

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: EUR 44/92/91
Distr: UA/SC**

UA 230/91

Extrajudicial Execution

8 July 1991

**TURKEY: Vedat Aydin, President of People's Labour Party in Diyarbakir,
member of the Turkish Human Rights Association**

At around midnight on Friday, 5 July 1991, several men, ostensibly police officers, came to the house of Vedat Aydin, President of the People's Labour Party (HEP) in Diyarbakir, and took him away. When his family became worried and inquired with the police as to where he was being held, they were told that he had not been taken into police custody. On the morning of Monday, 8 July 1991, his body was found with 15 or 16 bullet wounds, at the roadside near Ergani, some 60 kilometres away from Diyarbakir.

Vedat Aydin, a former teacher aged 37 and married, was a member of the Turkish Human Rights Association (IHD) in Diyarbakir and a well-known human rights activist. He was on trial in Ankara State Security Court for giving a speech in Kurdish at the Annual General Meeting of the IHD in October 1990. This was an offence under legislation which was repealed in April 1991. Shortly before his death, Vedat Aydin is said to have visited another IHD member in hospital in Diyarbakir who had been injured in a bomb explosion outside his shop in Batman on 25 June 1991. After paying his visit, Vedat Aydin is said to have made a speech in Kurdish outside the hospital. His assassination is the fourth attack against Kurdish members of the Human Rights Association in the southeast within 20 days (see Urgent Action 225/91, AI Index: EUR 44/90/91, 3 July 1991).

At 02.10 on 18 June 1991 an explosive device detonated in the car of the lawyer Mustafa Özer which was parked outside his home in Diyarbakir. The powerful explosion completely destroyed the car.

At midnight on 25 June 1991 an explosion destroyed the office of the Human Rights Association in Diyarbakir, injuring a neighbour.

On the morning of 2 July 1991 a bomb exploded in Batman in the car of Hüseyin Siddik Tan shortly after he had driven from home and parked his car outside his shop. Siddik Tan, a board member of the Batman branch of the Human Rights Association, as well as his 10-year old son and a friend were injured in the blast, which completely destroyed the car. In all these cases it is not known who carried out the attack.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Turkish Human Rights Association, founded in 1986, faced considerable pressure from the authorities from the start. Several of its officials have been detained and imprisoned and members of the association's regional branches have been prosecuted for producing campaigning material without government consent. Leading members have been tried on a variety of charges, most trials eventually ending in acquittal. Several branches have been closed, the branch in Batman indefinitely. Members of the Human Rights Association have received death threats in the past by letter and telephone.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing grave concern at the assassination of human rights activist Vedat

Aydin in Diyarbakir and the three other recent attacks on the Human Rights Association in southeast Turkey within 20 days;

- urging that a prompt and thorough investigation is carried out to establish those responsible for the killing and bombings;

- appealing for all possible steps to be taken to protect members of the Human Rights Association from further such attacks.

page 2 of UA 230/91...

APPEALS TO:

President Turgut Özal
Devlet Ba_kanli_i
06100 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: President Özal, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 42875 bbk tr
Faxes: +90 4 168 5012 (via Press Office)

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanlik
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr
42099 basb tr; 42875 bbk tr
Faxes: +90 41 17 04 76 PRIME MINISTER
+90 42 30 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Mustafa Kalemli
Ici_leri Bakanli_i
06644 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR
Faxes: +90 4 118 1795
+90 4 125 6520 (Ministry of Interior)

COPIES TO:

President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Eyüp A_ik
Insan Haklari Ara_tirma Komisyonu Ba_kani
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 4 11 91 664; +90 4 42 06 941

and diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 August.