

URGENT ACTION

TURKISH MAN DETAINED AND AT RISK OF EXTRADITION

Myanmar-based Turkish education professional, M. Furkan Sökmen was detained in Yangon International Airport on 24 May and last known to be in the transit area of a Bangkok airport. Amnesty International fears he is at risk of extradition to Turkey where he could face torture or ill-treatment.

Myanmar-based educational professional **M. Furkan Sökmen** and his family were detained in Yangon International Airport on 24 May while trying to board a flight to Bangkok. They were reportedly detained by Myanmar authorities for 24 hours at the airport after the Turkish government invalidated their passports. M. Furkan Sökmen was forced to board a flight to Istanbul, the Turkish capital, via Bangkok. He was last known to be at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok earlier today but his current whereabouts are now unknown as a result of the authorities confiscating his phone. According to yesterday and today's news reports, the Turkish authorities sought the extradition of M. Furkan Sökmen for his alleged affiliation with a movement led by exiled cleric Fethullah Gülen.

The Turkish government has reportedly pressured other countries to take legal action against suspected supporters of Fethullah Gülen, whom Turkish authorities accuse of masterminding a coup attempt against them. Fethullah Gülen denies the accusations. Amnesty International and other organizations have collected credible evidence of the arbitrary detention and torture of detainees suspected of belonging to the Gülen movement. If M. Furkan Sökmen is returned to Turkey, Amnesty International fears that he would be at risk of similar ill-treatment.

Please write immediately in English, Thai or your own language:

- Urging the Thai authorities to comply with their obligations under international human rights law not to deport, extradite or otherwise return M. Furkan Sökmen to a country where he would be at risk of torture, other ill-treatment or serious human rights violations;
- Expressing concern about the arbitrary manner in which M. Furkan Sökmen has reportedly been detained;
- Urging authorities to grant M. Furkan Sökmen immediate access to a lawyer and reminding them that in all proceedings the most rigorous internationally recognized standards for fair trial must be respected.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 JULY 2017 TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Don Pramudwinai
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sri Ayudhya Road
Bangkok 10400, Thailand
Fax: +66 2643 5320 / +66 2643 5314
Email: minister@mfa.go.th

Salutation: Dear Minister

Immigration Bureau

Lieutenant General Natthatorn Praosunthorn
507 Soi SuanPlu
Sathorn Tai Rd
Bangkok 10120, Thailand
Fax: +66 2287 1310 / +66 2287-1516
Email: d2_sbai@immigration.go.th

Salutation: Dear Lieutenant General

And copies to:

Commissioner General of Royal Thai Police
Pol. Gen Chakthip Chaijinda
Royal Thai Police Headquarters
Rama 1 Road
Pathum Wan
Bangkok, 10330 Thailand
Fax: +66 2251 4739

Salutation: Dear Commissioner General

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

His Excellency MR KITTIPHONG NA RANONG, Royal Thai Embassy, 29-30 Queen's Gate SW7 5JB
tel 020 7225 5500 or 020 789 2944, Fax 020 7823 9695, email rtelondon@thaiembassyuk.org.uk and
csinfo@thaiembassyuk.org.uk www.thaiembassyuk.org.uk,

Salutation: Your Excellency

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

TURKISH MAN DETAINED AND AT RISK OF EXTRADITION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Three Turkish nationals who were arbitrarily arrested and detained in Malaysia between 2 and 4 May 2017 under the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act (SOSMA, Malaysia's anti-terrorism legislation) were extradited to Turkey on 11 May and are now believed to be in detention in Ankara.

In 2016, an attempted coup in Turkey prompted a massive government crackdown on perceived political opponents by the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Authorities have blamed exiled cleric Fethullah Gülen for the attempted coup, and those linked to his movement have been the main target of the crackdown.

Following the coup attempt, the Turkish government announced a three-month state of emergency, since extended twice derogating from a long list of articles in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. The government passed a series of executive decrees that failed to uphold even these reduced standards. Over 100,000 civil servants including teachers, police and military officials, doctors, judges and prosecutors were dismissed from their positions on the grounds of links to a terrorist organization or threat to national security. At least 47,000 people were remanded in pre-trial detention accused of links to the coup or the Gülen movement, classified by the authorities as the Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organisation (FETÖ).

UA: 122/17 Index: ASA 39/6374/2017 Issue Date: 26 May 2017