

**HRFT
HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF TURKEY**

TREATMENT CENTERS REPORT

1993



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The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT)
was founded under the Turkish Law
It is a non-governmental and independent foundation.
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the Official Gazette No. 20741 on 30 December 1990

INTRODUCTION

The first report covering the medical investigations of the HRFT was released in 1993. The report covers the medical investigations, research and social activities conducted by the HRFT between the years of 1990-1992. This present report includes the medical and social activities of the Ankara, Izmir and İstanbul branches of the HRFT in the year of 1993 and is available both in English and Turkish like the previous one.

In line with the aim of its foundation, the HRFT runs medical and social support programs for those suffering from torture. These programs of the HRFT are promoted by a group of medical and social volunteers. The Human Rights Association and its various branches, Turkish Medical Association and local chambers of medicine also give considerable support to our programs.

We would like to thank all volunteer groups and the human rights organizations for their valuable contributions to our activities.

Okan AKHAN
Coordinator of the Treatment Project
Ankara, 1994

GENERAL SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOLLOWING 1993

Yavuz Önen
President of the HRFT

1993 happened to be a year in which international human rights problems were more gravely encountered. The wars and conflicts in most areas of the world did not cease. The deaths, disappearances, separation of families, migration, torture and famine, orphaned children, refugee camps which were caused by the wars, affected us deeply. For example: The human rights violations in different forms in Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir reached dramatic dimensions. Disputes and conflicts brought on the violation of human rights to more rapid and grave extents. We observed these violations every day in the newspapers and on the TV screens. As was the case in the previous year, once again we observed that international control and mechanisms of intervention remained ineffectual and slow moving in comparison to the effectiveness and speed of the violations.

We also experienced an intensity of reactions to and the attacks on foreigners in the European Community countries in 1993. The enmity towards

foreigners in Germany turned into organised attacks by Neo-Nazis. The arson attacks that caused 5 Turks to be burnt to death in Sollingen aroused great indignation in our country.

Famine in the world once again struck Sudan, Ethiopia and Somali in the year 1993. The relief organised with the intermediary of the United Nations did not reach their intended destinations yet. Expenditures on armaments continued in increasing proportions. However, besides this pessimistic tableau, the peace agreement in South Africa and a sigh of hope between Palestine-Israel were the developments that allowed us to breathe.

In 1993, a few reports were published concerning the human rights situation in Turkey. The Helsinki Watch published reports concerning torture applications and deaths in detention in Turkey. These reports voiced the disturbances felt by torture and suspicious deaths, and warned Turkey, USA and the other international bodies.

to put a stop to torture which is an inhuman application, in Turkey.

The report concerning the visit to Turkey of the inspection committee established in accordance with Article 20 of the UN's Agreement against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, was for the first time made public and published. The report maintains that torture in Turkey is applied continuously, deliberately and is widespread. The report also makes observations that torture cases are not traced by the government, that torture cases do not decrease but rather there is an increase in the numbers of deaths while in detention, disappearances following detention, crippling as a result of torture and cases of torture and rape in detention. It also contains the view that the fact that investigations are just pretentious formalities, that trial periods are long and penalties are insignificant, has an encouraging effect on the torturers and also that the torturers have de facto immunities before the law.

It is a fact that the government is facing difficulties due to the local applications in controlling torture and because of insufficient laws which leaves open doors to torture. However, the government has also appointed a security director as Adana Governor against whom an official complaint had been made by a tortured person. Administrative promotions such as this and similar to this, serve to create an atmosphere that encourages torture. In 1993, for the purpose of deterring torture, the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association published ethic rules and called upon doctors to stand against torture and human rights abuses.

Amnesty International published two important reports about Turkey. The first report refers to the transparent police stations promised by the coalition government and states that torture continues systematically in Turkey. The second report mentions the

extrajudicial executions in general. In the 1993 annual report of the Foreign Ministry of the USA, Turkey occupied more space than Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the report, serious criticisms directed at Turkey take place due to human rights violations, extra-judicial executions and torture cases.

In addition to being occupied with all these problems, the UN organised conference on Human Rights in Vienna is a greatly welcomed event. After the meeting held in Tehran in 1968, the UN, for the first time, organised a Human Rights Conference in Vienna. The conference that lasted for two weeks, issued a final declaration. The representatives of the NGOs that could not participate in the official meetings discussed human rights problems in general and the problems in different areas of the world, in the meantime. We as the HRFT, attended a part of this conference. We participated in an open sitting on the subject of "Human Rights in Turkey", organised by the International Human Rights Federation.

In the official declaration of the Conference, the universal principles of human rights are once more confirmed, however this time it is clearly voiced that "the guilty states shall be opposed". The document emphasises the universality and the indivisibility of human rights. Subjects such as the redefinition of women's rights, children's rights and migrant workers' rights, and the right to education are within the contents of the declaration. The declaration condemns racism, discrimination, all forms of intolerance, ethnical annihilation, torture and terrorism. The right of countries to development are connected to equal economic relations. It is urged that the media be protected by International Law and the financial means of the UN's Human Rights Center be increased. It is also recommended that a Human Rights High Commission and an International Council of Justice be established. Despite the criticisms by the NGOs related to the

organization, it must be said that the conference was a productive effort.

As was written in the program of the preceding government, Tansu Çiller Government also made promises on the subjects of democratization, economic stability and of the maintenance of a peaceful atmosphere. Çiller also displayed an attitude similar to that of the then Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel, who had said in Diyarbakır, "We shall recognise the Kurdish reality", although this is not to be found in any of the Government's written declarations. The news that the Kurdish problem could be ended using the Basque model and that broadcasting in Kurdish could be made, were attributed to Çiller. By quoting figures, Çiller also explained that with the expenditures of the war in the Southeast, the regional economy could be developed. However, after the meeting she held with the Chief of the General Staff, she claimed not to have made statements as were written in the newspapers. Later on, Çiller's approach to the Kurdish Problem was established on recommendations of the National Security Board. All of the national, democratic, cultural demands of the Kurdish People were postponed until the final liquidation of the PKK. In the remaining months of the year 1993, searches for a peaceful political solution were put aside and the military solution program was employed.

The most important event of 1993 concerning the Kurdish problem, was the unilateral declaration of ceasefire by the PKK leader. However, the government responded to this by continuing the operations in the region and killing off the PKK militants. Thus the ceasefire period lasted short. And the PKK executed by shooting 33 unarmed enlisted men. With this unacceptable action, the PKK declared that it opened a new page in the conflict. As a result of the uninterruptedly continuing clashes in 1993, 1854 civilians, soldiers, security officers, village guards and militants lost their lives. When added

to this figure the ones who died as a result of extrajudicial executions, torture, attacks on civilians and settlement centers, assassinations and mine explosions, then the number of lives lost in 1993 was 3492.

One of the most important developments of 1993 is the hardening of the official approach towards those Kurds who are not a part of the PKK. Every kind of democratic, political movement in Turkey was indexed to the PKK. The state and the government applied a countrywide suppression program. The Democracy Party was ascribed to the PKK's extension within the Parliament. The DEP was subjected to a salvo fire within the Parliament and in the media. The Kurdish members of the Parliament were denied the tribune of the National Assembly. During the year, over sixty members of the DEP, including the deputy Mehmet Sincar, were murdered by unidentified assailants. Party buildings were attacked. The HEP was closed by the Constitutional Court. As he had been the HEP Chairman at the time when the trial had been launched, the parliamentary membership of the SHP Deputy Fehmi İşıklar was withdrawn.

The newspaper Özgür Gündem was also declared the publication organ of the PKK and was similarly attacked. Its correspondents were exterminated through murders by unknown assailants. Newspaper distributors and vendors were also murdered. A number of trials were launched at SSCs, and closure and fine verdicts passed.

When the leaders of the trade unions, associations and occupational institutions released a declaration in Diyarbakır requesting a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem, an arrest warrant was issued against them by the SSC. Again in Diyarbakır, 16 lawyers who took on political cases were detained and some of them were arrested. Democratic life in the Emergency State Region completely vanished.

The death penalties which had not been executed since 1984, came into the agenda once more and 34 death penalties were passed in 1993. As a result of the PKK's actions and attacks, the courts speeded up passing death sentences. This fast pace even reached the commissions of the National Assembly. However, because of the reactions of the public opinion the executions were postponed.

The CMUK could not prevent torture. However, it turned into a front for showing respect for human rights in the eye of public opinion in Turkey and the foreign countries. Under Article 31 of the CMUK, the politically accused (crimes under the jurisdiction of the SSCs or committed in the Emergency State Region) were not allowed the convenience of the shortened detention periods, and the right to interview with their lawyers or a colleague.

The "Law to Fight Terrorism" was applied in investigations and trials concerning the freedom of press, thought and belief, and of organization. The law formed a basis for the implementations that would destroy the freedom of press and thought. Journalists were killed (7 murders by unknown assailants), disappeared (2 journalists, 1 driver). Bomb attacks were carried out against press establishments. Those publishing about subjects other than the Kurdish problem, compulsory military service, army and religion were also prosecuted, or punished. Numerous confiscation and closure decisions were ordered for the publications. Exorbitant fines were given. The selling and the distribution of many publication organs were banned. The vendors and distributors were killed (11 murders, more than 50 attacks by unknown assailants). Out of a total of 2351 trials handled at Istanbul SSC during the year, 46% consisted of charges for crimes related to the press.

The most striking example of interfering with the

freedom of thought was exhibited by the Chief of the General Staff. Two producers were arrested by the Military Court for producing a program about military service on the HBB television. A total of 78 journalists and writers were put in prison, 18 of whom in accordance with ratified verdicts. The number of journalists and writers convicted in press trials reached to 116. More than 400 newspapers and journals were confiscated.

During the last year, duress and violence in prisons also continued, especially after escape incidents, and hunger strike. The weak yielded to extortion and lived like slaves. Youths and children were raped. Health and nourishment problems continued.

In the year 1993, in prisons and in detention, a total of 29 suspicious deaths occurred, 19 of which were in the Emergency State Region. The disappearances in 1993 increased in great ratio compared to the previous years. The disappearance incidents which were 1 in 1990, 4 in 1991, 8 in 1992 reached 13 in 1993. The 11 villagers who disappeared in Kulp district of Diyarbakir are not included in this number.

The İHD also had its share of attacks in this atmosphere of general suppression, 6 İHD staff, 3 of whom were leaders and 3 members, were killed. In the Emergency State Region, the entire 14 branches of the İHD were rendered inoperative as a result of the de facto suppression of the security forces. The İHD was also rendered inoperative in the Black Sea Region through similar methods.

The police also made very rough interventions in mass actions of workers, civil servants and students. The protesters were beaten up and many people were tortured. Torture was generally systematic and widespread. 323 persons, on whom torture was inflicted, applied to the treatment centers of the HRFT.

Safety of lives was under threat. The public opinion became used to extrajudicial executions and murders by unidentified assailants.

There was a tremendous reaction of the public opinion to one of the political murders by unknown assailants. Hundreds of thousands in Ankara participated in the protest meeting of the murder of author journalist Uğur Mumcu. In many provinces of Turkey, this murder was condemned through likewise demonstrations and the assailants were demanded to be found.

The most prominent development experienced in the Emergency State Region during the year was the evacuation of villages. By the end of the year, nearly 900 villages and hamlets were entirely evacuated. Some of these settlement areas were destroyed, burned down by the security officers as a result of the use of panzers, heavy guns and fire opened from helicopters. Attacks made openly on Lice and other settlements proved to be the most striking examples of such activities. Diyarbakır, Van and other provincial centers in the region received internal migration. There was demographic congestion. The population of Diyarbakır standing at 300,000 three years ago, reached to 1,5 million last year.

The most striking example of the attacks on villages and villagers was experienced in Ormanlı village of Güçlükönak district in Şırnak. During the series of raids carried out in connection with the villagers' sheltering PKK militants, the most atrocious duress of recent years was applied upon the villagers. The torture that started by tying the men in the village to each other, laying them down on the snow in the village center and beating them up, continued for a month. The result is: 2 dead, 6 wounded, 3 crippled persons. The 3 persons whose legs had to be amputated were fitted with prosthesis by the HRFT in Ankara. In order to be able to say no to the Serbian atrocities in Bosnia we also have to, in our country, treat our own people justly and in a civilised

manner, and show respect for human rights. If we hold the grounds of violations dearer than human values which are forbidden by international agreements even in war time conditions, we would then be legitimising both the Serbian atrocities and the shameful tortures applied to the villagers of Ormanlı. We by abiding the measures in the international agreements, oppose and condemn savagery and all kinds of human rights abuses in Turkey just as well as in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in every other corner of the world.

The violence exhibited by the Islamic fundamentalist flow in Sivas in 1993, laid down plainly for all eyes to see the extent of savagery that the intolerance of these fractions produce. A crowd of Sheriat defenders, in reaction to Aziz Nesin's intention to publish the Satanic Verses in the newspaper *Aydınlık*, attacked and burnt down the *Madımak Hotel*, in which were staying the poets, writers and folk poets who had come from different provinces in order to participate in the *Pir Sultan Abdal* cultural activities organised in Sivas. A group of people, including the Author Aziz Nesin, were saved or some of them managed to save themselves by escaping. However, the fire cost the lives of 37 persons and along with this mass murder, another horrifying event occurred. The government, for seven hours, did not intervene in the angry crowd. The security forces, the gendarmerie and the police, and their superiors the Governor, the Minister of Interior and the Prime Minister all remained silent spectators to the incident. In the fire of the *Madımak Hotel*, the citizens' faith in the state as well as the government, and their belief in justice also burned away into ashes.

1993 turned out to be a year in which it was clearly understood that the coalition government's promises to bring down inflation could not be realised and that the invoice for the privatisation programme would be shifted on the shoulders of the workers by dismissals from jobs. For this reason, democracy platforms were

formed in many provinces of Turkey with the participation of the trade unions and confederations such as DISK, Türk İş and HAK İŞ, and the democratic mass organisations. As important attempts of the social opposition, these platforms formed countrywide reactions throughout the year to the government's economic and democratic packages. Alongside the effective opposition of the İHD, these platforms manifested as an organised force of opposition for the first time after so many years.

Since the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission and the State Ministry responsible for human rights remained silent in the year of 1993, we could not be informed as to what they were occupying themselves with. In addition, we observed and experienced the fact that the Parliament, all through the year of 1993, did not concern themselves with things such as preventing the human rights abuses or making attempts towards democratisation. In short, both the Parliament and the Government preferred in the last year, to abide by the decisions of the National Security Council on the subject of human rights and democratisation and to comply with the political, economic and legal requisites of these decisions.

When I began to write this commentary, my intention was to submit a general panorama. However, I noticed that the details and the factual events of this general view have taken up much more space than intended. There are already very detailed information on many fields in this book. I presumed that by bringing forward some of the striking events, I would be better able to tell you about the human rights situation in Turkey. While reading our report, I was ashamed, distressed, angered and horrified. However, the most astonishing thing was the extraordinary nonreaction of the public opinion of the Turkish people. Although among the thousands of events that took place and were left behind, not even a single one of them was seen to be shameful and

important enough to make all humanity to stand up and shot. The Western world, too apart from a few criticising reports, in the end, remained totally unresponsive.

We consider the equal application of human values and real democracy and human rights standards all over the world as the aim and the target of our existence. When stating the abuses of our own country, we are restricting the responsibilities to our own governments. However, we invite all the governments of the world and the international institutions to share the responsibility. We are saying that the coup carried out by Yeltsin by attacking an elected Parliament in Moscow with tanks should no longer be considered democratic and applauded. We want that the creation of war apparatus by advanced technology and developed economies be put to an end. We want the domination of war in the history of humanity be cease. We say the human and democratic values should not be burnt in the fires of the tanks, nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, wasted away on the Bosnia-Herzegovinian Mountains. And we address the administration of our own country as follows:

- Let us establish in our own country a government that is respectable of human rights and a real democracy without loosing any more time.
- Let torture come to an end, let there be no extrajudicial executions, disappearances.
- Let the bloodshed in the Southeast stop, peaceful, political solutions to the Kurdish problem be brought to the agenda.
- Let thought be excluded from being a crime.
- Let an amnesty be declared as a step towards establishing a peaceful atmosphere in our country.
- Starting from the constitution, let all the laws of the 1980 legal and political regime be adapted to the international standards that we ally ourselves with. In summary, we want a democratic and respected Turkey within the family of world nations.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS

Mahmut T. ÖNGÖREN
General Secretary of the HRFT

I emphasized the human rights policy in last year's report and this year I would like to point out the problems that the defenders of human rights often face, and the status of these people in the public.

First of all, who are these defenders? It is worth answering this question first. Just like in other countries, most of the defenders of human rights in Turkey are those who have experienced human rights problems personally. The people, whose children or relatives were tortured or suffered in prison or who experienced other forms of human rights violations are almost always the first initiators of the struggle for human rights in their countries. Other people, who do not experience such problems but closely observe the human rights issues in their countries and in other countries as well, are becoming part of this fight. I met such persons during my visits to several countries. Among them there were persons who did not agree with the human rights policies of their governments towards other countries. These openminded persons have accepted the problems of other countries as their own and fight for them.

Unfortunately, in Turkey almost all the human rights defenders are those who experience the problems themselves. There are only a few people who had become part of human rights fight after being affected by observing the breakouts in their countries or in other countries.

It can be due to several reasons;

First, these defenders are solely leftistminded people. Years ago, when executives of some international human rights organizations first visited the

Human Rights Association they told us; "We know that you are leftist, we have nothing against it, but if you can not get support from the 'right' you will not be taken seriously on the international platform".

We do not have, and never have had, an intention to work together with rightists. Those days, there was only one organization of the "right" supposedly involved in defending human rights, and all they did was to find fault with the Human Rights Association.

However, we did not tell this to our foreign friends who strongly advised us to cooperate with them. We just told them the rightists were not interested in human rights issues.

We knew that this answer did not satisfy them, but as the time passes they come to understand and agree with us although we had no attempt to change their standpoint. Now, they have no interest and no hope about the "Turkish Right" as well.

Leftists are always the part of the public that suffers most. That is possibly why the first and the extensive human rights struggle in 1986 was initiated and still kept alive by them. "Right" have neither tried to make the slightest contribution to Human Rights Foundation or Human Rights Association nor founded a serious association dealing with human rights issues themselves.

It is now clear that the rightists will not show interest in human rights in the future, either. The man on the street, the scientist, doctor, lawyer or any other person from other job groups will not get involved if they have rightists tendencies, it is this obvious.

Last year, I was having dinner in a restaurant. People on the back table started to talk about me. They said: "This restaurant serves to all kinds of people. He works on human rights, he sure to be is a leftist, but rightists often come here too". I turned around to face back to

them and I tried to explain that it is not a rule to be leftist to defend human rights, but I cannot say that I was successful.

I wonder if they came to understand how human rights problems make their daily life tougher, would they then be more sensitive to take part in this struggle? I think they would not because the mass media, official ideology, depolitisation and their indifferent attitude keep them far away from the facts. That's why leftists who face the human rights problems themselves must keep this struggle alive.

On the other hand, perceiving the human rights struggle as part of being leftist brings about more problems. Since the authorities, mass media or the majority of the population still cannot get rid of negative attitudes and prejudices against leftists, and the fact that the "left" and human rights are associated with each other, human rights issues get unmerited infliction. For instance, human rights organizations are defined as "separatists" or even "dangerous" by this part of the community. Most of the educated but indifferent people easily believe this unfounded belief.

There are also some cards played into their hands. For example; "Why did Europe let Bosnia-Herzegovina down while being so sensitive to human rights problems in Turkey? First they should take a look at the situation in former Yugoslavia." They often cut it short by saying "First, they should take care of their own problems instead of ours". If they see French human rights defenders concerned with the Kurdish problem, they remember the human rights breakouts in Corsica or if they are Americans, then human rights of the black people are remembered.

When this report was being prepared, some of our government officials had negotiations with a number of foreign lawyers about the Kurdish problem. There, they reminded of the rights of black people in U.S.A., and

they claimed that the two situations are very similar, and then they defended themselves by asking "What would you do if blacks took up arms against whites?"

After negotiations, lawyers seemed to be quite disappointed, because human rights are universal and human rights breakdowns in one country cannot be accepted an excuse for similar problems in other countries.

Similarly, it is not acceptable that one would not be concerned with the problems in other countries before solving the human rights problems in one's own country. Amnesty International deals with the problems of the countries other than the country in which it is located. I came across one of my German friends in Ankara who used to work for the European Office of Amnesty International, and he told me; "The human rights problems in my country started to bother me too much, so I decided to leave my job and move out of the country. I feel better here when working for my country's problems rather than the others."

To some extent it is understandable why the wealthy part of the community is so ignorant about human rights. If these big investors do not bother with these problems, but just try to maintain their assets, people from the lower socio-economical layer remain silent not only for being uneducated and selfish but also with the pressure and fear of the difficulties they would possibly face.

Another reason for the ignorance of this wealthy part of society -although they possess reasonable positions and opportunities- is the deliberately crooked presentation of the human rights concept by the authorities.

Supposedly civil governments established after the coup d'état on March 12, have never been interested in human rights problems. The public was kept away from this subject carefully when Turgut Özal was prime minister and later president, displaying human rights as a

biased and a negative concept.

Before the general elections in 1992, the political leaders including Süleyman Demirel and Tansu Çiller, unexpectedly began to speak about human rights in a positive light. Even the most pessimistic of people started to think: "Did they really change, can we now expect some other positive steps when they come to power?". However, all of them found disappointment after one year following the elections. None of the politicians or political parties, including Süleyman Demirel and Tansu Çiller, kept their word. They tried everything to keep people away from the concept of human rights while human rights violations became more serious day by day...

However, these negative methods did not only serve to keep people away from the concept of human rights, they served to bring out some other negative results. What were those negative results?... to place the country in a conservative, narrow-minded position.

The supposedly civil governments that came to rule after the coup d'état on September 12, showed their pride in conservative in the narrow-minded frame provided by the antidemocratic laws approved during the military government period. Actually, this was one of the worst things that could be done for a nation. In this way, they proved that government administrators were still far from the qualifications of being leaders.

A reader's letter sent to one of the daily papers, clearly displays how the human rights concept was misunderstood by the public. This letter says:

"Human rights and democracy. Very beautiful and holy concepts. But unfortunately this concept has become a toy in the hands of separatists and traitors in Turkey. There is a price for protecting our country and state, and we are ready to pay this price."

How are you going to protect the state? If you have respect for human rights, you protect not only the state but the people whom you expect to die for the state. There is no evidence that human rights have ever made use of separatists or traitors. If separatists and traitors exist in a country, it means that there is no democracy and human rights there. Not a single thought can accept that human rights can be a toy for harmful acts. People who accept that, don't know the meaning of human rights and democracy or even if they know, they don't want these problems to be solved by democratic means.

However, there is one more thing to point out in the case of this letter which is the situation of the human rights defenders from the point of view of those people. If you start from the argument that human rights and democracy can be used for separatist aims, then the application of these two concepts should only be worked out by government and military officials. If you accomplish democracy with the concern of the public you may very well be a "traitor of your country". You may hang a person who committed the most serious crime in the world, whatever it may be, or if he is wounded, you may not let him be treated by a doctor, or you can punish someone, just for his thoughts or you may even torture the others. As a human rights defender, if you openly defend the opposite ideas, you can be labelled a traitor or separatist.

What is more important is the fact that the concepts of human rights and democracy do not grow and improve because of that mentality mentioned above.

In 1994, I hope the concept of human rights and the meaning of democracy will be questioned and reviewed once more in a larger context to establish a healthier outlook for that subject. However, this advancement will not be reached spontaneously, but with education and by mixing mutual tolerance and understanding with democracy.

1993 HRFT TREATMENT CENTERS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Although there is no exact data available about torture in the literature, in one research reported by the Amnesty International in 1993, it is stated that torture has been used in 111 countries. Despite the international conventions and declarations against torture, the problem remains widespread. Turkey is one of these countries facing with this problem.

Torture is defined in general sense as the tendency of a person to give pain, physically or psychologically, to another person for certain aims. Torture is widely used for certain purposes such as providing information, forcing to confess, punishing, repressing. Torture affects the sufferer's father, mother, wife or husband, child(ren) and other relatives, in other words torture affects the whole society so that it drags either affected person or whole society to the greater problems. It is interesting that the effects of torture, which is ancient as the history and an extremely widespread problem, on the human and the society are not well-recognized. In spite of this, it is seen that the public opinion get involved with human rights much more in the last years than before. Beside the political platforms, medical associations and other professional groups have intensified their studies on the spot. On the other hand, regarding World Health Organization's description of health as "the exact wellbeing physically and mentally", it can be seen that the professional responsibilities of the physicians and the other health workers on human rights problems force them to behave more sensitively.

By setting out from the democratic viewpoint and preventive medicine understanding, the best way to struggle against the effects of torture on human beings must be to prevent torture. But while struggling on political platform it is essential to manage the medical problems of the individuals (who had been subjected to torture) that may persist lifelong.

METHOD

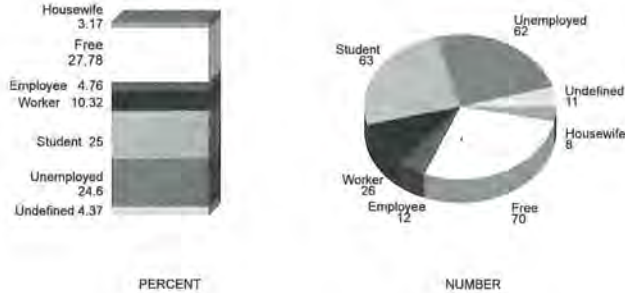
This research has been carried out retrospectively on 252 applicants (64 female, 188 male) of the HRFT in 1993 who had assertedly been tortured. In 1993 a total of 323 persons applied to the HRFT Treatment Centers. 71 of them have been excluded because of lack of detailed information and of report aimed applications. To determine the features, a question form composed of 27 items, has been used. By using this question form, applicants' traits such as the social properties, the methods of torture, the physical the psychological signs have been documented. Graphics are prepared on Harward Graphics program.

RESULTS

A- SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF THE APPLICANTS

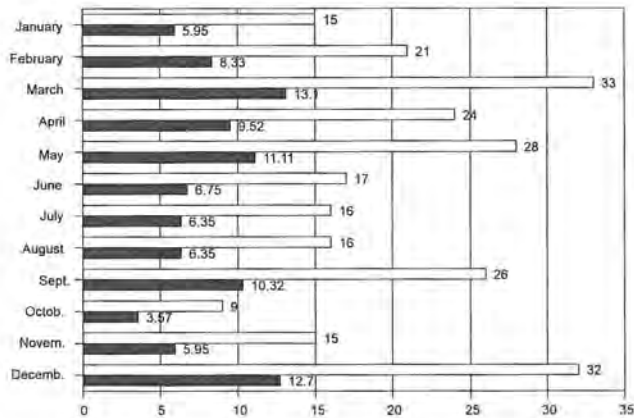
A total of 252 persons (64 female, 188 male) applied to the HRFT Treatment Centers during 1993. Most of the applicants had been subjected to torture (98.2%, n=247). The average age of the applicants was 30.6 ± 7.2 . 61.9% (n=126) of them were single, 34.92% (n=88) married and 3.8% (n=8) widow or divorced. As with the educational level, 32.14% (n=81) of them have had university or academic degree, 23.02% (n=58) had been graduated from the high school, 17.86% (n=45) from the primary school and 10.71% (n=27) from the intermediary school. It is found that 8.33% (n=21) were uneducated. The dispersion of the applicants according to their profession is shown in graphic 1.

Graphic 1: *The Distribution of the Applicants According to Their Professions Groups*



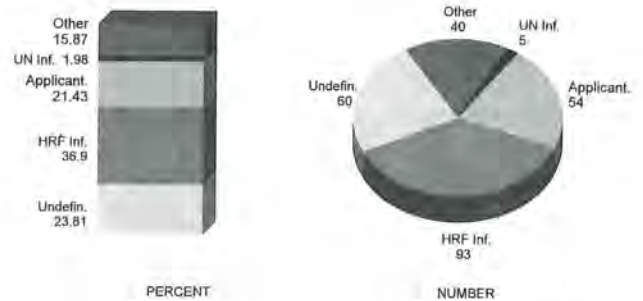
It is striking that 62 persons (24.60%) who claimed to have been tortured were unemployed and 63 persons (25 %) were students.

Graphic 2: *The Distribution of The Applications According to Months*



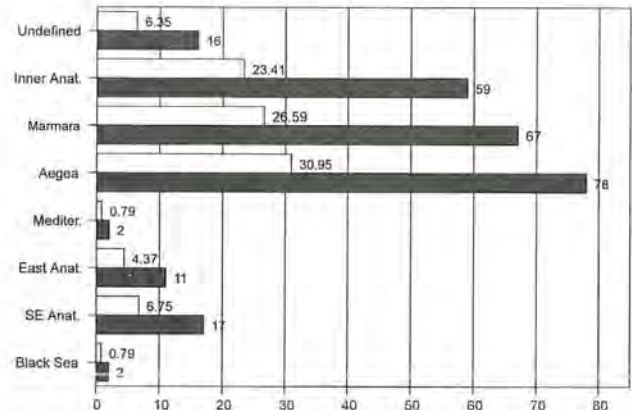
It is seen that the applications to the HRFT Treatment Centers are concentrated in March (13,10%, n=28), December (12.70%, n=32) and May (11.11%, n=28).

Graphic 3: *The Contact Ways With the HRFT Treatment Centers*



As with the ways of contact with the HRFT Treatment Centers, it is seen that the information given by the branches of the Human Rights Association is the most known way (36.90%, n=93). This is followed by the previous applicants' information (21.43%, n=54), UN informative works (1.98%, n=5) and the other kind of contacts (15.87%, n=40). In 23.81% (n=60) of the applications, the contact way could not be determined.

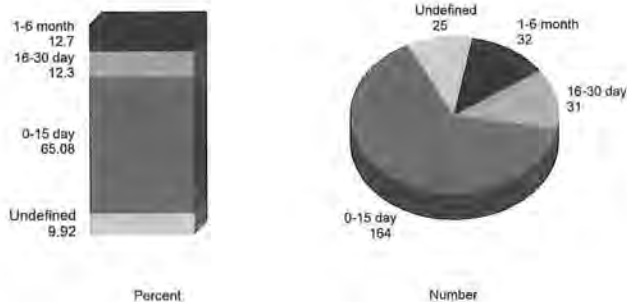
Graphic 4: *The Distribution of the Applications According to the Months*



30.95% (n=78) of the applications made during the year of 1993 are from Aegean region, this is followed by 26.59% (n=67) from Marmara region and 23.41% (n=59) from the Central Anatolia. Please note that 7.54% (n=19) of the applications are from Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia.

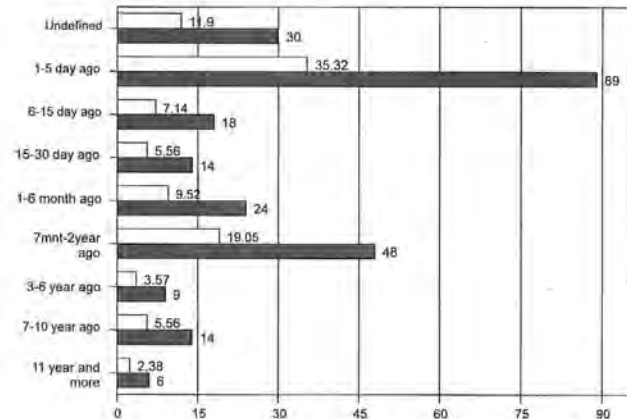
B - THE CONFINEMENT PERIOD AND THE METHODS OF TORTURE

Graphic 5: *The distribution of applicants according to the length of the detention periods.*



65.08% (n=164) of the applicants claimed that their detention periods were between 0 and 15 days. In 89.29% (n=225) of them the reason was the political crimes and 3.17% (n=8) the reason was the judicial crimes. 51.59% (n=92) of them had been released but 36.51% (n=92) of them had been arrested by the court. The situation could not be determined in 11.90% (n=30) of them. Of the applicants who report their imprisonment periods 33.73% (n=85) had stayed in the jail between 1 to 2 years.

Graphic 6: *The distribution of applicants according to the Time Period Between the Last Torture and the Application*

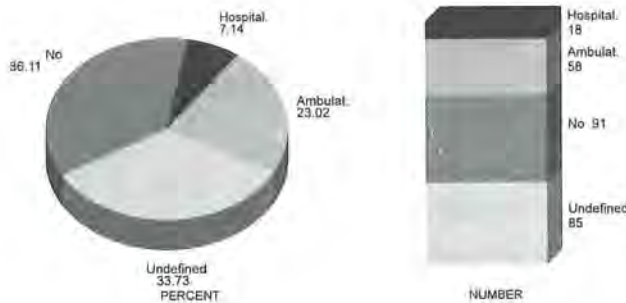


35.32% of the applicants claimed to have been subjected to torture 1-5 days before their application; 19.05% of them have been tortured 7-10 days before. Table 1 shows the methods of torture More than five methods had been applied to 47.1% of them.

Table 1: *The Methods of Torture Reported By Applicants*

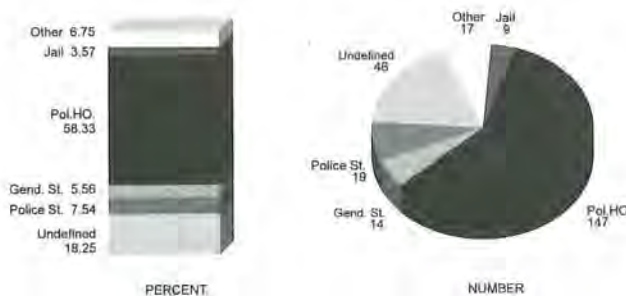
The Method of torture	n=252	%
Insulting	185	73.4
Beating	104	41.2
Electric	78	30.9
Bastinado	63	25.0
Pressurized water	61	24.2
Blind folding	57	22.6
Threatening to kill	48	19.0
Suspension	38	15.0
Sexual bothering	36	14.2
Cell isolation	36	14.2
Leaving hungry and waterless	32	12.6
Pseudoexecution	28	11.1
Plucking of the hair, moustache, beard	25	9.9
Defecation & micturition hindering	17	6.7
Leaving on the cold floor	12	4.7
Other	73	28.9

Graphic 7: Medical Intervention After Torture



Of the applicants, 36.11% (n=91) had received no medical help after torture, but 23.02% (n=58) had been seen in the ambulatory setting and 7.14% (n=18) had been hospitalized. In 33.73% (n=85) of the applicants the medical history could not be obtained.

Graphic 8: The Distribution of the Places Where Torture Applied to the Applicants.



Of the applicants, 58.33% (n=147) stated that torture had been carried out at the Police Head-Office.

C - PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SIGNS

Of the 252 persons treated at the HRFT Treatment Centers 68.2% (n=172) have had physical complaints and 31.7% (n=92) have had psychological complaints. Of the physical complaints the musculoskeletal system complaints are the most prominent (97.6%, n=168). The physical complaints are listed in table 2. Of the psychological signs, the sleep disturbances and the memory impairment are the most frequent (see table 3). The psychiatric diagnoses of torture victims are illustrated in graphic 9.

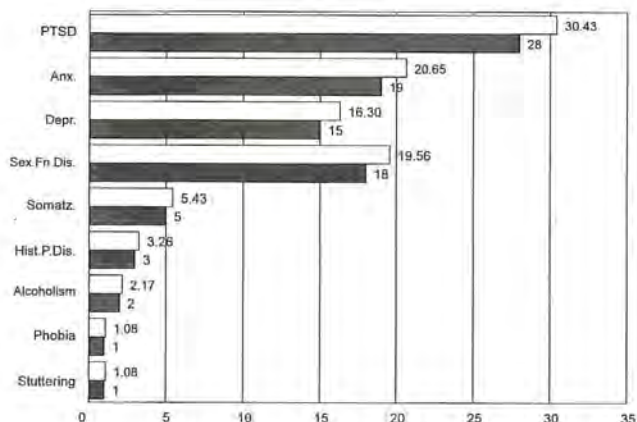
Table 2 : The Distribution of the Physical Signs

	n=92	%
Musculoskeletal system	168	97.67
Nervous system	98	56.98
Gastrointestinal system	93	54.07
Genitourinary system	82	47.67
Eye	53	30.81
Respiratory system	40	23.26
Ear, Nose, Throat	38	22.09
Cardiovascular system	20	11.63
Dental	18	10.46

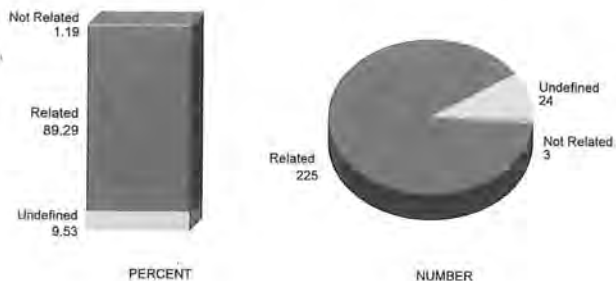
Table 3: The Distribution of the Psychological Signs

	n=172	%
Sleep disturbances	58	63.0
Memory impairment	49	53.3
Anxiety	47	51.1
Irritability	35	38.0
Nightmare	26	28.2
Fatigue	23	25.0
Concentration difficulty	21	22.8
Sexual dysfunction	18	20.0
Alcohol use	2	0.2
Stuttering	1	0.1

Graphic 9: *The Psychiatric Diagnoses of Torture Victims*



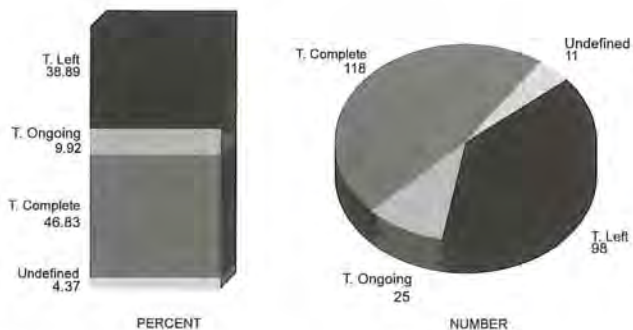
Graphic 10: *The Relation Of The Applicants' Disorders With Torture and the Imprisonment Period.*



225 applicants (89.29 %) reported their complaints were related with torture and the imprisonment period, but 3 applicants (1.19 %) claimed their complaints were not related to torture and the imprisonment period. The situation of 24 applicants (9.52%) could not be determined.

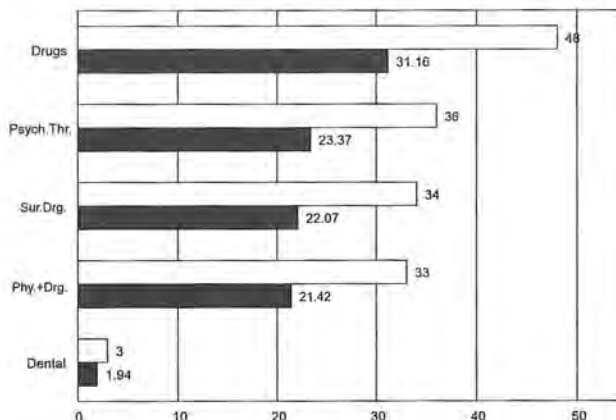
D - TREATMENT METHODS AND TREATMENT COST

Graphic 11: *The Treatment Process*



The treatment of the 46.83% (n=118) of the applicants has been completed, and 9.92% (n=25) are still getting treatment. 38.88% (n=98) of them quit the treatment and the situation of 11 applicants could not be determined.

Graphic 12: *The Treatment Methods*



Of 252 persons who applied to the HRFT Treatment Centers and claimed to have been subjected to torture, 31.1% (n=48) had been given medication, 14.2% (n=36) received psychotherapy, 13.4% (n=34) treated by surgical methods and the drugs, 13.0% (n=33) by physiotherapeutic methods and the drugs, and 1.9% (n=3) by dental interventions.

The total treatment cost of these applicants during 1993, is 1,544,243,000 TL.-

CONCLUSION

Torture is an important human rights problem in Turkey. As well as its political and social facets, the medical and the ethical aspects of this problem have to be evaluated. Recent researches have shown that the methods of torture used in different countries are similar and resulting in similar disturbances.

In this report, it is found that 76.19% (n=192) of the torture victims have physical and 36.51% (n=92) have psychological complaints. The great majority of the physical symptoms are involved with the musculoskeletal system and the sleep disturbances are the most prominent psychological complaints. It is interesting that the psychological symptoms have been found in 36.71% of the torture victims. This rate is lower than the previous results of similar reports and the reason of this has to be evaluated.

Torture is a rare cause of some physical and psychological disturbances of which the etiology is well-known and can be prevented if the cause is eliminated. Because of that, it has to be considered in the responsibility area of the physicians and other health workers struggling against torture. The political struggle against torture and the treatment and the rehabilitation of the torture victims have to be accepted as complementary activities within the human rights action.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ANKARA TREATMENT & REHABILITATION CENTER

Ankara had a stationary year regarding social activities, like the previous year. However, starting from the second half of the year, steps were taken in order for a social volunteers group to be organized. And in the beginning of 1994, we managed to conduct some social activities thanks to the social volunteers. We will state these activities in the next year's "Treatment Centers 1994 Report".

A meeting was held on March 5th, 1993 with medical volunteers on the topics of "treatment of applicants", "how to approach applicants" and "the evaluation of 1992".

A Social Volunteers Dinner was held on December 17, 1993 which has become a traditional affair because of the Human Rights Week. Certificates were given to social and medical volunteers for their contributions to the HRFT.

The psychologist of the Center participated in a meeting on "Treatment of Torture Victims" organized by AVRE on 7-9 May 1993 in Paris.

The Coordinator of the Treatment Centers and the psychologist of the Center participated in a symposium on "Torture and the Medical Profession" organized by the IRCT in October 1993 in Argentina.

Invited by the Demokratische Türkei Forum, the doctor of the Center attended a number of meetings on presentations of the Foundation, and physical and pathological problems caused by torture and the treatment methods in Germany.

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guests from several centers in Sweden participated in the meeting alongwith professional medical staff from three centers of the HRFT and several other names known for their personal effort and investigations into human rights. Psychiatric and psychological subjects were discussed on the first two days of the conference. These meetings helped to create cordial relations and reciprocal knowledge transfer between the participants about the psychological problems of refugees. On the last day of the conference the working methods of both the Red Cross Organization and the HRFT were explained and a speech was given on the organic complications of hunger strikes. At the evaluation meeting, all the participants agreed that this meeting was quite efficacious to exchange knowledge and such organizations should be carried out more frequently. The Swedish group has taken the trouble to publish a booklet containing the outcome of the meeting. Also, from the participants, a group of medical doctors and psychologists working in several regions in Turkey requested the HRFT to organize such meetings on a smaller scale but more frequently to activate communication between the working groups.

"Derin Bir Soluk Al" written by Ben Elton, directed by Ahmet Leventođlu was performed by the Theatre Studio at İstek Vakfı Balmumcu Cultural and Art Center on May 15, 1993. The profits of the play were donated to the HRFT.

"Küçük Burjuvalar" of Maksim Gorki, directed by Nesrin Kazankaya was performed by the İstanbul State Theatre on May 8, 1993 at the Atatürk Cultural Center. The profits of the play were donated to the HRFT.

Conference (The HRFT And The Swedish Red Cross Organization):

The HRFT organized a scientific meeting on "Treatment Centers for Tortured Refugees" on October 29-31, 1993 together with the Swedish Red Cross Organization. Ten

The psychiatrist of the Center went to Stockholm in May 1993 upon an invitation by the Swedish Red Cross Organization. She gave a seminar at the Swedish Red Cross Hospital on "Psychiatric Problems of Torture Victims", and participated in a seminar on "How Torture Cases are Determined" at Huddinge Hospital.

The psychiatrist of the Center attended the weekly meeting of the "Indochine Psychiatric Clinic" in October 1993, and gave a seminar on the Foundation and social and psychiatric dimensions of the applicants.

Invited by the Demokratische Türkei Forum, İstanbul Representative attended a number of meetings on presentations of the Foundation, and physical and pathological problems caused by torture and the treatment methods, in Germany.

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- A seminar about the HRFT and torture was given to a group of public health specialists and the Public Health Working Group of the İzmir Chamber of Medicine.

- Research into the pathological investigation of wounds caused by electrical application is currently advancing. We try to form a specialist group to work mainly on proving electric application and collecting literature needed to make further research possible.

- Scintigraphical investigation of the victims of bastinado continued. The previous results were reevaluated.

- A new investigation was started for proving the trauma to the genital area (trauma to scrotum and testis torsion) by using three phase dynamic scintigraphy technique. The first results are on the way.

- As a part of the activities on Human Rights Week;

- The HRFT was presented at a forum held by the İzmir Chamber of Medicine,

- The HRFT was advertised on the morning program of Kanal Ege, a local television channel,

- The HRFT and its activities was presented to public on the programs of two local radio stations,

- Translation of scientific publications on human rights are going on despite many limitations.

- HRFT İzmir Representative;

- made a speech on the longstanding findings of torture at the panel organized by Muğla Chamber of Medicine on May 1993,

- made a speech on "Searching for the longstanding findings of torture" at Mazlum-Der İzmir office on May 1993,

- gave a conference on the same subject at the meeting held by the European Parliament in Brussels,

- participated in a conference on the same subject organized by the Swedish Red-Cross and Carolinska Hospital, where he gave a speech,

- participated in a meeting on "treatment of torture victims" held by AVRE on 7-9 May 1993 in Paris.

- The doctor of the İzmir Branch attended the conference on "Torture and the Medical Profession" organized by the IRCT in October 1993 in Argentina.

- We prepared alternative medical reports in cooperation with the Medical Examination and Report Commission of the İzmir Chamber of Medicine.

- We also participated as observers in the commission which was formed to investigate the cause of death of Baki Erdoğan who died while under detention in Aydın.

- Two personal appeals to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg were accepted by the help of the alternative medical reports prepared by the doctors of our Foundation and Medical Examination and Report Commission of the İzmir Chamber of Medicine.

- On May 1993, one of the stands was reserved for the HRFT in Handicrafts and Art Center run by the Municipality of Karşıyaka, for one month,

- A stand was opened at the "Souvenir and Gift Fair" held at İzmir Fair area.

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