

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 44/47/00

UA 294/00

Fear of t

**TURKEY**Resul Saddak  
Rütem Bayar  
Mehmet Çakar  
Nihat Usal  
Cengiz Balik  
A. Rezzak Inan  
Nezir Ayan  
Yakup Kur  
M. Temel Kurar  
Izzet Belge  
Tahir Kutlu

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Eleven men have been detained by gendarmerie in southeastern Turkey and are being held in \_\_rnak Provincial Gendarmerie Command. It is feared that they are at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The men named above were detained at the Düzova village gendarmerie checkpoint on the road between Idil and Cizre in south-east Turkey on 23 September at about 6.30pm as they were returning home to \_\_rnak from a party congress in Batman. They are all on the board of the \_\_rnak People's Democracy Party (HADEP).

HADEP has recently resumed its activities in \_\_rnak after being inactive for a number of years due to persecution and a climate of fear. Widespread human rights violations have been reported in the predominantly Kurdish region of \_\_rnak in the past and continue to take place. HADEP party officials in a small town near \_\_rnak were recently detained briefly and threatened that if they did not stop their party activities, they would be detained and subjected to other forms of pressure.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In Turkey, Kurdish legal political parties have been faced with daily harassment by the authorities, and some have been closed while others have been threatened with closure. Their supporters and members have been tortured, have "disappeared" or have even been killed.

HADEP is the successor to two previous parties that were both closed for "separatism" by the authorities. Although it opposes the use of political violence, in some quarters the party is regarded as the "political wing" of the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK), an armed opposition group. The Constitutional Court is currently considering a request by the State Security Court Prosecutor to ban HADEP on the grounds that it is the "lengthened arm of the PKK". Although 37 local councils in the predominantly Kurdish southeastern area of Turkey elected HADEP mayors by an overwhelming majority in 1999, HADEP deputies did not enter parliament because of a rule that political parties must have at least 10% of the entire national vote to be represented.

HADEP continues to come under pressure and a number of incidents have been reported this year. In February 18 senior HADEP officials, including the chairman and his predecessor, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment for "aiding and abetting" the PKK. Also in February, three HADEP mayors in southeast Turkey, including Feridun Çelik mayor of Diyarbakır, were detained for nine days (see UA 45/00, EUR 44/08/00, 22 February 2000). They were allegedly tortured

and ill-treated in detention. A trial is now in progress against them for "aiding and abetting" the PKK.

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

- urging that Resul Saddak and the 10 others are not tortured or ill-treated;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against them;
- reminding the Turkish government of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights, to which Turkey is a state party, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

**APPEALS TO:**

\_\_rnak Chief of Gendarmerie:

Jandarma Komutan\_  
Jandarma Komutanl\_\_\_\_  
\_\_rnak, Turkey

**Telegram: \_\_rnak İl Jandarma Alay Komutanl\_\_\_\_, \_\_rnak, Turkey**

**Fax: + 90 486 216 6517 (note: please be prepared that if many faxes are sent, it is possible the fax will be switched off)**

**Salutation: Dear Commander**

\_\_rnak Governor

\_\_rnak Valisi  
Hukümet Kona\_\_  
\_\_rnak, Turkey

**Telegrams: \_\_rnak Valisi, \_\_rnak, Turkey**

Governor of the Provinces under Emergency Rule

Mr Gökhan Aydemir  
Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi  
Hükümet Kona\_\_  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey  
Telegrams: OHAL Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey  
Faxes +90 412 224 35 72  
Salutation: Dear Governor

Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie

General Aytaç Yalman  
Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl\_\_\_\_  
Bakanl\_klar  
Ankara, Turkey

**Telegram: Jandarma Genel Komutani, Ankara, Turkey**

**Fax: + 90 312 418 9208**

**Salutation: Dear General**

**COPIES TO:**

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Rü\_tü Kaz\_m Yücelen  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Fax: + 90 312 417 0476**

Please also send copies to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country. It is most important for our work that they should be aware of Amnesty International members' concerns. Please forward any replies you receive to your Section to be passed on to the International Secretariat.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 November 2000.