

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 32/96

Fear for safety / Fear of torture

1 March 1996

TURKEYIsmail Demir

Ismail Keskin, former headman of Kazan village

On the evening of 28 February 1996, Ismail Demir and Ismail Keskin were detained during a police operation in the town centre of Hakkari in southeast Turkey.

Their detention has been acknowledged by the authorities. However, fears for their safety while in custody have been heightened by a recent increase in reported human rights violations in the Hakkari region, including "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions (see below).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Reportedly the brothers Eyüp Karabey (26) and Mahir Karabey (18) were detained on 28 December 1995 by plainclothes police at the electricity substation some 100 metres away from the Çukurca Central Gendarmerie Station in the province of Hakkari. Their bodies were found on 26 February 1996 near the Narl_ village of Çukurca district, which had been emptied by the security forces in 1994. Reportedly they had been shot with automatic weapons and their bodies bore bayonet cuts. Their father stated that he had appealed to the authorities after they "disappeared" for information of their whereabouts, but without success.

Another recent case is that of Abdullah Canan, a wealthy landowner from Yüksekova, province of Hakkari. He was witnessed being taken from his car and detained by the commander of Yüksekova Gendarmerie Headquarters and others at a checkpoint near the Dilan spring between İkiköprü and Kerema_a bridge, on the Hakkari-Van road, on 17 January 1996. When his relatives appealed to the local gendarmerie authorities it was denied that he was in custody. On 24 January a large number of his relatives assembled in front of the local governor's office in Yüksekova to protest the lack of progress of investigations into his whereabouts. After the public prosecutor gave assurances that Abdullah Canan's "disappearance" would be thoroughly investigated the relatives dispersed. However, on 22 February Abdullah Canan's body was found near Alt_nba_ak (D_r_z) village. According to the autopsy report, Abdullah Canan had been dead for three weeks. His body bore three gunshot wounds, and showed signs of severe torture, the cheeks having been slashed, apparently with a knife. There were also cigarette burns and widespread bruising, while the soles of the feet and testicles were reportedly swollen. According to his son Vahap Canan, Abdullah Canan had previously been threatened by members of the security forces who wanted him to withdraw a complaint he had filed with the provincial administrative court concerning the forced evacuation and destruction of Karl_, his village, on 23 November 1995.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Ismail Demir and Ismail Keskin, detained in Hakkari on 28 February 1996;
- seeking assurances that they are not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- requesting to be informed of the grounds for their detention.

APPEALS TO:

1. Hakkari Gendarmerie Command: (postal address not known)
Telegrams: Hakkari Jandarma Komutanl___, Hakkari, Turkey
Telexes: 73197 dkom tr
Salutation: Dear Sir

2. Hakkari Chief of Police:
Mr Mustafa Tekin
Hakkari Emniyet Müdürlü_ü
Hakkari, Turkey
Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Hakkari, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Sir

3. Hakkari Provincial Governor:
Mr Kemal Çelik
Hakkari Valili_i
Hakkari, Turkey
Telegrams: Hakkari Valisi, Hakkari, Turkey
Faxes: +90 681 1082
Salutation: Dear Governor

4. Diyarbakır Chief of Gendarmerie:
General Altay Tokat
Jandarma Komutan_
Jandarma Komutanl___
Diyarbakır, Turkey
Telegrams: General Tokat, Jandarma Komutanligi, Diyarbakir, Turkey
Salutation: Dear General

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:
Mr Deniz Baykal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
D__i_leri Bakanl___
06100 Ankara
Fax: +90 312 419 1547

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 2 April 1996.