

4 September 2001

Further information on UA 216/01 (EUR 44/059/2001, 31 August 2001) - Fear of torture and ill-treatment/ police brutality

TURKEY Zülküf Karatekin (m), trade unionist- name corrected
Mukadder Dolan (f)
Gönül Kal_r (f)
Other HADEP supporters in Diyarbakir
Abdurrahman Ta_c_ (m), HADEP chairman of Siirt area
Zana Özer (m)
Gurbet Yalç_n (m)

At least two members of the legal pro-Kurdish political party HADEP have died and hundreds of others have been beaten or arrested as they tried to take part in World Peace Day on 1 September.

According to official figures, 877 people were arrested throughout the country as they attempted to join a march that HADEP had tried to organize in the capital, Ankara. The true figure is likely to be much higher: police detained at least 700 in Ankara alone, and were forced to use a football stadium to hold the detainees.

On 31 August, 200 people gathered outside the HADEP branch in Zeytinburnu, Istanbul, to board buses to Ankara. Police attempted to break up the group with batons and teargas, and some fled into the building to escape.

Nineteen-year-old Zeynel Durmu_ fell from the fifth floor, and died. Ya_ar Özdurak also fell and suffered serious injuries. Police reportedly detained most of the group.

On 1 September, police in Diyarbak_r intervened to prevent HADEP officials from giving a press conference about the previous day's arrests and beatings. One person allegedly died and at least 60 were arrested, including local trade unionists. Fifty-four of them were released later that day, together with trade unionist Zülküf Karatekin, who had been arrested the previous day.

The following day, police broke up a group that had gathered at the HADEP branch in Zeytinburnu for Zeynel Durmu_'s funeral. They arrested many of them, including the head of HADEP in Istanbul, Do_an Erba_, and at least seven other party officials.

There were similar incidents throughout the country. Many HADEP supporters were reportedly injured as police used truncheons, tear gas and water cannon to disperse crowds of people trying to reach the march in Ankara. Some protestors had chanted PKK slogans and thrown rocks at the police. In the southeast of Turkey, security officials prevented vehicles from travelling to Ankara.

On 31 August, security officials in Diyarbak_r reportedly detained people injured in the demonstration who were being treated in hospital, and confiscated medical reports stating that they had been beaten.

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

- expressing deep concern that police have used excessive force and ill-treated HADEP members trying to take part in a peaceful demonstration;
- expressing concern for the safety of those detained (including those named above) and urging that they should not be tortured or ill-treated;
- calling for detainees to be given immediate access to lawyers, their families and any medical attention they require;
- 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:

Minister of the Interior

Mr Rütü Kazım Yücelen

Ministry of Interior

Çiğleri Bakanlık

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Fax: + 90 312 418 17 95

Salutation: Dear Minister

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

E. Safer Gaydali,

Office of the Prime Minister,

Bakanlık,

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Fax: + 90 312 417 04 76

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 16 October 2001.