

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/147/95

EXTRA 153/95 Fear of "disappearance" / Fear of torture 4 December 1995

TURKEY Mazhar Kara, aged 32, treasurer of Human Rights Association branch in Diyarbak_r and one other man, whose name is not known

On the evening of 1 December 1995, Mazhar Kara was detained as he was leaving the office of DDP (Party for Democracy and Change - a legal party) in the Ofis district of Diyarbak_r. Many people reportedly witnessed how he and another man, whose identity is not known, were put into an unmarked car by a number of plainclothes police officers.

Inquiries with the police as to Mazhar Kara's whereabouts have been unsuccessful, and his lawyers have been unable to contact the State Security Court prosecutor whose office is supposed to register all political detainees.

It is feared that Mazhar Kara and the other man are being subjected to torture while held incommunicado at an unknown location.

Mazhar Kara, a Kurd, is a graduate of the Science Faculty of Diyarbak_r University, and is editor of *Govent* (Turkish: *Oyun* = Drama, Play), an arts magazine. He has also written and published poetry. He was detained and tortured in 1989, put on trial for separatist propaganda in a speech about the festival of Nevruz, and acquitted in 1990. He received threats by telephone after he was elected treasurer of the Human Rights Association in Diyarbak_r in October 1995.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency in the southeast such as Diyarbak_r, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

Founded in 1986 the Turkish Human Rights Association has 56 branches throughout the country and a membership of 15,000. The HRA is not linked to any political party or movement. As well as monitoring abuses by government forces, the HRA has on numerous occasions condemned human rights abuses by armed opposition groups. The HRA continues its monitoring of human rights violations in the face of considerable pressure from the authorities. Many of its leading officials are standing trial on various charges and several members are serving prison sentences. Most branches in the southeast have had to close because of police harassment and threats. At least 10 HRA officials have been killed since 1991.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Mazhar Kara and another man, since 1 December 1995 held in unacknowledged detention in Diyarbak_r;
- seeking assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;

- urging that their whereabouts be established and their detention duly registered without further delay and appealing that their families and lawyers be informed accordingly;
- asking to be informed of any charges brought against them.

APPEALS TO:

1. Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbakır State Security Court:

Mr Bekir Selçuk
DGM Ba_savc_s_
Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi
Diyarbakır, Turkey
Telegrams: DGM Bassavcısı, Diyarbakır, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Deputy Prime Minister:

Mr Deniz Baykal
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Deniz Baykal, Basbakanlik, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr
Faxes: +90 312 417 0476; +90 312 419 1547
Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) Interior Minister:

Mr Teoman Ünisan
Ministry of Interior
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: İçişleri Bakanlığı, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 418 1795
Salutation: Dear Minister

4) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Adnan Ekmen
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Adnan Ekmen, Basbakanlik, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 417 0476; +90 312 420 5394
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz
nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

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 10 January 1996.

