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TORTURE IN TURKEY

The drawings of torture in this edition were published in Turkey by the weekly Nokta of February 2, 1986, but the edition was banned and confiscated, following publication.

Following publication of revelations from a former police torturer, public debate on torture became widespread in Turkey in January 1986. The testimony from former torturers and accusations from those formerly detained or from the families of disappeared detainees, daily reinforce the number of those who ask that government formally and firmly condemn all forms of torture by its "secular arm."

The Populist Social-Democrat Party (SHP) has also requested the creation of a parliamentary enquiry commission on torture to propose the necessary reforms which may bring an end to torture.

In a similar context, the Turkish government on February 1 gave its first report about torture and the "evolution towards democracy" to the Council of Europe's Commission on Human Rights. The contents of this report, written up in accordance with the "friendly settlement" between Turkey and the five European countries, has been kept strictly confidential (see: *Bulletin Info-Türk* of December 1985).

On the other hand, the military tribunal of Ankara on February 8 acquitted 59 Turkish intellectuals accused of having gone against martial law by circulating a petition demanding an end to torture, to the death penalty and to restrictions on freedom of the press in Turkey. This petition had been put before President Kenan Evren in May, 1984, Ankara still having been under martial law at that time. The president of the tribunal justified the acquittal on the grounds that evidence pointing to the intellectuals' guilt was lacking.

Without any doubtç all this debate is the consequence —on one hand— of the strengthening of popular resistance to the anti-democratic practices of the present regime; and, on the other hand, of the pressure being put on Ankara by European democratic forces who demand total respect to human rights in the Southeast of Europe.

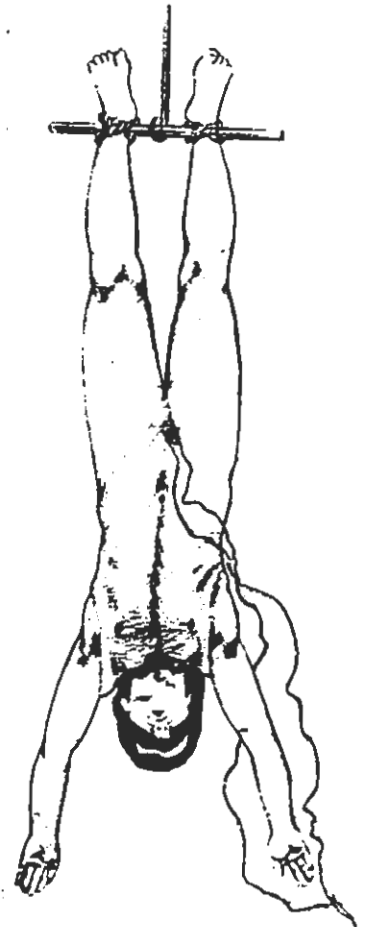


THE HANGER OF PALESTINE

Of all the forms of torture practised in Turkey, this is the most painful. It is currently practised. It is not easy to resist. One cannot bear it for more than 20 minutes. Whether for man or woman, the procedure is the same. The victim is suspended completely nude. The hands are tied from behind with belts in the middle of which a hole is made before a pipe through it. The victim climbs onto a stool, is suspended from hooks in the ceiling and the stool is withdrawn. As the victim hangs in the air, the shoulder blades and the sides exert tremendous pressure on the lungs and at this moment the victim feels a pain so unbearable that he faints after a while. But he is given an electric charge to make him regain consciousness. Cables are attached to his big toe and to his sexual organs. A cable hangs "empty" and is sometimes attached to the nose or ears, in other words, to the places which will hurt him most. The operation continues until the patient responds "correctly" to the questions he is asked.

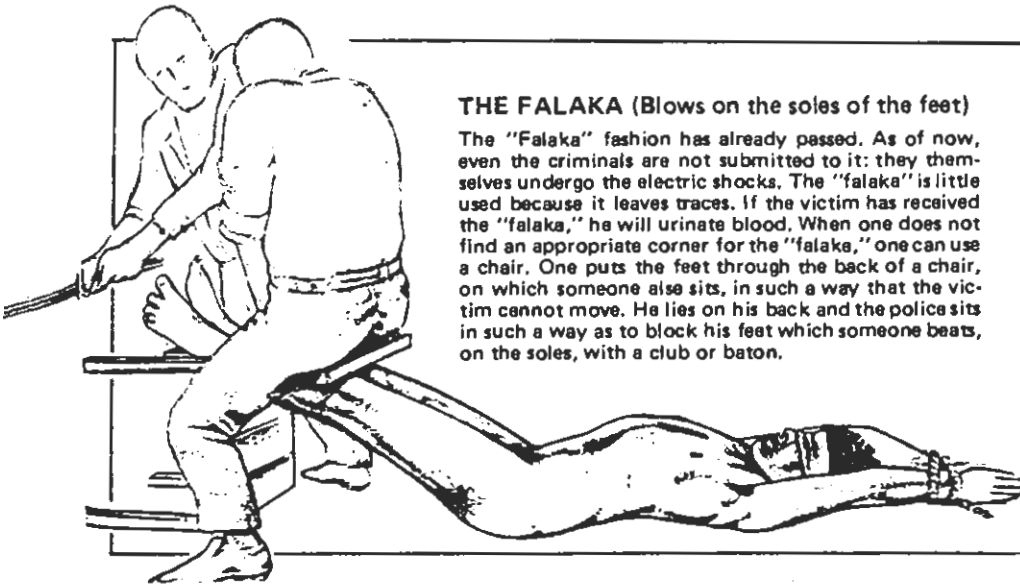
THE BUTCHER'S HANGER

There are two kinds of hangers in an interrogation room: the butcher's hanger and the hanger of Palestine. They both are fixed to the same place: the ceiling. If one does not work, the other is used. Weights are attached to each but the means of using them is different. Again, there is a pipe, two hooks and a belt. The difference from the other? Here the victim hangs by his feet and he is completely nude.



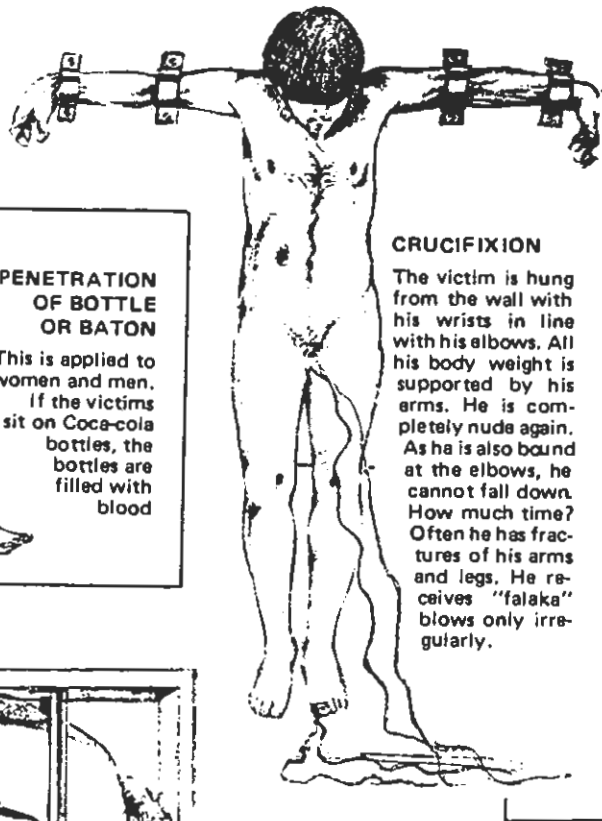
THE FALAKA (Blows on the soles of the feet)

The "Falaka" fashion has already passed. As of now, even the criminals are not submitted to it: they themselves undergo the electric shocks. The "falaka" is little used because it leaves traces. If the victim has received the "falaka," he will urinate blood. When one does not find an appropriate corner for the "falaka," one can use a chair. One puts the feet through the back of a chair, on which someone else sits, in such a way that the victim cannot move. He lies on his back and the police sits in such a way as to block his feet which someone beats, on the soles, with a club or baton.



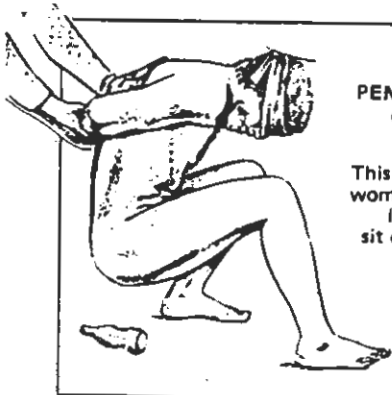
CRUCIFIXION

The victim is hung from the wall with his wrists in line with his elbows. All his body weight is supported by his arms. He is completely nude again. As he is also bound at the elbows, he cannot fall down. How much time? Often he has fractures of his arms and legs. He receives "falaka" blows only irregularly.



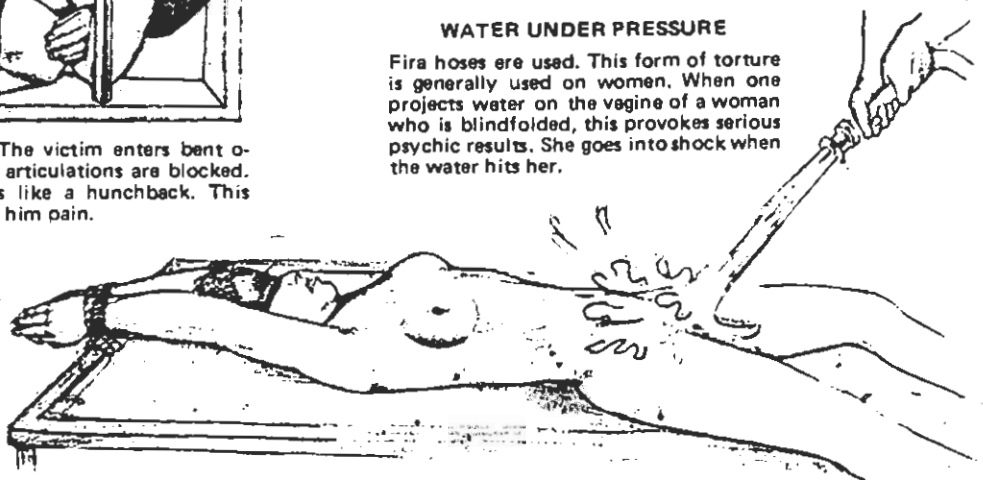
PENETRATION OF BOTTLE OR BATON

This is applied to women and men. If the victims sit on Coca-cola bottles, the bottles are filled with blood



WATER UNDER PRESSURE

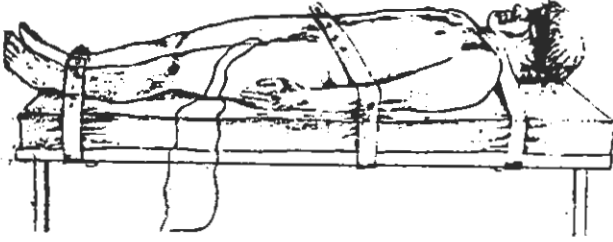
Fira hoses are used. This form of torture is generally used on women. When one projects water on the vagine of a woman who is blindfolded, this provokes serious psychic results. She goes into shock when the water hits her.



THE TORTOISE CELL: The victim enters bent over. He cannot budge: his articulations are blocked. When he leaves, he walks like a hunchback. This breaks his spirit and causes him pain.

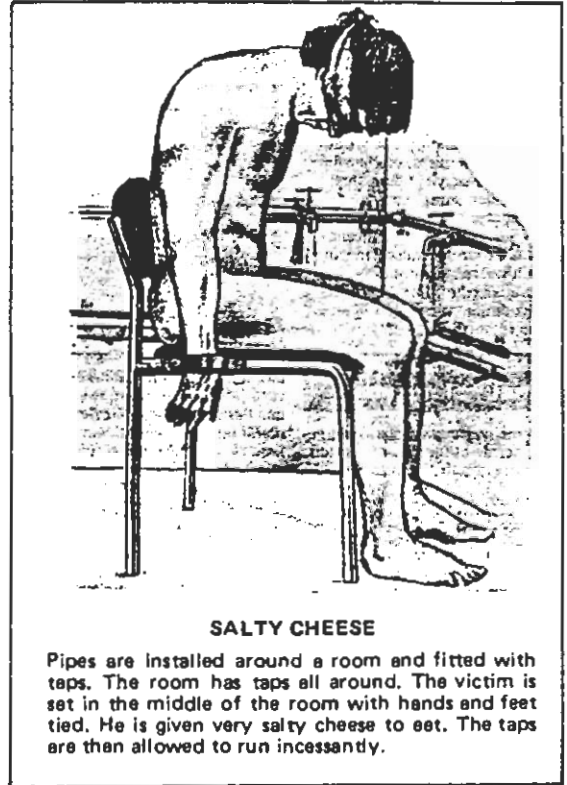


OPERATION TABLE: It is called a table, but it is not really one. It is a cot. There are belts at certain points of the cot. The victim is tied by his feet and hands, completely nude with eyes blindfolded. Afterwards, his body is wet with salty water to assure that the current passes through his entire body. The salty water is thrown on both the victim and the cot. Therefore, when the electric charge comes, it goes through his whole body.



SEPTIC PIT

This is generally applied to the leaders of an organization, when the interrogation is finished and after breaking the victim's spirit. He is put in the septic pit up to the neck. He does not leave it until he has to follow the call of nature. When he leaves the pit, he has on his body fist-sized lumps of filth.



SALTY CHEESE

Pipes are installed around a room and fitted with taps. The room has taps all around. The victim is set in the middle of the room with hands and feet tied. He is given very salty cheese to eat. The taps are then allowed to run incessantly.

COLLECTIVE TORTURE: This is applied when an accused does not talk or hides a part of the truth. One of his hands is handcuffed to bars along the wall. His eyes are blindfolded. A label is attached to his back. Those responsible for his punishment act according to the instructions on the label. For instance, do not give him anything to eat or drink, but he may go to the toilet. Certain instructions go with certain actions. We have no proof but we suspect that the accused has hidden the name of his collaborators or parts of things that took place. In this case, he is forbidden to eat, drink or go to the toilet. If he is not being punished, he can receive water. Beyond that, he shall receive nothing.

However, despite the lifting of martial law in Istanbul and Ankara, debate on torture has not developed as it should, and those who dare to make any revelations or demand firm measures for an end to torture often risk intimidation, threats, or simply persecution.

In minimizing the testimony or irrefutable revelations, government circles describe all debate on torture as an element of the communist campaign seeking to discredit the Turkish police and to destroy the Turkish State's prestige abroad.

Even "President of the Republic" Evren and his prime minister Ozal have made themselves heard in this manner. During a visit to the presidential palace and braving General Evren's anger, Aydın Güven Gürkan, the chairman of the SHP, found himself obliged to justify his parliamentarians' steps against torture in the following way: "Mister President, as you know, there's a big campaign abroad proclaiming that democracy does not exist in Turkey and that human rights are systematically violated. Five European countries have begun a process to judge the Turkish State by international standards. We want to show them that these topics can be discussed in Turkey under every circumstance. By our parliamentary initiative on this subject, we render a service in the interest of our country..." According to *Milliyet* of February 8, General Evren would have allowed this opinion, but advising the parliamentary opposition leader not to go too far and to be prudent in his declarations.

All the same the authorities' reaction to the weekly *Nokta* which published the admissions of a former police torturer has not been as understanding.

Sedat Caner has admitted in his interview that he had practised torture on 200 left or right-wing activists after the military coup. He has also revealed the names of detainees who have been killed during torture.

What's more, *Nokta*, basing itself on Caner's revelations, published drawings which explained the different methods of torture used at interrogation centers.

It was after these revelations that polemics were let loose in the Turkish press as well as the National Assembly. While Prime Minister Ozal proclaimed that the author of the admissions was an extreme leftist militant and that his declarations had no credibility at all, the Minister of the Interior accused *Nokta* of taking part in the campaign of lies organized and orchestrated by communist organizations abroad.

However, since martial law has been lifted in a great part of the country, a banning of the weekly by a mere decree from a military commander has not been possible anymore. Nevertheless, while waiting for a decision from the judge on the ban and seizure of the editions which had the former torturer's admissions, thousands of police officers were made to buy in bulk all copies of the daily in each of the country's provinces. Some days later, a justice of the peace in Istanbul decided on confiscating the weekly in question.

As for the former torturer, he has been brought

before the Public Prosecutor in Ankara and was arrested immediately to testify before the judiciary. It is possible that he may be tried as a torturer, as well as certain police officers held responsible for their victim's death in certain torture cases.

Doubtlessly, all these judicial actions will be held up before world opinion as new proof of the "goodwill" of Turkey's leaders.

But torture is not only the deed of certain sadistic policemen abusing their power, but rather quite a part of the state's repressive politics which is manifested more brutally with each military intervention.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

According to an Amnesty International report titled *Turkey: Victims of Torture Testify* and published in Paris in January, 1986, "Torture is systematic and widespread in Turkey. Anyone detained in this country for political reasons run great risk of being tortured, and few detainees escape the illtreatment of all kinds meted out in the commissariats, the prisons and the security forces' interrogations and detention centers.

After the 1980 military coup, the security forces went on to make thousands of arrests. The people arrested by the security forces at the end of the preliminary inquiry numbered 178, 565. The duration of detention without a court-warrant was immediately raised to 30 days, then, in November of 1980, to 90 days; in September 1981, this period was reduced to 45 days. Then in May, 1985, to 30 days."

During this period of preliminary inquiry "the police practiced torture in the police stations, but Amnesty International has been made aware of details about torture equally practiced in prisons and other institutions under the control of the army, particularly the prisons of Diyarbakir, Erzurum, Mamak (near Ankara) and Metris in Istanbul. Burning political prisoners with cigarettes seems equally routine in the Buca prison in Izmir and in the Category E special civil prison of Malatya, one of the numerous prisons reserved over the last years for political prisoners and arms dealers.

"The primary reason for torture in the police stations seems to be to obtain admissions and information. As detailed accounts of torture show, intimidation and humiliation seem to have as much a role in military prisons as in the police stations. Amnesty International has learned equally that prisoners have been interrogated and tortured anew after several years of detention.

"Since the 1980 coup, Amnesty International has given the authorities the names of a hundred people who might have died during their detention. Amnesty International has received a reply from the authorities about 82 of them. In some cases, they declared that procedures or instructions were in process. In others, the deaths were attributed to suicide, accidents or sickness. For the others, a lack of information is blamed or the absence of any record of detention. In nine cases, the person in question was still alive. For the unanswered cases, Amnesty International does not know if investigations have been launched.

"On July 24, 1980, the prime minister's press service published the following information in a document about the cases against torturers.

- Total number of allegations of torture and illtreatment 897
- Cases under investigation. 153
- Complaints without grounds (dropped from investigation) 584

- Cases brought before tribunals 46
- Closed cases 114
- Suspects under arrest 9
- Suspects tried but still not arrested 69
- Suspects acquitted 218
- Sentences to prison 102

"The Turkish authorities have several times denied the systematic character of torture. Often, during their trial, defendants have declared that they had been tortured, but no investigation seems to have been carried out. With regard to the great number of complaints lodged, Amnesty International estimates that, altogether, very few of them have been the object of an official investigation.

"In April 1985, Amnesty International continued to receive information about detainees being tortured.

"In light of the detailed and repeated information which has been reaching it for some years, Amnesty International thinks that the Turkish government should engage itself with putting an end to torture, respecting human, and putting in action the following measures:

- o The highest Turkish authorities should give clear and public instructions to all those responsible for the detention, interrogation and care of prisoners, indicating that torture will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

- o Steps should be taken so that secret detention does not facilitate or give rise to torture. The government should bring it about that all detainees are quickly brought before the courts after their arrest, and that relatives, lawyers and doctors can visit them quickly and regularly.

- o Family and lawyers should be quickly informed of where the prisoner is being kept. None should be detained secretly.

- o An independent body should regularly visit the detention centers, to ensure that torture is not being practiced there.

- o The Turkish government should institute an impartial commission charged with investigating all complaints and information about torture; the methods and results of the investigation should be made public.

- o The admissions and other declarations obtained through torture should in no case be used during a case.

- o Each time that it is proved a functionary committed or instigated torture, court proceedings should be brought against him, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on torture.

- o It should be clearly taught that torture is a crime, to the functionaries, members of the armed forces, and those responsible for the detention, interrogation and care of prisoners. These functionaries should be informed that it is their duty to refuse the torturer's order. The United Nations Code of Conduct for those responsible for applying the law and all regulations of the treatment of detainees should be widely distributed.

- o Torture victims and their families should receive reparation and compensation for their moral and physical suffering, without prejudice to any other civil action or penal process."

THOSE REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR TORTURE

It should be remembered right away that the civil government coming out of the 1983 legislative elections have not taken up to now any initiative to put into practice the steps Amnesty International proposed.

Although a parliamentary inquiry commission was formed in 1985 to control prison conditions it

has not effected a serious investigation into prisons directed by the military. Whereas, the majority of political prisoners are still in military-directed jails, despite the lifting of martial law in many provinces.

As we have pointed out several times, despite the fact that the present government is a civil one, the real power rests in the hands of the military.

The military never gives authorization to investigate their responsibility in practices of torture because it is they that institutionalized torture as an interrogation method when they overthrew the civil government and forced the National Assembly to proclaim martial law in 1971.

It is during this two-year period after this first repressive coup that a department of the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces made its name as the author of all kinds of measures such as manhunt and torture. We are talking about the Counter-guerilla Organization. The official title of this organization is "The Department of Special Warfare."

Founded according to a military bilateral accord between Turkey and the United States, this organization was housed in the same building in Ankara as the US Military Aid Mission (JUSMATT).

The training of officers in this department was conducted by the American secret services. Seemingly the aim of this department was to create resistance forces in case of an "uprising" or foreign aggression. But the concrete form that the training takes and the directives which were given show that this department could serve to repress social awakening.

In several memoranda from the department, the term "uprising" is defined as "political and social opposition to the established order in the country."

Referring to this interpretation, during the period of military repression between 1971 and 1973, the Department of Special Warfare organized and perpetrated manhunts, torture and launched accusations against anyone who disapproved of the existing social order and the military intervention.

Several witnesses to torture during this period have revealed irrefutably that even the generals and colonels in this department have practiced torture in the interrogation centers. Figuring equally among them are the martial law commanders.

Following these revelations, after the return to civil rule in 1973, this department returned to its clandestine activities again. Alarmed by this department's illegal and anti-democratic practices, Mr Bülent Ecevit tried several times as prime minister to show evidence of its status and subversive activities, but he came up against the refusal of the Army Chiefs.

Between 1973 and 1980, the Counter-guerilla organization maintained close relations with the neo-fascist party of ex-colonel Alparslan Türkeş and provided it with arms and covered its violence acts. What is more, the department had a "special bureau" known as "Bayraktarlık" and located in Cyprus, which gave asylum to extreme right-wing political assassins who have killed progressive people.

The purpose of this department's collaboration with neo-fascist assassins (the Grey Wolves) was to provoke political violence in the country and to furnish the army with the pretext for a new coup.

On September 12, 1980 -as soon as their objective was accomplished- the Grey Wolves who were responsible for the deaths of more than five thousand victims of political violence, stopped their activities.

As for the officers of the Counter-Guerilla Organization, they immediately put in practice all the instruments of repression, including the special interrogation centers.

After the modification of the law on martial law

use, all the security forces, including the police and the gendarmerie were put under the command of martial law officers.

Therefore, all torture practices, whether in the Counter-Guerilla Organization's special interrogation centers, in the police stations or in the military or civil prisons, have been inflicted either by the military or by police directed by them.

As Amnesty International has indicated, with regards to the great number of complaints lodged, very few have been the object of an official inquiry. In fact, since the coup, more than 200,000 people have been detained without court warrant by the security forces for preliminary inquest. During the trial of more than fifty thousand politically accused before the military tribunals, thousands of complaints were lodged about the practice of torture and illtreatment. The military judges have systematically refused to carry out an investigation into these complaints.

In fact, in several cases where a complaint was lodged, evidence of torture had been inflicted during the first days of the detention without court warrant whose duration was 90 days at the start and shortly after was reduced to 45 days. Furthermore, of the 897 complaints of torture, only 153 have been investigated and only 102 torturers have been sentenced to prison. Among those sentenced only about to have actually been incarcerated. As for the others, they kept their jobs at interrogation centers and continued to practice torture while waiting for the higher court's decision.

What's more, all the torturers sentenced are policemen who, through lack of experience, left traces or caused their victims' deaths during torture. As for the Army officers practicing torture, they have been "well-trained" by the Counter-Guerilla Organization and leave no traces.

To save face following protest by European circles against torture in Turkey, the military have accused some policemen as scapegoat and have presented themselves as "paragons of virtue" in the fight against the torturers.

TORTURE STILL BEING PRACTICED

In previous issues of *Info-Türk*, we have regularly published the torture allegations that we have received either directly or through international humanitarian and democratic organizations.

In spite of all the claims that Turkey might have ended the period of military rule with legislative elections in 1983, testimony about torture inflicted on political prisoners do not stop coming.

Even after the "friendly settlement" between Turkey and five European countries, the Turkish press published several cases of torture. According to this settlement, the State Supervisory Council created by Article 108 of the 1982 Constitution has been charged with seeing to it that all the authorities (including those at the detention centers, the police stations and the civil and military prisons) strictly observe the obligations Turkey assumed under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

But, this agreement on Turkey's part has no value, because according to the Constitution "the armed forces and the judicial bodies are outside the competence of the State Supervisory Council." Moreover, "members of the Council including their president, are nominated by the president of the Republic..."

Given that General Evren was the chief of General Staff from 1977 to 1982 and commander in chief of the Armed Forces with the title of "President of the Republic" since 1982, he is personally responsible for all forms of torture practiced by the military.

As for the civil government, as earlier explained, it has not the least intention of putting an end to these practices. Even if it had, it will never be able to prosecute the military torturers since the present constitution remains in force and the Counter-Guerilla Organization escapes all civil control.

To better illustrate the continuation of torture practices, we list below the recent torture cases which the press has also mentioned:

On December 18, a retired teacher, Mr Nurettin Gedik, revealed at a press conference that he had been tortured for 21 days at a police station in Elazığ.

On January 5, 1986, at the Dev-Yol trial in Ankara, lawyers denounced 20 policemen responsible for the deaths of six detainees during torture. According to the lawyers, in the DAL section of the Police Center of Ankara, political detainees were tortured in the following ways: deprivation of food and water, "the falaka", beatings, electric shock, introduction of batons into the anus, sticking a needle under the fingernails, twisting the testicles, etc.

On January 16, lawyer Sakir Koceli revealed that he had been tortured with his four colleagues and that the latter were all handicapped because of being tortured.

On January 30, Necati Emgüli, an accused in the Dev-Yol trial, revealed details of the torture he was submitted to during his interrogation at the Mersin police station.

On January 31, the populist deputy Fikri Saglar denounced the fact that at Adıyaman, Kazım Cakır, a detainee, had been killed in prison while his brother Mehmet Cakır was crucified by torturers.

The same day, relatives of detainees in the military prison at Mersin protested against the illtreatment inflicted by the penitentiary authorities. According to them, the detainees were allowed to see neither their lawyers nor their relatives for two and a half years. They were deprived of the right to read newspapers or books. Letters or money sent by their families did not reach them. Certain detainees are still kept in cells known as "Siberia."

On February 1, in Ankara, attorney Ersan Sansal revealed that Arif Hikmet İyidoğan had been tortured in the Ankara prison between March 28, and April 18, 1985.

On February 2, a 23-year-old detainee, Recep Tuna, was found dead in the prison at Samsatlılar. His relatives have demanded an autopsy.

The same day, during proceedings against the left-wing organization Dev-Sol, lawyers declared that the penitentiary authorities punished detainees who refused to wear uniforms. In particular, they were not allowed to see their lawyers, were deprived of all means to prepare their defense and often made to stand outside buildings, even in freezing weather.

On February 3, a detainee, Hasan Celik, was hospitalized in a comatose state following his interrogation at the police centre at Çorum. Although doctors said he was suffering from brain trauma, governor Fikret Koçak declared that he was suffering only from shock brought on by a gendarme's shout.

On February 5, the daily *Cumhuriyet* revealed that a detainee, Zekeriya Ulküçü, was in a coma following the introduction of a baton in his anus by torturers, while he was in a commissariat in İstanbul for his interrogation.

Same day, populist deputy Kadir Narin revealed the names of 22 detainees who had been tortured during their interrogation.

What is most serious, another populist deputy,

Fikri Saglar, has declared that three detainees in the prison at Mersin set themselves afire as a sign of protest against illtreatment. Furthermore, another detainee, teacher Ali Uygun, might have been buried secretly after having been killed during torture at the prison in Tarsus.

Illtreatment in the Adana prison has already brought about a hunger strike on the part of 145 political detainees, starting from January 31, 1986.

According to a declaration from the populist deputy Fikri Saglar, the number of detainees killed or having "committed suicide" in interrogation centers or prisons since the coup has risen to more than 800.

The Minister of the Interior Yıldırım Akbulut declared on January 29, 1986, that the number of those who had committed suicide in interrogation centers was only 44. In 1985 only, three detainees committed suicide at the police center in Ankara.

On February 8, during the PKK trial before a military tribunal in Diyarbakır, the military prosecutor confirmed the deaths of 32 detainees in the military prison in the same town. According to him, eight of these 32 victims committed suicide, six died after a hunger strike, and as for the other sixteen, they died from natural causes.

Taking into account that the majority of the detainees are young militants, the pronouncement of "natural death" is far from convincing. The other detainees have declared in their defense that 32 people had been killed either through torture or because of illtreatment in prison.

DEPORTATION IN THE EASTERN TURKEY

A recent enquiry mission by the Social-democrat Populist Party (SHP), has reached the conclusion —through studies it carried out— that Eastern Turkey has become a big concentration camp under the martial law regime that is still in force there.

According to the populist deputies İhsan Elgin and Cüneyt Canver, the martial law commander in the region has stripped of their authority 49 elders (moukhtars) elected in 1984 in Tunceli Province, populated mainly by Kurds, and has deported 27 people accused of "activities harmful to the State's interests." The Minister of Interior declared himself powerless before the practices of the martial law commander.

The two deputies have classified Tunceli —one of those provinces where the proportion of police in relation to inhabitants is the highest— as "the biggest prison in Turkey."

The same mission, during its investigation in the region, discovered a murder committed during torture.

In the Genç district of Bingöl Province, a teacher, Sıddık Bilgin, and his uncle, Mehmet Bilgin, were arrested July 27, 1985, by soldiers. Up to July 31, they were interrogated under torture. According to evidence from Mehmet Bilgin, who is a former senator, after the torture, the soldiers took Sıddık Bilgin to a cemetery and cut him down with bullets. Following the murder, the victim's corpse was buried in the garden of the interrogation station. Although everyone knew it was a military unit under the command of Captain Ali Sahin that had executed Bilgin, the military prosecutor has not opened a judicial inquiry into the actions of those responsible. Captain Ali Sahin claimed that Bilgin was a "separatist" and was killed while trying to escape.

The two deputies have decided to let their beards grow as a sign of protest and have declared they will not shave until a file is opened on the affair.

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Elsewhere, in the Hozat district of Tunceli Province, a retired teacher, Yusuf Karaagaç, revealed that his son, Mahmut Erim Karaagaç, 24 years old, had been similarly cut down by policemen after having been tortured for 45 days.

He has also revealed that in Pazarcik district in Kahramanmaraş Province, six people —Hasan Mesken, Ali Cetiner, Hüseyin Engirek, Ali Ovayolu, Fidan Yıldırım and Ali Tasyurdu— disappeared following disciplinary operations against militant Kurds by the Armed Forces in the region.

GROWING INDIGNATION

All these recent revelations have given rise to great indignation on the part of people in Turkey, and even former right-wing politicians, who were always in favour of repressive measures against the regime's opponents, have declared themselves in favour of steps to end torture. But the present rulers take no account of any criticism or suggestion on this subject.

The populist deputies have already drawn up a legal plan with the idea of increasing prison sentences for torturers, but the governmental majority of the juridical Commission of the National Assembly rejected it on January 15, 1986.

Mr Haydar Çzalp, one of the spokesmen for the

parliamentary group of the ANAP, the party in power declared to the ANKA press agency that even when acts of torture have been proved, they must be kept hidden to preserve the Turkish State's prestige abroad.

Conversely, the other right-wing parties as well as the former right-wing political leaders of the regime before the coup have declared that they support all the steps against torture taken by the social-democrat SHP. Former Prime Minister Demirel has declared: "If torture takes place in a country, it is a political problem and the leaders of the country are equally responsible for this practice. Therefore, these leaders should quit their posts."

(TTB), whose leaders are persecuted for having demanded an end to the death sentence, announced on February 4 that they would nullify the professional certificate of any doctor who took part in torture.

Finally, the stand with regard to torture has become a major criterion in Turkey to determine the level of respect individuals or organizations have for fundamental human rights.

The present rule, with all its components —military or civil— has been found in flagrant fault. A rule that has no intention of respecting international conventions forbidding torture does not deserve to be a part of international institutions such as the Council of Europe.

FINAL PHASE OF THE TRIAL AGAINST DISK

The trial against the Progressive Trade Unions Confederation of Turkey (DISK) and its 29 affiliates, involving 1,478 trade union leaders and officials, has now reached its final phase.

When the trial started in 1981, the main charge was based on the claim that DISK had resorted to violence and coercion. In the initial bill of indictment of June 1980 the military prosecutor had called for the application of article 146 (carrying the death sentence on account of "attempts to overthrow the constitutional order") of the Turkish Penal Code against 52 —later 78— leaders of the DISK national centre, and article 141 (carrying imprisonment of between 8 and 15 years) against the leaders of the DISK affiliate unions.

Between January 15-28, 1986, the military prosecutor read out the final indictment containing 809 pages in which he revised his earlier request for death sentence (article 146 of the TPC, referred to above), no action of violence having been proven, and called instead for prison sentences (under article 141 of the TPC) ranging from 6 years and 8 months to 20 years for 781 of the accused and acquittal for the remainder of the defendants.

The trial which is now in its fifth year will resume late February when the lawyers will take up the defence. Disk President Abdullah Bağtürk himself intends to take an active part in the defence proceedings.

The General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), John Vanderveken, in a telex addressed to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, reminding it of the final indictment against the DISK leaders, protested against the decision of the Assembly to hold a mini-session in Turkey.

"From the trade union's point of view it is fully incomprehensible and unacceptable that a democratic institution like the Council of Europe should convene a meeting in Turkey thus conferring international respectability on a state of affairs that is demonstratively undemocratic. In the ICFTU's view, therefore,

it is inappropriate to hold at present any European meeting of any kind in Turkey," said Mr Vanderveken. "Trade union activity continues to be curbed by drastic constitutional and legal restraints to the extent that our affiliate Türk-İs is presently engaged in a nationwide campaign for the restoration of trade union rights and removal of the restrictive provisions from current Turkish labour legislation and the 1982 Constitution. It is imperative that these developments be taken into consideration by those sections within the Council of Europe which seek a so-called friendly settlement of Turkish/West European relations. It must be evident that there is no justification whatsoever for the Council of Europe to restore inter-parliamentary relations with Turkey. We also take the opportunity to express our profound regret at the recent decision of five Western European governments, members of the Council of Europe, to drop their case against Turkey at the European Commission of Human Rights."

On the other hand, the World Labour Confederation (WCL), too, has addressed the Council of Europe demanding that it not organize meetings in Turkey as long as trade union rights are not restored in this country.

As for the other international labour organization, the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), it called insistently for a new solidarity campaign in putting an end to this mockery of a trial which has lasted for a long time."

RECENT SENTENCES

On January 5, in Diyarbakır, 5 militants of the Kurdish organization Ala Rızgari, to 5 years and 8 months each.

6.1, in Istanbul, three theology students, to 7-year prison term each for "separatist activities".

7.1, in Diyarbakır, 6 Kurdish militants to prison terms up to 8 years.

8.1, in Izmir, 11 TDKP members to different prison terms totalling 43 years.

9.1, in Adana, 7 militants of a left-wing organization to different terms up to life-imprisonment.

22.1, in Izmir, four Welfare Party (RP) officials, to 4-year prison terms each for "anti-secular propaganda".

24.1, in Izmir, 16 TKP/ML militants, to different prison terms of up to 20 years.

25.1, in Diyarbakir, 8 members of the Turkish organization KUK, to 8-year prison terms each.

31.1, in Erzurum, two engineers, presumed members of TKEP, to 6-year prison terms each.

NEW POLITICAL TRIALS

5.1, in Bursa, against 110 political detainees for carrying out resistance against disciplinary measures in prison.

8.1, in Ankara, a new trial against 39 members of the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey (TSIP), one of the legal left-wing parties of the pre-coup period.

17.1, in Istanbul, seventh mass trial against the Revolutionary Left (Dev-Sol), 14 out of 53 defendants face capital punishment.

NEW ARRESTS

4.1, in Kirsehir, 21 left-wing militants.

7.1, in Adana, 9 left-wing militants.

8.1, in Istanbul, a militant of TDKP.

16.1, four Kurdish militants are shot dead by the security forces during a combing operation carried out in the Sirt-Mardin region. Also, 30 Kurdish militants are arrested.

23.1, in Malatya, a street vendor is arrested for selling music cassettes of Kurdish music.

27.1, the security forces shoot dead 2 Kurdish militants and arrest 21 others in the district of Idil in Mardin province.

313 PRESS CASES WITHIN LAST 2 YEARS

According to a survey published by the daily *Cumhuriyet* of February 13, 1986, since the constitution of a civil government, within a 2-year period, 313 legal proceedings have been taken against journalists only in Istanbul. The number of the banned and confiscated publications in the same period rises to 154.

In addition to these new cases, 182 journalists, writers or translators are still being tried for communist propaganda, anti-secular propaganda or for slandering the government in 121 different proceedings which had been started before the military intervention.

The number of the cases against the Press for obscene publication has reached to 109 within the last 2-year period.

New cases against the press

9.1, Henry Miller's novel, "The Tropic of Cancer", is banned and confiscated for "obscenity".

15.1, public prosecutor takes a legal proceeding against journalist Erbil Tusalp for his book entitled

"A Thousand Men". Tusalp treats in this book the problem of human rights around the world as well as in Turkey.

19.1, six cinema actors and actresses are brought before a tribunal for the films which they had made six years ago. They are accused of "obscenity."

24.1, journalist Necmi Onur is incarcerated for serving his prison term. He was condemned for slandering a former vice-premier.

26.1, the February issue of the monthly magazine "Erkekçe" is banned and confiscated for "obscene" publication.

29.1, public prosecutor starts a legal proceeding against two journalists of the daily *Cumhuriyet*, İlhan Selçuk and Okay Gönensin. They are accused of slandering the state organs and each faces a 6-year prison term.

30.1, a work of Nazım Hikmet, the most famous Turkish poet, is confiscated and its publisher is pursued by public prosecutor. This work entitled "Ivan Ivanovitch: Has he existed?" had been written by the author when he was in exile and the introduction of this book into Turkey had been banned by a government decree in 1951.

31.1, translation into Turkish of the Old and New Testaments is banned and confiscated just after its publication in Turkey.

NEW REPRESSIVE MEASURES

The National Assembly has adopted two repressive laws concerning freedom of expression.

According to the law modifying Articles 175, 176, 177 and 178 of the Turkish Penal Code, all those who use words that are not compatible with respect for God, the prophets and holy books will be sentenced to a one-year prison term. If this act is committed in writing, the author will be sentenced for up to three years.

The second law imposes a new system of censorship on films, video-cassettes, music cassettes and records. A nine-person control commission consisting of representatives from certain ministries and the National Security Council will have all authority to censor any realization considered "against the safe-guard of state interest, national sovereignty, public order, public interest and national morality."

Furthermore, the directors of Turkish Radio-TV (TRT) announced on January 15 that it would ban the use of 2,000 words in broadcasts. Previously, 200 words had already been censored under the pretext that were not worthy of belonging to the Turkish language.

Finally, the Ministry of National Education announced, on its side, that starting with the new school year, all primary and secondary schools would keep 18 different files for each of their students. All information relative to private, family and school life as well as the particular characteristics of each student will be recorded in the files with observations by the school's directors.