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**TURKEY: AUTHORITIES SHUT DOWN KEY HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION  
BRANCH**

Amnesty International is deeply concerned to learn of today's closure of the Diyarbakir branch of the Turkish Human Rights Association. The branch shut-down, carried out on the orders of the city governor, follows years of harassment including the arrest, abduction and extrajudicial execution of officials, bomb attacks, and a hail of litigation.

Mahmut Sakar, the branch president, and at least five officials are currently in incommunicado detention at Diyarbakir Police Headquarters,\* where the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture reported finding torture equipment during an unannounced visit in 1992.

The closure of the Diyarbakir Human Rights Association and the detention of its officials threatens to complete the information blackout in southeast Turkey under which human rights violations have proliferated.

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