

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 44/93 (EUR 44/12/93, 23 February 1993) - Possible extrajudicial executions (please note change of concern)

**TURKEY: Metin Can, lawyer, chairman of Human Rights Association in
 Elaz__
 Dr Hasan Kaya, medical doctor**

On 27 February 1993, the bodies of the lawyer Metin Can and his friend, Dr Hasan Kaya, were found by the side of a river under a bridge some 10 kilometres away from the town of Tunceli and 120 kilometres away from Elaz__. Their hands were reportedly bound with wire behind their backs, their shoes were missing, their bodies bore marks of cigarette burns, Hasan Kaya's eyes were gouged out and both had been shot with one bullet in the head. Two cartridges of pistol ammunition were found at the site, but there was no blood on the ground and no mud on their socks.

Both men had "disappeared" together in Elaz__ on 21 February 1993 and were believed to have been abducted after having been called away from Metin Can's home by a telephone call. Subsequently, their families received disturbing telephone calls, the first of which said, "We killed Metin and Hasan. Our condolences!" The telephone calls stopped after a tap was put on Metin Can's telephone. The lawyer's car, in which the two men had departed was found abandoned that same day. The shoes which Metin Can wore on the day he disappeared were found near his house the following Wednesday. He had been chairman of the Human Rights Association (HRA) in Elaz__ since the foundation of the branch and is said to have previously received death threats.

Two autopsies have been carried out on the bodies, the results of which have not yet been released. Metin Can and Dr Hasan Kaya are said to have been killed by torture at around 2 am on Saturday morning, six days after they disappeared. The autopsies reportedly revealed that Metin Can had been strangled and had a rib broken, while Dr Hasan Kaya had a broken tooth and traces of a cord around his neck.

According to reports, tension was high in Elaz__ over the weekend following the discovery of the bodies and the police were occupying strategic points in the city. The funeral of the two murder victims was attended by thousands of mourners.

These killings strongly resemble the abduction, torture and killing of Vedat Ayd_n, board member of the Diyarbak_r branch of the HRA, in July 1991, whose body was found under a bridge some 60 kilometres from Diyarbak_r (see UA 230/91,

EUR 44/92/91, 8 July 1991). There are persistent allegations that the security forces were involved in his killing.

There has been a disturbing increase in the pressure on the HRA in recent weeks: on 18 February the HRA board member in Urfa, Kemal K_l_ç, was killed by unknown assassins; on 23 February the HRA representative in Derik, Mehmet Gökalp, was detained and is currently being interrogated, allegedly under torture at Mardin Gendarmerie Headquarters; on 25 February Hac_ O_uz, chairman of the Siirt HRA branch, was detained in Siirt; and on 27 February the chairman of the Elaz__ HRA branch, Metin Can, was murdered.

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FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing deep concern about the torture and murder of the human rights activist and lawyer Metin Can, and of his friend, Dr Hasan Kaya, in Elaz__ on 27 February 1993;

- urging that every step possible is undertaken to find those responsible for the abduction, torture and murder of these two men and to bring them to justice;

- asking for the autopsy reports to be made public;

- requesting to be informed of the results of the murder investigation.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Minister of Human Rights:

Mr Mehmet Kahraman

Devlet Bakan_

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Inan Haklari Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 419 15 35

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Governor of Elaz_ Province:

Mr Do_an Ünlüsoy

Elaz__ Valili_i

Elaz__, Turkey

Telegrams: Elazig Valiligi, Elazig, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Governor

4) Chief of Elaz_ Police:

Mr Tuncay Kalabak

Elaz__ Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Elaz__, Turkey

Telegrams: Elazig Muduru, Elazig, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

and 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 14 April 1993.