

EXTERNAL

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"Disappearance"

15 January 1997

TURKEYSelahattin Gümürçü, cotton trader, aged 55

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of Selahattin Gümürçü who has not been seen since 25 November 1996 and is believed to have been detained on that date in Diyarbak\_r.

Selahattin Gümürçü, married with eight children, left his home in the Dall\_ district of Bismil at 8am on 25 November to go to the \_eytan Bazaar in the Ba\_lar district of Diyarbak\_r where he was to collect 300 million Turkish Lira (approx: UK£1,700) for cotton he had previously sold. He has not been seen since he collected the money from his customers. However, since his "disappearance" the people listed in his personal address book have been called one after the other, with him only saying: "I cannot talk, you speak".

Villagers from Kuruçay\_r village near Silvan have reported the following in connection with the case of Selahattin Gümürçü: On 28 May 1996 the chief village guard of Suluba\_ village together with one other village guard raided Kuruçay\_r village at around 11pm wanting to detain a villager. A struggle ensued during which the two village guards were killed. The day after this incident the village was burned to the ground and the villagers forced to leave. A week later Selahattin Gümürçü came to Kuruçay\_r to collect the belongings of his daughter who had lived in the village. He was then held by village guards, tortured and threatened. According to the villagers, the village guards held Selahattin Gümürçü responsible for what had happened.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Between 2 November and 9 December 1996, 10 people have "disappeared" in police custody in and near Diyarbak\_r. Three have been found dead by a main road near Ad\_yaman, some 200 kilometres from Diyarbak\_r. There are four security force checkpoints between Diyarbak\_r and Ad\_yaman. Atilla Korkmaz, aged 26, and Mahmut Önerar\_, aged 31, were found on 23 December, and Tefvik Kusun, aged 36, on 7 January. According to a newspaper report their hands were tied, their mouths taped and they had been killed with a shot to the head. When relatives saw the bodies later at the morgue for identification, they noticed bruising and marks of blows.

On 14 September 1996, five bodies were discovered around Baharl\_ village near Bismil, province of Diyarbak\_r. They had their hands tied behind their backs and had been killed with a single bullet to the head. One of them was later identified as Esat Ya\_ar who reportedly had been detained in the Lice district of Diyarbak\_r on 6 September 1996. Others were identified as Faik Orak, Nas\_r Alan (19) and Nuri Yi\_it. Faik Orak had been detained in Kürekli village near C\_nar on 8 September, and Nas\_r Alan and Nuri Yi\_it had been detained at their homes in Diyarbak\_r. Faik Orak's father reported that his son had been detained by Special Team members and that his detention had been denied.

Four more bodies were reportedly discovered between 15 and 17 September. They included the body of a man found between Ka\_tl\_ and Ba\_dere police stations near Diyarbak\_r Kacaköy. Villagers reportedly stated that they had witnessed the detention of a man and two women and the execution by shooting of the young man. The discovery also included the corpses of a man and a woman found on 17 September near So\_anl\_ village in the district of Diyarbak\_r. According

to one newspaper report they were unrecognizable because their heads had been burned.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:**

- expression grave concern about the "disappearance" in police custody of at least 10 people in the Diyarbak\_r region between 2 November and 9 December 1996, three of whom have since been found killed;
- expressing concern in particular about Selahattin Gümürücü who has not been seen since he met customers at \_eytan Bazaar in Diyarbak\_r on 25 November 1996, and who was threatened by village guards in Kuruçay\_r village in June 1996;
- urging that his whereabouts be established without further delay and his family informed accordingly;
- asking to be informed of the results of the investigation.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbak\_r State Security Court:

Mr Nihat Çakar

DGM Ba\_savc\_s\_

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**

**Faxes: +90 412 228 7749**

**Salutation: Dear Prosecutor**

2. State of Emergency Regional Governor:

Mr Necati Bilican.

Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**

**Telex: 72110 OHVT TR; 72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the Governor"**  
**72090 JASY TR**

**Faxes: +90 412 224 3572**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

3. Minister of the Interior

Mrs Meral Ak\_ener

İçisleri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: +90 312 417 2390**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Lütfü Esengün

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba\_bakanl\_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of TURKEY accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 March 1997.