

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/53/96

11 April 1996

Further information on EXTRA 158/95 (EUR 44/150/95, 8 December 1995) and follow-ups (EUR 44/08/96, 15 January 1996; EUR 44/24/96, 9 February 1996; EUR 44/41/96, 21 March 1996) - Fear of arbitrary killing

TURKEYHakan Güler }
Kadri Tursun } teachers at Lice High School
Köksal Gümü }

On the evening of 1 April the two remaining captive teachers, Hakan Güler and Köksal Gümü_, were set free near a village close to Lice, where villagers put them up for the night. On the morning of 2 April they walked into Lice and reported to Lice Gendarmerie Headquarters.

According to one of the teachers, they had been kept in a cave-like shelter for the four months of their captivity. There was no need to blindfold them as they were not familiar with the geography of the area in which they were held. They were not ill-treated, but conditions were tough as it was winter and there was not much food. The fact that they were not released earlier may have been due to the harsh winter conditions; also their captors apparently wanted to wait until after the elections in December and then until after *Newroz* (Kurdish New Year, 21 March) before releasing them.

The teachers were not aware of any efforts from the outside world on their behalf, although they were told that their story was appearing in the newspapers. The final two weeks were particularly gruelling - walking enormous distances until they were at last set free. At noon on 1 April the commander of the unit they were with came and told them that they would be released. That same evening they were free.

One of the teachers said he would definitely return to teaching, but would prefer not to be posted to Lice again, but to where his family live. He also stated:

"Amnesty International's efforts were a help and consolation to our families at a difficult time. You seem to have done whatever you could on our behalf. Please thank all your members for their help".

Kadri Tursun was released in mid-March 1996 (see previous update).

No further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested.