

# 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.

### 1) TAKE ACTION

**Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:**

- 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.

**Contact these two officials by 7 July, 2017:**

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](mailto:minister@mfa.go.th)  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Ambassador Pisan Manawapat, Royal Embassy of Thailand  
1024 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20007  
Phone: 202 944 3600 | Fax: 1 202 944 3611  
Contact form: <http://thaiembdc.org/contact/>  
Twitter: @ThaiEmbDC  
**Salutation: Dear Ambassador**

### 2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 122.17*

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**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### 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).

Name: M. Furkan Sökmen  
Gender m/f: m

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