

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

*Announcement:*

Amnesty International reports that Turkish archaeology student Emrullah Karagoz (?1978-) is at grave risk of “disappearance”. Brought before a judge and remanded to Diyarbakir prison together with another person, his whereabouts are unclear. On 30 March 2001, NCH already participated in a campaign for Emrullah Karagoz, who was at risk of torture then (see NCH#21, #23). We hope that you can send the recommended urgent appeals immediately. Please remember to write in your professional capacity.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGENT ACTION APPEAL**

5 November 2001—UA 280/01—Risk of “disappearance”, fear of torture or ill-treatment—**TURKEY**

Emrullah Karagoz, (m) student, aged 23

Mustafa Yasar, (m) welder, aged 29

Emrullah Karagoz and Mustafa Yasar were brought before a judge and remanded to Diyarbakir prison, in southeast Turkey, on 1 November. However, the prison authorities have reportedly denied that the men are there. Turkish authorities have confirmed that Mustafa Yasar is in police detention where he may be at risk of torture. Emrullah Karagoz’s whereabouts are unclear and he is at grave risk of “disappearance”.

Both men are members of the legal pro-Kurdish political party, HADEP: Emrullah Karagoz works for its youth wing. Mustafa Yasar is also a member of the Human Rights Association (IHD).

Mustafa Yasar, a father of three children, was detained by plainclothes police officers at his home on 29 October. After he was remanded to prison he was apparently taken back into police custody for further interrogation.

Archaeology student Emrullah Karagoz's family have not seen him since 27 October. However, gendarmes came and asked for him on 29 October, and searched the family's house. After his father made enquiries, the Diyarbakir prosecutor admitted on 1 November that Emrullah Karagoz had been detained. Emrullah Karagoz has reportedly been tortured by police officers before (EXTRA 22/01 issued 28 March 2001 and follow-up). His whereabouts are now unknown.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has received numerous accounts of people being illegally detained and tortured by police in Diyarbakir. Fesih Guler was reportedly tortured while held illegally at the Anti-Terror Branch of Police Headquarters (Further Information on UA 317/00 issued 17 October 2000). Fahrettin Ozdemir reportedly spent a total of 59 days in police custody, during which he was severely tortured (EXTRA 30/00 issued 3 April 2000).

Whereas torture is rarely reported from prisons, in police stations torture appears to be 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 in Turkey documented by Amnesty International include severe beatings, being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, suspending by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

The Turkish Regulation on Apprehension, Police Custody and Interrogation provides clear guidelines for the registration of people taken into custody and their right to inform their relatives 'unless informing the relatives will harm the investigation'. In an amendment to the Constitution on 3 October 2001 this restriction was lifted. Yet guidelines for the prompt and proper registration of detainees and for notification of their families are often ignored. This is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, who often spend days trying to establish the whereabouts of their loved ones. Failure to register detainees properly and promptly creates conditions in which there is an increased risk of torture, and 'disappearance' or death in custody can occur.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible:

expressing concern for the safety of Emrullah Karagoz and asking to be told where he is;  
expressing concern at reports that Mustafa Yasar may have been returned to the Anti-Terror Branch of Police Headquarters in Diyarbakir where he is at risk of torture or ill-treatment;  
urging the authorities to ensure that neither Emrullah Karagoz nor Mustafa Yasar are tortured or ill-treated, and that both are given immediate access to their lawyers and relatives;  
asking the authorities to take action to prevent the torture of detainees at Diyarbakir Police Headquarters, pointing out that the government is bound by the European Convention on Human Rights.

**APPEALS TO:**

Minister of the Interior  
Mr Rustu Kazim Yucelen  
Ministry of Interior  
Icislari Bakanligi  
06644 Ankara, Turkey  
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey  
Fax: 011 90 312 418 17 95  
Salutation: Dear Minister

Diyarbakir Police Headquarters  
Mr Atilla Cinar  
Diyarbakir Emniyet Muduru  
Diyarbakir Emniyet Mudurlugu  
Diyarbakir, Turkey  
Telegrams: 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

Nejat Arseven

Office of the Prime Minister,

Basbakanlik,

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Fax: 011 90 312 417 04 76

Salutation: Dear Minister

Ambassador Baki Ilkin

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

2525 Massachusetts Ave. NW

Washington DC 20008

Fax: 1 202 612 6744

Please send appeals immediately. Check with NCH if sending appeals after December 17, 2001.