

20 November 2001

Further information on UA 260/01 (EUR 44/075/2001, 17 October 2001) - Fear for safety/risk of torture and ill-treatment/ possible extrajudicial execution

TURKEY Twenty-one members of the K_l_ç family, including
Sava_K_l_ç (m), 8 years old (wounded)
Adil K_l_ç (m), HADEP provincial council member

New names: Kas_m K_l_ç (m)
Re_it K_l_ç (m)
Mesut K_l_ç (m)

Killed: Selma (Gurbet) K_l_ç (f), 18 years old
Necdet Demirkandan (m)
Unnamed Syrian citizen

Adil K_l_ç, Kas_m K_l_ç and Re_it K_l_ç, who were detained by gendarmes during a 17 October raid on their home, have been remanded to Silvan prison. They had reportedly been tortured. The other 22 members of the K_l_ç family detained during the raid have been released. Mesut K_l_ç, who apparently witnessed the killing of Selma K_l_ç during the raid, was detained on 19 November and is at risk of torture while in police detention.

Reports received by Amnesty International strengthen the fear that Selma K_l_ç was the victim of an extrajudicial execution. A judge at Diyarbak_r State Security Court filed an official complaint against the officers who took part in the raid on 26 October. However, no prosecutor has yet taken testimony from either her relatives or the suspects.

During the raid, gendarmes reportedly beat Kas_m K_l_ç, Re_it K_l_ç and Adil K_l_ç, especially around the head, blindfolded them and threatened to kill them. When Kas_m K_l_ç realised that his daughter had been shot and tried to go to her, gendarmes reportedly beat him severely and put a gun to his head.

The three men were subsequently subjected to systematic torture and ill-treatment, first at Silvan police station and then at Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters. They were stripped naked, blindfolded and sprayed with high-pressure hoses; police officers squeezed their testicles and applied electric shocks to their fingers, nipples, tongues and sexual organs. They were also made to sign statements they had not read or understood.

The torturers also reportedly used a new technique where the victims were made to lie on their backs with their arms above their heads: their arms and legs were wrapped in blankets, and police officers sat on their limbs while they were subjected to further torture such as suffocation or electric shocks.

The police officers who took Kas_m K_l_ç, Re_it K_l_ç and Adil K_l_ç to hospital to be examined by doctors warned them not to complain about the torture, and stayed with them throughout the medical examination even though the doctors asked them to leave.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern that Adil K_l_ç, Kas_m K_l_ç and Re_it K_l_ç have reportedly been tortured in police and gendarmerie custody, and reminding the government

that it is a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights, which says that "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment";

- calling for a full and impartial investigation into the torture allegations, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to suspend any police or gendarmerie officer accused of torture and ill-treatment from duty while they are under investigation, and to dismiss them if they are convicted;
- urging the authorities to ensure that Mesut K_l_ç is not tortured or ill-treated while in detention, and that he is given immediate access to his lawyers and relatives and appropriate medical care should he need it;
- asking the authorities to order a full, impartial and independent enquiry into the operation in which Selma K_l_ç was killed with the results made public, to dispel any reasonable concern that she may have been extrajudicially executed;
- expressing concern that Adil K_l_ç, Kas_m K_l_ç and Re_it K_l_ç were reportedly made to sign statements whose contents they did not know;
- urging the authorities to ensure that any statements made as a result of torture are excluded from evidence in any proceedings against them.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior

Mr Rü_tü Kaz_m Yücelen

Ministry of Interior

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Fax: + 90 312 418 17 95

Salutation: Dear Minister

Governor of the Provinces under Emergency Rule

Gökhan Ayd_ner

Ola_anüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams:Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Faxes:+ 90 412 224 3572

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Nejat Arseven

Office of the Prime Minister,

Ba_bakanl_k,

06573 Ankara, Turkey

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Salutation: Dear Minister

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 4 January 2002.