

AI INDEX: EUR 44/28/98
15 JUNE 1998

PUBLIC STATEMENT

TURKEY

MLKP abduct and kill two people, including Human Rights Association official

Amnesty International was appalled to learn of the abduction and killing of Tacettin A_ç_, treasurer of the Bursa branch of the Turkish Human Rights Association, and Ahmet Ayd_n by the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, MLKP.

According to reports, Tacettin A_ç_ and Ahmet Ayd_n were abducted in mid-May. A statement was sent to the Istanbul branch of the HRA on 7 June saying that the two had been “executed” as police informers. The HRA issued a statement condemning the killing.

Amnesty unconditionally opposes the killing of any prisoners. Moreover, the fact that the bodies have not been recovered suggests that the victims may have been interrogated under torture by their captors.

In the early 1990s armed organizations in Turkey killed hundreds of civilians and prisoners. Organizations such as the PKK, Revolutionary Left (Devrimci Sol) and TIKKO (Workers and Peasants’ Army of Turkey) would frequently announce, as if proud of their handiwork, that this journalist, or that Kurdish villager had been “punished”. Since then, the numbers of such killings have fallen to a notable degree, perhaps as sympathizers of such organizations and others have recognized that such “revolutionary justice” is no more than common murder. The killings of these two men show that campaigning on this issue must be maintained.

Those who killed Tacettin A_ç_ and Ahmet Ayd_n have not handed over the bodies or revealed their whereabouts. When dealing with the pattern of “disappearances” perpetrated by the security forces in Turkey, Amnesty International has underlined that this is an especially cruel abuse committed not only against the victim but also against their relatives -- it is a method of torturing a whole family. The same is true for those missing after abduction by illegal armed organizations. Amnesty International urges that the bodies be surrendered, and also that those responsible for these murders be brought to justice.

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