainees and prisoners during the past 12 months.

Incommunicado detention for 30 days is permitted in the five provinces still under martial law. In areas from which martial law has been lifted the 24-hour maximum detention period may be extended to 15 days in cases involving three or more persons, into which category most political cases fall. In areas under a state of emergency the detention period may be further extended by the order of the public prosecutor. In addition, prisoners may be taken again for interrogation by the police at any time in connection with new information. Most allegations of torture received by Amnesty International relate to ill-treatment of detainees in police custody either during their initial interrogation, or when they have been taken again by the police for questioning, after transfer to a military prison.

Amnesty International receives detailed statements from individuals about their torture only after they have been released from custody and usually when they have been able to leave Turkey. For this reason substantive documentation of torture allegations is rarely up-to-date, but during the

past year the Turkish press has carried material relating to recent torture and Cumhuriyet newspaper of 15 October 1986 reported that Fikri Saglar, the General Secretary of the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) was preparing a report on torture which would be based on information received by the party from people who had been tortured.

Translations (summaries) of some reports about torture which have appeared in the Turkish press are appended to this paper. Some of these reports refer to deaths in custody, or shortly after release (see pp 3, 4, 5-7, 7-8, 10 of Appendix I). Amnesty International has learned of eight such deaths between January-July 1986, alleged to be the result of ill-treatment during interrogation. Also appended are translations of statements made by three people who were taken into custody in Istanbul in July 1985 (Appendix II). They write not only about the treatment they received themselves, but about the torture of other detainees which they observed. Amnesty International has interviewed these three people, who are now living outside Turkey, and believes their accounts to be substantially true. What is clear from these accounts is that torture is still carried out as a routine practice at Istanbul Police Headquarters. Amnesty International has no reason to suppose that there has been any change since the events related took place.

Amnesty International also continues to receive reports of torture and ill-treatment in prisons. The beating of prisoners for disciplinary reasons is said to be common in all military prisons. In a document received by Amnesty International about conditions in Metris Military Prison in Istanbul, the prisoners themselves have written that torture and beating are the main methods of maintaining discipline in the prison. They refer to particular incidents, one of which occurred on 31 December 1985, when soldiers entered E-23 ward to carry out routine searches and counting of prisoners and took away three prisoners, Hasan Coser, Atilla Ozgur and Semdin Simsir for falaka (beating the soles of the feet). On 15 January 1986, the report continues, the prisoners in E-7 ward were taken out, their clothes were removed and they were beaten. During this attack Ibrahim Tataroglu's nose was broken and Bahattin Iscan lost consciousness.

Amnesty International considers that prolonged solitary confinement may amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners. The organization has received many reports that political prisoners in Turkey have been held in solitary confinement for several years and have had no contact with relatives, lawyers or fellow prisoners, or exercise in the open air. In December 1985 Amnesty International wrote to the Turkish Chief of General Staff about prolonged solitary confinement and other matters of concern relating to the treatment of prisoners in military prisons, but no reply was received to this letter.

The Turkish periodical Nokta, 29 June 1986, carried an article about the treatment of political prisoners in Ankara's Mamak Military Prison, from which the following is an extract:

"According to lawyers a considerable number of people have spent five to six years in the 52 isolation cells in Mamak's A-Block. Lawyer Ibrahim Tezan named the following inmates whom he represented: DEV-YOL [Revolutionary Way] defendants Oguzhan Muftuoglu, Ali Baspinar, M. Ali Yilmaz, Ali Alfatli, Seyid Kocakusak, Nasuh Mitap and Cahit Akcam have remained in the isolation ward of Mamak for five to six years... Lawyer Can Ozbay also provided names of his clients kept in isolation: MHP [National Movement Party] defendants Recep Kucukissiz, Irfan Guler, Seyfettin Top,



Selahattin Buyukoztekin and Senol Cevik. Beatings of open palms with truncheons were frequent..."



During the past year Amnesty International has also received reports of ill-treatment of political prisoners in civilian prisons. (Political prisoners are usually held in military prisons until the completion of their legal proceedings, when they are transferred to civilian prisons.) In June and July 1986 the Turkish press carried reports from several sources about bad conditions and ill-treatment of prisoners in Adana prison. Cumhuriyet, 9 July 1986, in a report of a PKK [Kurdistan Workers' Party] trial stated that: "Later, defendant Mehmet Akif Korkmaz and others complained of strip-searches resulting in beatings. 'We were again beaten today. If this continues, we will not submit our defence.' Meanwhile defendants Bedrettin Acikca, Mehmet Sen and Akif Ozdemir displayed bruises on their bodies to the tribunal."

Beating of political prisoners has also been reported to take place in the special "E-Type" civilian prisons of Malatya, Canakkale, Bartin, Mersin and Bursa. In October 1986 Cumhuriyet carried reports of a hunger strike by political prisoners in Bartin prison in protest against conditions there.

Although the Turkish Government insists that all allegations of torture are investigated, Amnesty International knows of many cases of alleged torture which have not been the subject of any inquiry on the part of the authorities. The best known of these is that of some of the defendants in the DISK (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions) trial. Cumhuriyet, 9 October 1986, reported that reference was made once again at the DISK trial, during the reading of a general defence statement prepared by all the lawyers, to the formal complaints of torture submitted by some of the defendants which have disappeared from their trial dossiers. These complaints of torture which is alleged to have occurred in 1980 have never been investigated.

Many prisoners and former prisoners have spoken about the difficulties they have encountered in making formal complaints of torture. Sema Ogur is a former political prisoner now living outside Turkey. She alleges that she was tortured during interrogation at Ankara Police Headquarters in 1981. The Turkish authorities have maintained in response to Amnesty International's calls for an investigation into her allegations that Sema Ogur never made any complaint of torture, but she writes: "I explained all the tortures I had experienced when I appeared before the martial prosecutor, the martial examining magistrate and the court-martial committee [military tribunal] itself. Later on I explained the torture I experienced in Mamak prison to the same court as well. The court rejected my claims for prosecution of torture arguing that it was not their duty to investigate the case. These facts can be found in the documents of the trial."

Many other people have reported similar experiences to Amnesty International, frequently referring to punishments, including beatings, incurred as a result of having spoken in court about their torture. In one instance a defendant was reported to have received an additional sentence of one year and four months' imprisonment for "insulting the army" when he gave testimony concerning torture before a military court in Ankara.

Another aspect of the difficulty prisoners experience when trying to make complaints of torture is also illustrated by the case of Sema Ogur. On two occasions during her interrogation in February and March 1981 she was taken to a military hospital; once because she lost consciousness after having

been suspended for a long time and subsequently because she was unable to talk or move following a series of electric shocks. On the first occasion she pointed out the bruising and marks on her wrists to the doctor and asked him to make a report, but he replied that he was afraid of reprisals. In June 1986 the Turkish embassy in Washington DC wrote to a member of Amnesty International who had called for an investigation into her alleged torture that: "Ms Ogur's alleged mistreatment was found to be baseless by medical reports four years ago..." Amnesty International is not aware of which medical reports the embassy is referring to and knows of no investigation which has been carried out into her allegations, but time and time again Amnesty International has been informed of the inadequacy of the medical examinations which prisoners receive. In a report of a trial in Cumhuriyet, 19 June 1986, a defendant is quoted as saying in court, following the introduction as testimony of a doctor's report that there was no trace of violence on his body, that: "I spent 20 days in detention. I was filthy. When I was taken to the doctor, he would not let me near him. He looked at me from a distance. There are witnesses to the fact that I have been tortured."

Another report in Cumhuriyet of the same date dealt with contradictory medical reports on the physical evidence of torture in the cases of Hanefi Ozdemir and Hayrettin Dogan who had been detained in April 1986 on charges of smuggling. After their interrogation at Ankara Police Headquarters they were sent on 2 May to Yenimahalle Health Polyclinic but were returned to detention without having had a medical check-up. They were sent back to the clinic on 5 May when the official in charge, Dr Gungor Kaynak, stated in a written report that the detainees "showed no trace of blows, force, scratches, wounds, bruises etc. on their persons after a medical check in which they were stripped naked". The two men were then formally charged and transferred to prison. They petitioned the Public Prosecutor alleging that they had been tortured and that they still carried the scars of torture. They were taken on 9 May to Ankara's Legal Forensic Department and examined by Dr Gulgun Oktem who reported that the defendants suffered from yellow and purple bruises on their bodies and swollen soles [from falakal].

Amnesty International has repeatedly urged the Turkish Government to indicate its commitment to stop torture and uphold human rights by implementing certain measures, including the publication of clear instructions to all officials involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of prisoners, that torture will not be tolerated under any circumstances, and ensuring that all detainees are brought before a judicial authority promptly after being taken into custody, and that relatives, lawyers and doctors have prompt and regular access to them. Amnesty International has also recommended that the Turkish Government should establish an impartial body to investigate all complaints and reports of torture. The Parliamentary Committee for the Inspection of Prisons and Detention Houses established by the Grand National Assembly, will not fulfill this function. In its report to the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly on 22 November 1985, it stated specifically that, "the Committee is not an investigating or prosecuting body" and that, "It is obvious that our Committee is not in a position to thoroughly investigate the validity and accuracy of such allegations [of torture]..."



APPENDIX I

Summaries of Reports from the Turkish Press



Cumhuriyet 17 January 1986

The photograph above is of Halil Demir, a sheep merchant, being held up by two other men. He petitioned the Public Prosecutor alleging that he had been tortured for three days in Adana's Koprubasi police station after having been detained on suspicion of theft.



Cumhuriyet 1 February 1986

Torture Allegation from Lawyer: Truncheon Plunged Into My Client

It was alleged that Arif Hikmet Iyidogan, detained for being in possession of "false identity documents", was tortured at the Ankara Security Headquarters by means of "electric shocks, insertion of truncheons into the anus, falaka [beating of the soles of the feet] and burning with lighted cigarettes".

It was further alleged that Iyidogan who had been detained in the Security Headquarters between 28 March and 18 April 1985 has not fully recovered from the torture he received despite three operations.

Arif Hikmet Iyidogan's lawyer Ersen Sansal has applied to Ankara's Yenimahalle Public Prosecutor to set up proceedings against police officers Husnu Gok and Serhat Okumus cited for torturing.

Lawyer Sansal in his submission to the Yenimahalle Public Prosecutor stated that his client was detained in Mersin on 21 March 1985 and brought to Ankara on 28 March. According to police documents, his client had been "sound and healthy" at the time of transfer and the handing over to Ankara police. However, the lawyer went on, for the entire period of his client's stay in the Ankara Police Headquarters until 18 April, police officers Husnu Gok and Serhat Okumus engaged in "inhumanly savage cruelty and torture".

Sansal added that: "The complainant Arif Hikmet Iyidogan has been subjected to all forms of incredible torture ranging from electric current given to various parts of his body, cold water baths, forced drinking of salty water, starvation, squeezing of his genitals, being scorched with burning rubber, falaka and collective beatings.

This cruelty which went on under the guise of interrogation also included bumps on the head from blows against the wall, loss of tufts of hair from being picked up and made to stand up by the hair, and the plunging into the anus of truncheons."

Sansal stated that there were witnesses to the tortures endured by his client and that these names and addresses had been passed on to the Public Prosecutor. In a statement made to Ankara Martial Law Court No. 1, one of these witnesses, Nuray Erdogan, put on record that: "Later, Arif Hikmet Iyidogan was brought with the help of a policeman to where I was being kept. There was some cotton wool on his right cheek and there was a wound on the right part of his forehead. That is what I saw."

Noting that the records kept during Iyidogan's transfer from the Security Headquarters to Mamak Military Prison confirmed reports of torture, Sansal said: "Evidence of beatings on the soles and swellings are in the records. Official photographs taken on admission to the prison show parts of the scalp where the hair has been pulled out."

Sansal went on to explain that as "torture under the guise of interrogation" continued, Iyidogan's ribs were broken, his lungs began to swell with body fluid and that the wound on his forehead became septic. On 5 April, his client had been taken to Ankara's Numune Hospital and operated

upon. About 1.5 kilogrammes of liquid were drained from his lungs and the abscess on his forehead could only be cleared with medical surgery. Sansal submitted medical records of his client's four-day stay in hospital.

The lawyer continued to state that his client was tortured in the Security Headquarters after being brought back from hospital treatment. Later, Iyidogan underwent a second operation in the medical ward of Mamak Military Prison. Later still, after his release, Iyidogan was operated upon a third time in a private clinic where bones were removed from his lungs. Lawyer Sansal concluded: "Arif Hikmet Iyidogan has yet to recover his health. His treatment goes on. He is still under medical supervision. The doctors say that he may need another operation. But more important than all this, like everyone who has experienced torture, his experiences have left indelible psychological scars. He has been unfortunate enough to experience the barbarity of being the object of inhuman treatment. The accused policemen are the ones who perpetrated this crime."

Cumhuriyet 5 February 1986

Falls Into Coma Under Detention - But Said to Have "Jumped From Police Station Window"

Coffeehouse owner Erhan Payasli's family have petitioned the Minister of Justice, the Interior Ministry, the Prefecture of Adana and Ceyhan Public Prosecutor, claiming that he was beaten into a coma by officers at Ceyhan Central Police Station. His family allege that after the discovery of some contraband playing cards in a shop adjacent to Erhan Payasli's coffeehouse, police took him to the provisional headquarters of Ceyhan Central Police Station and interrogated him. Following his release after the interrogation, a policeman returned to the coffeehouse to ask Erhan Payasli for a bribe of TL 50.000 to "cover the affair". When Payasli returned to the police station to report the request for a bribe, he was apprehended and put into the detention centre. His family explained that when they went to the police station to take blankets for the night in the cell, a police officer informed them that Payasli had thrown himself out of a toilet window and was now in a coma at a hospital. His family insist that Payasli, an affluent person, could have nothing to do with contraband playing cards. Neither would he, they argued, throw himself out of a seven metre window. The matter is being investigated by inspectors sent to Ceyhan by Adana's Security Department.

Cumhuriyet 11 February 1986

Mehmet Kemal, in his column on p. 8, writes about torture:

"...a police constable who was convicted twice of torture and received two prison sentences of eight and ten months, with another trial on torture charges still going on, is still carrying out his duties as a police constable. The Minister explains this situation with "The relevant

documents have not reached me".

Cumhuriyet 12 February 1986

Retired worker Yusuf Yildirim, father of Kenan Yildirim, who was given a sentence of five years after having been tried with a death sentence demand in the Kurtulus trial, was detained 27 times in Ankara because the police could not find his son who is in hiding. He was detained together with his other children and tortured in order to find out the whereabouts of Kenan.

Yusuf Yildirim said: "They squeezed my testicles, they gave me electric shocks, When my testicles swelled due to all this, I went to the doctor. He said, 'Either you have hit them somewhere or you have ridden on the bare back of a horse'. I was so afraid that I would be taken in again, that I did not tell him the truth.

At the police station they bent my knees and legs and put me through a car tyre. That must be what they call (as I have seen in the newspapers) the 'tortoise case'...

My most recent incident was four days ago when police took me from my home, put me into a car, pulled my hair, beat me and swore at me. I do not know their names, but I can recognize their faces.

The reason I have never reported this to the Office of the Prosecutor was that I was afraid in case they did worse things to me.

Sometimes the neighbours were also detained and their houses searched just to intimidate the whole neighbourhood."

Yusuf Yildirim made all these revelations at the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) Head Office in Ankara and said: "As long as the Prime Minister continues to say that there is no torture, we will go on saying and proving that there is. We are prepared to confront him and discuss this with him publicly."

Cumhuriyet 8 March 1986

Hasan Akin, who had been taken away for questioning by the security forces in Mardin, had been declared dead on his fourth day of interrogation. After applying to the authorities about the event, his mother said that she could not even see her son's body; she had been prevented from seeing it, and has asked for an autopsy.

Cumhuriyet 9 March 1986

Three teachers who had been detained by the police in Ankara have disclosed that they had been "crucified" during their interrogation. One of the teachers claimed that he had been left alone for four days in a cell and then was tied to a contraption looking like a crucifix. He stated that he



had been beaten while tied upside down to the crucifix, and he had been tied there three times during his 33 days of detention. Although he recognized the torturers, he was unable to give names, therefore the prosecutor had dropped his claims, he said. Other teachers also described the torture which they suffered at the hands of the police. All the allegations have been printed in the monthly Ogretmen Dunyasi (Teachers' World).

[In another report in Hurriyet of 11 March 1986, it is stated that following the publication of the teachers' report in Ogretmen Dunyasi, the publisher of the journal, Zeki Sarihan, his wife Senal Sarihan and two other people were detained. Amnesty International does not know if charges were brought against them.]

Cumhuriyet 16 March 1986

Ahmet Ceylan, a non-commissioned officer who had been found guilty of torture in Corum, has given himself up. He had been accused of killing Hasan Celik, a 61-year old man. In the autopsy it was revealed that the man suffered brain haemorrhage due to trauma. The Deputy Governor of Corum had claimed that "due to the high blood pressure of the man, he had entered into a coma when the officer shouted at him".

Cumhuriyet 19 March 1986

The Riddle of the Death of Ibrahim Polat

It is alleged that Ibrahim Polat from the village of Kutlubey (of Nusaybin district) did not die during a skirmish, but died while in the custody of the security forces.

Fikri Saglar, a deputy from Icel province, who is also a member of the Human Rights and Torture Investigation Committee of the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP), went to Nusaybin to investigate the allegations. Ine Polat, the wife of the deceased told the deputy that her husband was taken away by the gendarmerie while picking grapes in the field, and his body was brought back the next day. The security forces, on the other hand, stated that the man jumped from a cliff during a security operation after receiving a tip-off. However, the Office of the Martial Law Commander (7th District) announced on 1 October 1985 that the deceased was captured dead after skirmishing with the security forces.

The wife, who does not speak Turkish, talked to the deputy with the help of an interpreter and told him what happened:

"While picking grapes we heard shots, but did not pay any attention. Then the soldiers arrived. They asked Ibrahim for his identification and then took him away. I told him not to leave me there on my own. He said, 'I am



going away with the soldiers, do not worry, I will be back'. I presumed he would be asked to be a guide for the soldiers. The next day I was called. I was six months pregnant then. Because I would not have been able to walk for long, I mounted on a mule and with my women neighbours, the village watchman (bekci) and the son of the muhtar we all went to the vineyard. There my husband was lying in blood between the soldiers. He constantly asked for water. When I propped him up to give him some water, his arm fell. It was broken, I think. The senior non-commissioned officer Haydar Colakci asked me where I hid the weapon. I told him that we did not have any. We are poor, where can we get a weapon? At that moment the commander of the commando unit, which was based at Kutlubey village, arrived and sent us back home."

Ine Polat stated that her husband was 22 years old and had finished his military service only 15 days previously. The following conversation was held between Ine Polat and the deputy:

Deputy Saglar: "How many soldiers were there? Who was their officer?"

Polat: "The non-commissioned officer (assubay). I could identify him if I saw him."

Ine Polat stated that the corpse was brought [to the village?] in a minibus with the help of her brother and father. The fee for the minibus was collected among the soldiers by a Captain Idris.

The other witness, Bayram Aldemir, the son of the village muhtar, said that the deceased was lying on his face in the field when they arrived there. He said: "His soles were swollen. His skin had peeled away. I think he was beaten on his soles by falaka. He constantly asked for water. Captain Idris asked me to hold Ibrahim up and help him to walk. We put him on the back of a mule and took him to the village. His situation got worse. I suggested that he should get some treatment at the Health Clinic. They [the soldiers] said that it was against orders and that he should be taken to the Gendarmerie Station. We left Ibrahim there."

According to the investigation carried out by the ANKA newsagency [which filed this report] it is revealed that the death was recorded in the Nusaybin Registry by his family as "death due to torture". Whereas his death was recorded as "suicide" by the Office of the Martial Law Commander and the Office of the Public Prosecutor, in document No. 1985/1575.

The deputy also talked to the Gendarmerie Squadron Leader, Captain Idris Sozer. He said that after receiving a tip-off about the meeting of four or five terrorists in the area and that Ibrahim Polat would guide them through the terrain, they went there. The captain said, "We followed their trail, when they realized that they would be captured, they jumped from a cliff. The others escaped, but Ibrahim was wounded. He has buried his weapon, he has hidden it. We captured him and interrogated him".

Captain Idris said that the interrogation was done in the open field. Ibrahim was asked to show the hide-out of his friends the next day. The captain claimed that Ibrahim jumped off a cliff when they set out on the road and that he committed suicide and died.



The Deputy Asks the Prime Minister About This Affair

The Icel Deputy Fikri Saglar has asked the Prime Minister in a written question the following questions:

- Who is the person who was killed during a skirmish on 28 September 1985, according to the announcement made by the Office of the Martial Law Commander (7th District) on 1 October 1985?
- Why has the Military Prosecutor claimed that he had committed suicide?
- Had the soldiers given any money to the deceased's family? Why?
- Why has not his corpse been shown to his family? Why have his identification papers not been given back?
- Has there been any investigation concerning this event? If not, what are the reasons?

Cumhuriyet 20 March 1986

I Do Not Expect Justice

Fehmi Isiklar, the General Secretary of DISK, claimed that the basic principles of the law were disregarded and that he did not expect any justice from the court. In his defence, he summarized his 107 days in detention. He said that he was first tortured on 20 September 1980 at Hasdal Military Prison. Then he detailed his predicaments by saying that he was forced to sign statements while he was blindfolded, he was tortured for five consecutive days; that afterwards he was unable to sleep for two days; that he was only able to sleep on one side for 45 days and that he had to take pain killers all the time. He said that he had written a petition about his torture to the Public Prosecutor, but his petition had been "mislaidd" deliberately. He claimed that the divine right of defence had never been fully used in the trial, and therefore one could not talk about law, logic or boundaries in the case, and if fair trial were possible, then none of the defendants could have been accused.

Nokta 6 April 1986

Justice: The "Beating Trial"

"He Was In No Condition To Speak: 'I Am Dying' He Said...."

Akin Tanis, aged 49, was a well-built man, 1.90 m tall and had been a graduate of the Air Force Officer Academy. After six years in the Air Force, he had migrated to Germany where he lived for 13 years, returning to Turkey in 1976.

Since 1976, he had taken a number of jobs and was regarded by his friends as a "gentle giant, affectionate and fond of social drinking in the evenings". His last job was as a motorcar salesroom attendant in Bakirkoy, a suburb of Istanbul. His life revolved around a triangle of the salesroom,

tavernas and members of his family.

On 10 September 1985, a contractor named Ziya Kaya alleged that Akin Tanis and his friends had threatened him with a pistol during a business meeting in a parking lot next to the salesroom where Tanis worked. Both Tanis and another parking lot attendant, Ismail Ako, were taken into custody. A few hours later, the owner of the motorcar gallery, Hakan Dilaver, was "bundled up" and brought to the police station.

In a statement given to the Prosecutor, Dilaver explained: "They said, 'Lock him up'. Akin and Ismail were there. Akin's mouth was bleeding. 'The Chief Superintendent roughed me up' he said, 'they want me to produce a pistol'. At about 21.00 hours they took us up again. Adem Yilmaz [Chief Superintendent of Bakirkoy Police Station - Tr.] hit our outstretched hands with a truncheon a few times. But he hit Akin's head against the wall. In fact, the lights went out, because his head hit the switch. When we said that there were no firearms involved, we were taken down to the cells again. At about 04.00 hours two policemen arrived and took Akin to the room opposite our cell. Apparently that was the "beatings room". We heard Akin's screams for 45 minutes. The Chief Superintendent was there. Later, the same police officers dragged Akin to our cell and threw him down. Akin was in no condition to speak, 'I am dying' he said. His shoes were missing."

In his statement, Ismail Ako confirmed this account and said: "Akin was stripped to his waist when they put him in the cell. His feet were swollen."

Hakan Dilaver had, in the meantime, contacted his friend Captain Nadir Goker, Bakirkoy's Military Induction Officer. In his statement to the Prosecutor, Goker said: "I demanded to see Hakan. They brought him over. His hands were swollen. He had probably been beaten. I also asked for Akin. When he arrived, he said, 'Brother, just look at me'. He was spitting blood. I was furious. I said, 'Call the forensic people'. When I said this, the police then said, 'Not to worry, we'll release him shortly'. I went back to the police station in the evening. When they were still there I became angry again and went to see the officer in command. When I said that the suspects had been beaten, he said, 'There is a pistol involved, let them bring that'. I walked out."

Thus, according to eye-witnesses, the Captain's close interest could not save Akin from being subjected to falaka in the early hours of the morning.

Akin Tanis was released by the Prosecutor's Office three days after his arrest. But then he was in a coma.

His employer Hakan Dilaver then denounced the police and demanded an investigation. On 2 November 1985, after 50 days in a coma, Akin Tanis died. His autopsy report stated that death was due to "acute trauma on his skull".

The policemen involved denied the charges when the Bakirkoy Prosecutor, on the basis of the autopsy report, launched proceedings. Chief Superintendent Adem Yilmaz told the Nokta correspondent: "We did not beat anyone. I repeat what I told the Prosecutor: the allegations are false."



Cumhuriyet 12 April 1986

Adana DEV-YOL Accused: "Notes We Made For Our Defence Are Confiscated"

The Adana DEV-YOL trial, which began four years ago in the Adana Military Court with 342 defendants, of whom 70 are still detained, has entered the stage of defendants' defence statements.

Defendant Adem Kutuk, facing the death sentence, stated in court that they had been searched down to their underpants before being brought to court. Defendants objecting to this had been beaten by prison authorities and they could not, therefore, prepare their defence statements.

Kutuk went on to explain that notes made by the defendants during the trial and intended to be used in their defence preparations were confiscated by the prison authorities as allegedly "organizational and political documents". He said that they could not be expected to prepare an adequate defence.

Defendant Salman Serttepe, meanwhile, lifted his shirt to show a bleeding lesion on his right shoulder. Informing the court that he had been beaten in prison, he asked the judges to send him to a sick-bay to stop the flow of blood.

Cumhuriyet 27 April 1986

Witness Sergeant: I Live In Fear

Fikret Birge, who stated last week that he was a national service sergeant during the incidents resulting in the death of Siddik Bilgin, said that he lived in fear after his eye-witness reports to the prosecutor. Birge's friends and relatives said that he had not been to his house for three days for fear of reprisals. Asked by Cumhuriyet why he did not report the case after his demobilisation, Birge answered, "I could not have done it then. I did it now".

Milliyet 28 April 1986

Investigation for Bakirkoy's Chief of Police and Superintendent

Bakirkoy's Chief of Police, Kemal Tosun, and his Chief Superintendent, Adem Yilmaz, are going to be the subjects of an investigation by the Ministry of Interior for allegedly being involved in intimidating behaviour.

It is alleged that they acted in a menacing way to lawyer Ali Ercan during

a court hearing of a torture case against three officers under their command.

Chief Superintendent Adem Yilmaz, along with officers Sedat Riza Sahin, Saban Yetisken and Sinan Bozkurt, are charged with causing the death of retired Air Force N.C.O. Akin Tanis on 10 September 1985. It is alleged that Akin Tanis died of "acute cranial trauma" after having his head struck against the police station walls. Charged with torturing the detainee Tanis, the police officers face between three to seven years in prison. The case continues in Bakirkoy Criminal Court No. 2.



Milliyet [European Edition] 1 May 1986

Witnessing Sergeant Tells of Bilgin's Death:
"30 to 40 Soldiers Shot At The Corpse"

Fikret Birge, who was doing his national service at the time, gave an eye-witness account of the death of Siddik Bilgin at a press conference organized at SHP headquarters.

Introduced to the journalists by Cuneyt Canver, MP for Adana, and Ali Ihsan Elgin, MP for Icel, Fikret Birge gave this account of the controversial incident:

"I had been posted to the Suveren Gendarmerie outpost. This was a special operations outpost. This meant that we conducted frequent operations in the surrounding villages. After information received by an informer, we conducted a search of Doganli village. Siddik Bilgin and a few others, whose names I cannot remember, had been denounced as militants of an illegal organization. We loaded them blindfolded on our vehicles. The soldiers began to beat Siddik Bilgin and his friends, saying, 'Tell us where the weapons are'. Bilgin kept on saying, 'I have nothing to do with this'. No water or food was given to the detainees for one whole day."

Fikret Birge said that Siddik Bilgin and his friends had been tortured for three days. He said:

"They were beaten until they lost consciousness. They then had buckets of water thrown on them to revive them. All this took place in the school yard. Three days later, Siddik was put into a Dodge truck and the others into a different one. Siddik Bilgin was in the truck I was on. He was motionless. That is when I realized that he had died. We came to a place called Kesan Mezrasi. We descended. Captain Ali Sahin said, 'Bring Siddik down'. We put him on the ground face down. We moved back about 30 metres. The Captain ordered us to shoot. He was sprayed with bullets. Later, they radioed back to the headquarters and said, 'We shot him while escaping'. Siddik was buried with his clothes on in a grave scooped by bulldozer."

Birge also went on to allege that "The doctor for the district of Genc, Hurer Ercan, took a cursory look at Siddik's corpse and reported him dead". Answering a question from the press, Fikret Birge said that after the killing of Siddik Bilgin, Captain Ali Sahin had told the servicemen present that "This was the end of the affair. The secret would lie buried".

Milliyet [European Edition] 1 May 1986

"I Was Tortured For Seven Days"

An Executive Committee member of DISK, Kemal Nebioglu, said during his 300-page long defence statement that they had been tortured for seven days following their detention. Also, he stated that it had taken 111 days for the DISK defendants to appear before a judge [ie 111 days in incommunicado detention].

The preliminary investigation had been conducted at Davutpasa, in a venue referred to by the police as the "Imperial Marquee" (Otag-i Humayun). "They took us to a part of the building which had been used as stables during the Ottoman period", said Nebioglu. "We left our belongings, we were blindfolded. We were led into the "Imperial Marquee" in single file with myself, Basturk, Isiklar, Zirtiloglu, putting our hands on each other's shoulders."

Cumhuriyet 2 May 1986

A Farmer in Elazig Claims That His Intestines Were Ruptured After Torture: "If I Die, It's Because Of The Sergeant-Major"

Farmer Hayrettin Kumargel, involved in a fight with members of the Bozova family which ended with both sides being summoned by Baskil Gendarmerie outpost, claimed that he was tortured by Gendarmerie Sergeant-Major A. Riza Yucel.

Currently being held in the emergency ward of Elazig State Hospital and diagnosed as having a ruptured intestine, Hayrettin Kumargel stated that the Sergeant-Major had said, "How is it that you have no bruises after fighting with five persons", and then proceeded to punch and kick him in the abdomen.

Kumargel's family has petitioned the authorities. The commander of the gendarmerie unit concerned has denied the allegations of torture.

Yeni Gundem 5-11 May 1986

Allegations of Torture During ANAP Government: "I Was Forced To Sign The Report"

The inquest merely stated that the patient had died of "breathing difficulties". Hasan Hakki Erdogan had died between the hours of 24.00 and 01.00 on 30 October 1984. In fact, by the time he was brought to the hospital, he was spitting blood and had lost consciousness. He lived for

another half-hour. The three-line eight-sentence inquest report had, however, taken 15 days to prepare. This was because one of three signatories refused to endorse the findings.

Specialist Dr Sacide Erden told the Yeni Gundem reporter: "The patient [Hasan Hakki Erdogan - Tr.] was not able to speak when he was brought to the hospital. He was in no state to give an account of what had been done to him or what was the matter with him. There were seven or eight persons with him. They obstructed our work. We had to give the patient oxygen to enable him to breathe. This meant taking the patient to another part of the hospital. We were not allowed to transfer the patient. The police were very strict. Anyway, he did not live long enough."

Referring to the inquest report, Specialist Dr Sacide Erden said: "I did not prepare that report. It was prepared by my assistant Dr Nevrier Koylan. I resisted signing it for a long time. I even went up to see the Head of Department, Professor Dr Ahmet Sevim Buyukdevrim. He said, 'In the communication we received, there was mention of acute kidney failure and lung oedema. Let your report be in accordance with this. Sign it' and I was forced to endorse it. It was really impossible for me to do anything there at the time."

From one hospital to the other...

The report testifying that Hasan Hakki Erdogan had died of "respiratory insufficiency" was dated 15 October 1984 and written on stationery bearing the heading "Republic of Turkey, University of Istanbul, Faculty of Medicine Internal Diseases Main Subject". However, Erdogan had been taken on a round of hospitals. According to records kept by Istanbul Security Department Political Section, he had been sent to Gumussuyu Military Hospital on 29 September 1984, but the doctors there had refused to accept responsibility for the patient. The document from the Political Section contains a note to the effect: "Lesions on both ankles, armpits, on skin and the right hand". Erdogan had then been passed on to Haydarpasa Military Hospital where he was diagnosed as suffering from "acute kidney failure and lung oedema". One of the persons responsible for this diagnosis was Gunner Captain Operator Doctor Nevzat Aknar, a specialist in gynaecology and child birth. He passed Erdogan on to the Capa Clinic for Emergencies appended to the University of Istanbul. And it was at Capa that Erdogan was to spend the last half-hour of his life.

Fifteen days later, the inquest report stated that death was due to "chronic renal failure, acute left cardiac arrest and acute respiratory failure" and was signed by Dr Nevrier Koylan, Specialist Dr Sacide Erden and Head of Faculty of Medicine Internal Diseases Main Subject Professor Dr Ahmet Sevim Buyukderim.

According to the indictment prepared by the military prosecutor, Hasan Hakki Erdogan was the Istanbul regional head of TKP-ML TIKKO [Turkish Communist Party-Marxist Leninist TIKKO]. He had been detained on 18 September 1984. According to the same indictment, another detainee, Hamdi Eroglu, had said that he was going to meet Erdogan on 18 September at a rendez-vous and that Erdogan was detained by First Section officers lying in wait.

Huseyin Erdogan, Hakki Erdogan's father, went to the First Section after his son's detention and left a parcel of underclothes plus TL 5000 in cash. He was not allowed to contact his son. He was, however, provided with a note which stated "Father, I am well. I have received the money and the



clothes". But father Erdogan realized that the handwriting on the note delivered by a police official was not his son's. Neither was the signature. Father Erdogan proceeded on 28 September 1984 to send petitions to the Martial Law Prosecutor, the Martial Law Commander and the Governor of Istanbul stating that he feared for the life of his son.

When Huseyin Erdogan returned to the Security Department on 7 October 1984, a Superintendent there told him "Your son died. His body is in Cerrahpasa Hospital Morgue. Your son did not speak. If somebody has been in Istanbul for three years, that person ought to know a lot of people. He did not name a single one of his friends".

Meanwhile, Hamdi Eroglu, who had stated that he was to meet Hasan Hakki Erdogan at an appointed time, was now transferred from the Security Department to Selimiye Military Prison and Detention Centre where he submitted a petition stating that he had "been tortured during interrogation at the police headquarters" and that during his "period in detention he witnessed the torturing into a comatose state of a person called Hakki Erdogan who was then sent to hospital". Yet, by the time that this petition was written on 18 October 1984, Hakki Erdogan was long dead.

K-Desk B-Group

According to the court testimony by police officers Yilmaz Hemen and Seyfettin Bodur, cited in the fifth issue of Yeni Gundem in connection with the death under torture of Mustafa Hayrullahoglu, "The interrogation of TKP, TIKKO and IGD [Progressive Youth Association] suspects at the Security Department was being carried out by group B from Desk K". Officers Ali Can Ozgenler, Mehmet Yetis, Orhan Yaman, Engin Devren and Umit Baybek stood trial for what was proved to be the death of Mustafa Hayrullahoglu under torture. It transpired during the trial that the officials concerned used code-names during the interrogation. The names given by Hamdi Eroglu included the code-names "Yetis and Ibrahim".

Amnesty International

Erdogan's case did not escape Amnesty International's attention. On 18 December 1984 they wrote to the Turkish Ambassador in London, Rahmi Gumrukcuoglu, inquiring about Erdogan's death and received a reply which reproduced the above-mentioned inquest report. Amnesty International, however, had other sources of information and cited the case in its 1985 Report.

On the basis of the AI Report, SHP President Aydin Guven Gurkan was questioned by Socialist Group MEPs at Strasbourg and was forced to defend his position by saying that "the Government does not protect torturers; they are simply too lax in dealing with complaints", a statement which was to result in a protest walk-out by some Euro-MPs.

The last word comes from Serhat Bucak, a lawyer retained by father Erdogan: "Hasan Hakki Erdogan lost his life by being tortured during interrogation at the First Section of Istanbul Directorate of Security. This contradicts statements by Prime Minister Turgut Ozal claiming that there has been no torture since he came into office."

Yeni Gundem 14-20 May 1986



Shadow Of Torture On Medicine

On 9 April 1986 the lawyers of the late Mustafa Asim Hayrullahoglu submitted a petition to the Istanbul Chamber of Medical Personnel naming 26 members of that organization for practices contravening "medical ethics". [The list of names is provided in the article.]

The trial of the security personnel involved in the death by torture of Mustafa Hayrullahoglu on 16 November 1982 had ended with the sentencing of three officers to jail terms of 10 years 8 months and the acquittal of two defendants. The trial was inundated with medical reports contradicting one another. According to lawyers Ergin Cinmen and Atilla Coskun, the Forensic Medical Department contained doctors who "exhibited special skills to hamper the trial" of Hayrullahoglu's torturers, thus systematically "obstructing the course of justice".

Lawyers Coskun and Cinmen stated that the Forensic Medical Department, an organization which ought to be scientific and neutral, contained medical personnel who were present during torture as well as being implicated in torture by bearing false witness in cases referred for professional judgement.

After the list of 26 doctors presented by Hayrullahoglu's lawyers, the names of four other doctors from Kahramanmaraş were to be added to a growing roll-call of doctors implicated in torture. It was alleged, for example, that Dr Erkan Mete was present during the torturing of suspects at Istanbul Security Headquarters. Other cases have emerged, such as the death under torture of TIKB [Revolutionary Communists' Union of Turkey] suspect Ataman Ince in October 1981. Some doctors had prepared a report stating that Ince had died of "tuberculosis". In the ensuing trial other doctors' reports came out with ambivalent statements like "there could be the possibility of torture, on the other hand there could not be". One such report actually emanated from the High Medical Council comprised of a veterinary surgeon, a pharmacist and the ubiquitous Professor Ihsan Dogramaci.

The controversial Dr Erkan Mete was amnestied in 1974 after being sentenced as a DEV-GENC [Revolutionary Youth] militant. In 1982, it transpired during a martial law trial that Dr Mete had been "assisting security forces" in a number of prosecutions. Sentenced prisoner Berkut Pinar cited Dr Mete as being present during his torture and added that there was a standard pro forma statement which Forensic Medical Department doctors, including Dr Mete, signed disclaiming any medical evidence of torture.

Another detainee, Irfan Cure, stated in an unrelated and separate trial that: "Although officials hide torture by saying that there is no such thing in Turkey, I was tortured. One of the persons present during my torture was Dr Erkan Mete whom I knew previously. I hereby declare that Dr Mete is guilty of torture".

Hamit Kapan, said to have been tortured for 200 days and cited in the confessions of the police torturer Sedat Caner, named Dr Erdem Gurunlu "who wore a white coat and examined me after each new torture technique" as a torturer. Dr Gurunlu was a founding member of Kahramanmaraş Idealists.

Hearth Organization [a right-wing organization]. Despite the heavy torture he was subjected to, Hamit Kapan was given clean bills of health by Neurologist Dr Seyfi Sahan, Consultant Dr Cahit Evliya ("no signs of physical damage on the body") and the Head of the Psychiatric Department Dozent Dr Mehmet Unal. This evidence was challenged in court by lawyer Emin Deger on 22 February 1982. Lawyer Deger also presented to the court the detached toe nails of Hamit Kapan. The evidence, presented in an envelope, as well as other signs of torture were rejected by the military tribunal.

Other doctors, for example Surgeon Dr Cetin Kucuksaner, Lieutenant Dr Ensar Senturk and Lieutenant Ihsan Kasapgil, signed standard printed reports stating "No sign of physical violence has been observed" in the case, for example, of the 159 defendants in the TKP-Thrace trial.

Cumhuriyet 15 May 1986

"You, Too, Might End Up Dead Like Your Son"

A new case has emerged from the confessions of the police torturer Sedat Caner naming Mehmet Ceren as one of the persons tortured by the use of a technique known as the "Palestinian Swing" at Kahramanmaraş Teacher Training Institute's Sports Centre.

Vahit Ceren, the father of the suspect Mehmet Ceren, who died during torture, has recently appealed to the Kahramanmaraş prosecutor alleging that his son died as a result of torture. His application form Hz. 986/502 was handed over to the prosecutor on 2 May 1986. Father Ceren states that, upon hearing that he was wanted by the authorities, his son Mehmet Ceren gave himself up on 6 October 1981 to Adana Martial Law Command, that he was brought to Kahramanmaraş Martial Law Command on 18 October 1981 and that he was buried in the cemetery of his village three days later.

Vahit Ceren told reporters that his son's body was brought to the village on 21 October by three truck-loads of armed soldiers and that the body was buried immediately with no one being allowed to examine the deceased. Even the last religious rites of washing the body and uncovering the face were not allowed, he said. The body was buried under armed guard. The villagers were told that nobody was allowed to go near the grave. Vahit Ceren was told that he would end up like his son if he approached the grave. Sentries remained at the graveside for three days.

Police torturer Sedat Caner had already referred to the death of Mehmet Ceren and stated that he had been buried with his clothes on. He named General Yusuf Haznedaroglu, Major Nevzat Bekaroglu who is currently a Staff Officer at the General Staff Headquarters in Ankara and who was at the time attached to Martial Law Command, Necdet Kondolot who was the Head of the Political Branch at the time but is currently Deputy Chief of Security at Kahramanmaraş, and Caner's colleague Chief Superintendent Huseyin Gulersonmez and officer Bilge Akdogan who is currently stationed at Ankara Security Headquarters, as the persons who knew that Mehmet Ceren's death was not due to suicide.

Mehmet Ceren's father has called for an autopsy of his son's body and for

the punishment of the persons cited by the self-confessed police torturer Sedat Caner.

Yeni Gundem 19-25 May 1986



Hunger-Strike At Amasya Prison

Six inmates of Amasya Prison facing the death penalty, Baki Altin, A. Fazil Ozdemir, Mehmet Tekbas, Emrullah Gemici, Ahmet Kinali and Remzi Kucukertan, have gone on indefinite hunger-strike as a protest against ill-treatment by the prison authorities.

At a recent press conference, the relatives of two of the hunger-strikers, Riza Tekbas and Zahide Gemici, stated that there was "inhuman treatment involving falaka to the feet, to the back and the backsides, physical torture, very long periods of solitary confinement, confinement in cells, religious and ideological pressures" being practised by prison authorities.

Riza Tekbas and Zahide Gemici have submitted petitions to Istanbul's First Army Prosecutor, the Ministry of Justice, the General Staff Intelligence Department, SHP Human Rights Commission, the Prefecture of Amasya, Speaker of the National Assembly and the Interior Ministry calling for an end to ill-treatment and requesting that reading materials be allowed as well as lengthening the periods allowed for recreation in the prison courtyard.

This is how Baki Altin recounted instances of prison treatment to one of his relatives: "We were brought singly to dark cells... There, under the orders of the Prison Director Necati Oztekin and under his supervision, we were subjected to falaka until losing consciousness. Then we were immersed in cold water. Necati Oztekin, Mehmet Ince and other warders were present in the 20-minute torture sessions. The Prosecutor was aware of these tortures. He did not even process our formal complaints."

According to the family members of the inmates concerned, the Prison Director threatened the inmates facing the death penalty by saying: "If I want, I can cancel the half-hour you are allowed in the courtyard. This is too lenient for the likes of you."

Cumhuriyet 24 May 1986

Crisis At Izmir State Security Court (SSC)

A crisis has developed over the interest shown by the US Consul-General in Izmir concerning the detention of Servet Ziya Corakli and his indictment by the SSC for allegedly attempting to distribute "leaflets disguised as bags of sweets" one day before the scheduled rally held by TURK-IS, the country's main trade union confederation.

The controversy emerged when the US Consul-General attended a SSC session trying Servet Ziya Corakli. Newspaper reports alleged that the Consul, Mr. Adams, was briefed by the Presiding Judge and was also shown court documents.

Defendant Corakli's lawyer Esen Yucel stated that his client was the chairman of a cine-club and a member of the PEN Club. Esen Yucel said that his client had been tortured and that this had been raised in the United States Senate. It was possible that the interest shown by the US Consul resulted from representations made by Amnesty International and PEN Club.

Lawyer Esen Yucel also said that his client was told by his interrogators at Izmir Security Headquarters First Branch that he would "now be subjected to the tortures described by Sedat Caner in Nokta". The policemen concerned then proceeded to carry out their threats.

Servet Ziya Corakli and three others are charged with being members of TKP-B [Turkish Communist Party-Union] and attempting to distribute "leaflets disguised as bags of sweets" twenty-four hours before the aforementioned TURK-IS rally. The Presiding Judge of Izmir's SSC disclaimed showing court documents to the US Consul-General and said that there was no medical evidence of Corakli ever having been tortured. He said he had no comment to make over the resignation of the military and civilian judges comprising the SSC tribunal involved in the case.

Cumhuriyet 7 June 1986

Families Of The Detainees: "Repression Against Defendants Continues"

Executive members of the Families of Detainees and Prisoners' Aid Association (FDPAA) alleged that "repression" of defendants being held at Metris, Amasya and Adana prisons is continuing.

In a press conference organized in a coffeehouse in the Yildirim district of Istanbul, officials of the FDPAA accused the prison authorities of arbitrary and harsh treatment against inmates in prisons, including detainees currently on trial.

Zekiye Canan, sister of prisoner Yadigar Adiguzel currently held at Metris Military Prison, claimed that her brother suffered from a heart condition but was denied medical help. "He cannot diet. They will not buy him medicines", she said.

FDPAA officials also drew attention to "immoral" strip searches of the inmates and claimed that these resulted in beatings with the prisoners being covered in blood. Torn pairs of trousers were displayed during the press conference.

The press conference was also attended by Mrs Elmas Eren and Mr Kemalettin Eren, parents of Hayrettin Eren who has not been found despite a six-year search by his family.

Mustafa Eryuksel, a FDPAA spokesperson, said that some families did not



even know of the grave where they could leave flowers for their dead relatives. "Our duty as human beings", he said, "is to investigate, research and reveal the chain of disappeared persons who have become a bleeding wound upon our society".



Cumhuriyet 7 June 1986

Oktay Akbal's regular column

(A review article of Erbil Tusalp's new book Transcripts of 12 September: A Thousand Witnesses, Dost Yayinlari, 1986, in Turkish)

...As I was reading A Thousand Witnesses a letter from Amasya Prison arrived. Yet another item of proof, another account of our reality... It would be useful if we read it together:

"We were sent to Amasya during the last months of 1985. At the reception to the prison, we, the political prisoners, were searched in an immoral way [The reference is to strip-searching - Tr.] and had our heads shaved forcibly as well as being told to wear prison uniforms. We reacted to this torture and humiliation according to the dictates of human dignity. We were then brought singly to dark cells measuring 2 square metres and 1.75 metres high and were kept in these for 15 days. During this period we were beaten unconscious by warders by the application of falaka to the soles of the feet, the back and backsides. We were immersed in cold water. During this period we were also subjected to being kept awake at nights, a ban on smoking and 'arbitrary night beatings'. The prison authorities arbitrarily prohibited us from receiving visitors for three months so that the traces of torture would heal and they held on to our petitions complaining about our maltreatment. Political prisoners are still denied access to fresh air in the prison courtyard; torture as well as solitary confinement continues. While no books are purchased by the prison authorities, copies of a local Islamic fundamentalist journal called Crescent (Hilal) is circulated amongst the inmates. Our legal files, books and notes have been confiscated. Our right to defence has been infringed. Political prisoners are encouraged to confess [under provisions of the Law on Repentance - Tr.]. The daily counts of the inmates involve abusive language and immoral swearing and when we ask for the reasons for such behaviour, this leads to punishment by solitary confinement. Sanitation is non-existent in the wards where political prisoners are kept and we are at the mercy of insects and vermin. No provisions are made to stop this and the Prison Director threatens us with rotting under these insanitary conditions. Ordinary criminals have access to TV, but political prisoners are denied this."

Cumhuriyet 19 June 1986

Two Different Medical Reports On Torture

Contradictory reports on physical evidence of torture were given by two separate doctors attached respectively to Ankara's Yenimahalle district Health Polyclinic and the capital's Legal Forensic Department.

According to the ANKA agency reporter, Hanefi Ozdemir and Hayrettin Dogan were detained in April [1986] on smuggling allegations dating back to 1980. After being detained for some time at Ankara Security Headquarters, the pair were sent on 2 May to Yenimahalle Health Polyclinic, but were returned to detention without a medical check-up. Sent back to the polyclinic on 5 May, the official in charge, Dr Gungor Kaynak, stated in a written report (No. 818) that the detainees "showed no trace of blows, force, scratches, wounds, bruises etc., on their persons after a medical check in which they were stripped naked".

The defendants were then arrested and sent to prison.

Hanefi Ozdemir and Hayrettin Dogan subsequently petitioned the Public Prosecutor alleging that they had been tortured and that they still carried scars of the alleged treatment. The pair were then taken to Ankara's Legal Forensic Department on 9 May and examined by Dr Gulgun Oktem who reported that the defendants suffered from yellow and purple bruises on their bodies and swollen soles. Dr Oktem's report prescribed periods of seven and ten days of rest respectively for the two defendants.

The contradictory findings of the two doctors were passed on to lawyer Necati Siyahkan who promptly passed on the information to the Turkish Medical Association for their immediate attention.

Cumhuriyet 20 June 1986



Witness: "The Young Defendants Could Not Stand On Their Legs"

In the main Dev-Yol [Revolutionary Way] trial being held in Ankara's Military Court No. 1, now entering its fifth year, witness Ahmet Coklek, a former headman [muhtar] of Huseyin Gazi District, told the court that the five or six defendants brought to the locality for a re-enactment of their alleged offences could "hardly stand up". "I was surprised" the witness said, "these were young people. They should be able to stand up on their two legs even if they carried heavy loads on their backs all day. I did not notice any traces of bruises or wounds on their faces or the parts of their bodies I could see".

The main Dev-Yol trial involves about 700 defendants, of whom 106 are still kept in detention. The witness was called in connection with an "appended indictment" [ek iddianame] involving 77 of the defendants concerned. They are charged on nine accounts of murder and 62 incidents involving robbery. The witness Ahmet Coklek was called in connection with the killing of Ismet Bodur.

Cumhuriyet 25 June 1986

Diyarbakir Martial Law Prosecutor's transferred trial of 12 charged with TKEP [Turkish Communist Labour Party] offences began in Izmir State Security Court. Defendant Fahri Ilcan stated under cross-examination that he had been detained for 27 days in the Security Headquarters where he was suspended by his limbs, subjected to falaka, starved and thus subjected to various tortures.



TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

APPENDIX II

The following testimonies were given to Amnesty International by representatives of the Turkish Socialist Workers Party (TSIP) abroad. TSIP was founded in 1974 and operated as a legal political party in Turkey until the military coup of 12 September 1980 when it was banned together with all other political parties and organizations. It has since continued its non-violent political activities clandestinely.

On the night of 30 June - 1 July 1985 from 0.00 hours police descended on various houses in various cities in Turkey and took tens of men, women and children into custody. The subjects of the "Zero Hour Operation" were members and supporters of TSIP and their families.

Amnesty International interviewed the people whose testimonies are given below and believes that they provide an accurate account of the treatment received by the members and supporters of TSIP and their families.

TESTIMONY 1

Mrs. Nesri Yilmaz, a 38 year-old teacher, taken into custody together with her two children without any direct charge against her, just in order to put pressure on her husband. She testifies:

"In June 1985, when my husband did not appear for two days, I understood that something was wrong. They came to our house following the second day of his disappearance. There were 20 policemen, half of them carrying automatic guns. It was 02.30 am. From outside they shouted at us to open the door otherwise they would break it. I opened it. When they entered I told them not to go inside my children's room. But a five-man team with guns rushed to their room also. From the very beginning they openly said that we had been under police surveillance for a long time and they supposed I had nothing to do with what was going on. Although some of them hesitated to take me after they searched every corner of the house, the team-chief said "MIT [National Intelligence Organization] wants her to make her husband talk". I was worried about my children as there was nobody to leave them with. The policemen said that the children were to come along, too. I woke up my older daughter (she was nine years old). She looked around and, unexpectedly for her age, she calmly told me to go and get dressed while she woke her six year-old sister up. I will never forget the expression on her face. She was trying to wake up her little sister and at the same time she was keeping an eye on the guns. They put us in a police van: there were other people in the van but we were not allowed to look around. They took us to several homes where they continued their operations and they became angry when they could not find people at home. My little girl was sleeping on my lap while the older one was fully awake. They took us to security forces central building [Istanbul Police Headquarters] and put us in a room where we heard screams until the morning. My daughter told me, "Mother, mother, I can hear my father's voice, they are beating him, they are beating him". All my efforts were in vain, I couldn't prevent her hearing the screams and cries. She could not sleep and became a kind of robot continuously repeating, "They are beating my father".

Each day the interrogations started at 9.00 am and lasted until the next morning at 4-5 am. We learned that very soon.

That morning the screams continued until 4 or 5 am. In the morning my younger daughter woke up asking what kind of hospital it was and why the doctors did not show up. (We had told her we were in a hospital.) My older daughter told me to put on some make-up so that "They should not understand that we are afraid". Around 9.00 am they took us to a children's room. This was a room right next to the interrogation (that is torture) room. From a mirror type window on the wall, the people in the interrogation room could see us (the women and children), but from our side we could not see who was in the other room. In the so-called children's room there was a very dirty mattress and a couple of chairs. There was another mother and daughter together with us. While we were in that room policemen came several times cursing and shouting at me, "Look, woman, tell your husband to talk, or else you will stay here". My children heard these threats continuously and they cried as they were afraid that I would be taken to torture, too.

That evening a policewoman playing "the good police" came along pretending to be very sympathetic and understanding. She told me to tell her the truth! She said, "We already know all details about your life. We know you have nothing to do with your husband's activities. But tell us the names of the people who came to your house". As a last word that policewoman gave me some advice (!). She said, "Honey, if I were you, I would divorce this man. He got you into trouble". That same day around 6.30 pm when they heard a loud shouting my children ran to me. It was my husband. They were bringing him, beating and cursing. He was blindfolded. They put him in the room facing our room in the corridor and the doors were open. My children watched their father with horrified eyes. Then they took me to that room where my husband was. They told him that unless he talked they knew what to do with me and the children. My husband recognized my voice. Then he said, "I don't care if they die" and I understood he was not going to talk and was trying to save us. They hit him and kicked him. After they took him away, the policewoman again came and told me, "Your best friends are cursing your husband", thus trying to provoke me. I was terrified to see my husband in that position, he could barely walk and was holding his abdomen. That night we again heard screams until 4.00 am in the morning. During all this time we were left hungry, including the children. After the second day they asked the names of people who could take care of our children and relatives started to come and take away the children.

On the second morning at 9.00 the infamous interrogation started again. They brought people - including my husband - from downstairs to the interrogation room next to our room. As the door was opened we could see these blindfolded men and women as they passed along the corridor. All we could do was to give a message that we were fine. While we were going to the washroom, although they told us not to look around, my older daughter suddenly moved towards her father who was blindfolded and on his knees in the corridor and whispered, "We love you, father". We - all the women and children - repeated the same thing to other blindfolded, tortured men there. The children stayed with us three to four days without eating anything. My older daughter on one hand wanted to leave immediately, but on the other hand did not want to leave me behind. When the relatives came to take the children, the five year-old daughter of my room-mate wanted to see her father. They brought her father with his face carrying all the inhuman imprints of torture. The girl asked him, "Why is your face so purple?". He told her that he fell down. We could understand that she did not believe him. She kept quiet and only asked, "Father, when are you going to come back?". I could not kiss my daughter to say good-bye; when one of our relatives came she wanted to leave at once and did not even look behind.



After the children went away they took us downstairs to one-man cells. There was a small opening in the door and that was to be kept closed, too. The odour and dirt were unbearable. As I have mentioned above, from 9.00 am to 4 or 5.00 am next morning they were taking people from the cells upstairs to the interrogation room to be tortured. I secretly opened the small window on the door to see my husband when they took him upstairs. To see your husband taken to torture is such a terrible experience that it cannot be described. The same thing was true for husbands seeing their wives taken to torture. When I saw my husband with an unrecognizable face, I cried. One of his eyes was completely closed, his face was purple all over and he could not walk.

In the cells they only let us go to the toilet once in eight hours and sometimes not even that often. That was a kind of torture according to them. One day I got ill and wanted to go to the washroom. The policeman said, "Urinate in the cell". I said I was not going to do that. He was furious and he opened the door and shouted that if I again disobeyed the police he would do everything "to teach me a lesson". When the families sent meals from outside, the policemen poured them into waste-bins in front of our eyes. During 30 days (the official incommunicado detention period at that time) we could only wash our hair once or twice and that was because there were all kinds of insects in the cells. We suffered from continuous headaches. One day through our secret conversation during toilet cleaning, we heard that a woman was in a terrible condition in the interrogation room upstairs. Later she came down; I heard someone whispering, "Finally they brought her down". [That was Mrs. Y, and a co-defendant testifies about her situation in TESTIMONY 2.]

In the cell I was seeing my children in my dreams and dreams were turning into reality with wild shouts and screams. I started believing that the pictures drawn on the cell walls by previous inmates were pictures of my children. One day I heard them taking my husband out of his cell. Secretly from my small hole I could see the torturing policeman forcing my husband to drink milk. (Later I learned that the doctor advised the torturers not to go further, otherwise he would die.) The policeman pushed my husband's face into the milk ordering him to drink.

When they took me for interrogation, because they knew about my poor health condition and that I had recently had surgery, they were satisfied only to hit me on my head heavily! They hit me on my head and face telling me that I was lying. At the end of the 30-day detention period they put us in front of TV cameras. Millions of people - including our children - watched us as if we were criminals. At that time we had not even been taken to court to be tried. They had already given the sentence and announced to everyone that we were criminals by showing us in the TV news programme.

After the TV appearance our stay in the security building ended and we were transferred to a military prison. When we entered we said that we had come from cells full of vermin, thus forcing them to let us wash ourselves. This was the first time we were allowed to take a bath. In the military prison we women were called out for roll-call twice a day, morning and evening. During the roll-call in the prison yard our hands were handcuffed and we were continuously subjected to questions: "What is your name? Why are you here? What did you do?" They asked us so many times that our brains were almost paralyzed. I remember, one day during a roll-call the first woman in the line could not answer when she was asked her name.

Some time later they took us to court. That day from 6.00 am to 2.00 pm we stayed with our hands tied behind our backs. They did not untie them even when we went to the washroom. So there was no point in going to the washroom. In the court they temporarily released some of us. In fact they knew from the very beginning we had done nothing to warrant our detention. But this is purely a political case. And I should say the last torture for us who were released after the court hearing was our stay in the hot, metal police van on our return from the court to prison to complete the release order formalities. They stopped the traffic to give way to some general's car and we waited for hours, some women fainting from heat and hunger.

And I will never forget my daughter's reaction to the words of a radio speaker announcing the official declaration that "there is no torture in Turkey". When she heard that, she rose to her feet and said, "Ask me, ask me if there is torture or not".

TESTIMONY 2

Mr. Turan Yilmaz, 40 year-old defendant in the TSIP trial, who was one of the most severely tortured after the summer 1985 arrests, testifies about the torture of Mrs. Y, 33 year-old defendant with a pre-school age child. He testifies:

"I was brought from the hanging type torture and left unconscious in a corner in the torture room where we were interrogated, I was blindfolded and could not move. Suddenly I heard a woman screaming in the same room. From under the blindfold I could see that it was Y. She was stretched out on a table naked, tied to electric current. I heard them saying, "Tell us you took it". She replied, "No, I didn't". They applied electric current to her body on and off. She was screaming and letting out wild noises. It did not sound like a human voice. Suddenly I heard a terrible cry from her and then I did not hear her anymore. I heard the torturers saying worriedly, "She died, she died". Some others said, "Her colour became purple, is she dying?" They poured water on her and rushed her to the hospital. When I heard them saying she was dead, I was still almost unconscious, but I remember that I tried to stand on my feet and attacked them swearing and shouting, "Murderers, you killed her, you killed her". But they hit me down - I was blindfolded and my hands were tied - and took me back to the torture chamber."

TESTIMONY 3

Mr. Hamit Cayli, a 33 year-old defendant in the TSIP trial, who was heavily tortured after the summer 1985 arrests, testifies about the torture of Mrs. Z, a 48 year-old defendant with grown-up children, and about the situation of his wife Meral. He testifies:

"Although the interrogation room was in the security forces building, one could immediately understand that the 'interrogators' - that is torturers - were acting directly under the command of MIT [National Intelligence Organization].

On one side of the corridor there were one-man cells and on the other side there were torture rooms. When they were torturing someone they opened the door so that the screams could be heard by other inmates to "teach them a lesson".



From my cell I could single out Z.'s voice. She was taken to the torture room three to four times a day and from my own experience I understood that they were applying electric current and hosing pressurized water on her. For 10 minutes or so I could hear her saying, "I don't know that person" and then her voice was not heard. She must have been unconscious during those times of silence.

We could see each other on the 16th day of my detention. Two policemen grabbed her by the arms actually pulling her up to stand and walk. The next day they took us for examination by an official doctor. The doctor did not even ask if we had any complaints. Besides, the policemen who were accompanying us with automatic guns had already told us "not to make any complaints". They were ready to transfer us from the security forces building to prison, but because of Z.'s condition - she was unable to walk - they made us wait one more day. That night they continuously forced her to walk to show that she was to leave the security forces building in "good shape". I could hear her resisting."

"Besides Z., I have witnessed what they did to other women. For instance, my wife was taken into custody with me. As well as accusations against her, they tried to use her to make me talk. They brought her in front of me with continuous threats of undressing and raping her. They threatened to rape her or to insert police clubs [into her vaginal]. They beat her severely each time. On the second day of our arrest, they went home to get our child who had been left with our neighbours. But by that time our relatives had already taken the child away and they could not find it. My wife became a nervous person following these weeks of torture and threats. After she was temporarily released (to remain under police surveillance) she continuously suffered various illnesses due to this physical and psychological damage."

