

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 308/92 Arbitrary killings/fear of torture/fear of ill-treatment

TURKEY: Scores of people in Kulp, including Vahit Narin

Amnesty International is concerned about continuing reports of arbitrary killings in the town of Kulp, including Vahit Narin.

Reports are being received from Diyarbakır province that a military operation comparable to the recent destruction of the town of Çarşak (see UA 279/92, AI Index: EUR 44/85/92, 4 September 1992) is under way in the town of Kulp. The first report of tanks and guns being used against the civilian population went out on Saturday, 3 October 1992, at 1pm local time. The reports also stated that all telephone lines to Kulp had been cut. Turkish newspapers reported that a military vehicle had been fired upon by guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) on Saturday, 3 October 1992, near the Kulp bus terminal and that an armed clash ensued. Two soldiers were killed and eight wounded as a result. The security forces then reportedly opened fire randomly from their buildings in the town centre. The sound of gunfire continued until nightfall. Shops, houses and vehicles have been damaged, civilians killed and wounded and scores of people detained. Telecommunications remain cut and journalists are not permitted to enter the town. Access to and from the district is prohibited and as a consequence information is still scanty.

Latest reports mention five people killed and four wounded, including Vahit Narin who reportedly died after being doused with petrol and set alight. The names of the other dead are not yet known to Amnesty International. People are said to be fleeing from Kulp as the military operation continues.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is estimated to number some 10 million people, living mainly in southeastern Turkey. Since August 1984, when guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) started armed attacks against the security forces, an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces. Furthermore, allegations of over 100 extrajudicial executions have been received during the past 12 months. Nearly 5,000 lives have so far been lost on both sides and among the civilian population in the fighting. Emergency legislation is in force in 10 provinces in the region and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbakır has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces.

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

- expressing concern at reports of arbitrary killings in Kulp, including Vahit Narin;
- calling for an immediate, full and impartial investigation into the events in Kulp, in particular the arbitrary killing and wounding of civilians, including Vahit Narin;

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- urging that the police and security forces carry out their duties according to the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials;
- urging that steps are taken to ensure that all people from the town of Kulp now held in police custody are not ill-treated;
- urging that the press be allowed immediate free access into the town of Kulp.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of the Interior
Mr _smet Sezgin
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR
Faxes: +90 4 418 1795
Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Gendarmerie General Commander
Orgeneral E_ref Bitlis
Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutan_
Kuvvetleri Komutanl____
Bakanl_klar
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutani, Ankara, Turkey
Salutation: Dear General

3) Minister of Foreign Affairs
Mr Hikmet Çetin
D__i_leri Bakanl____
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission
nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey

Chief of the Turkish General Staff
General Do_an Güre_
Bakanl_klar
06100 Ankara, Turkey

and 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 17 November 1992.