

EXTERNAL

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Fear of "disappearance"

1 July 1996

TURKEYAbdurrahim Çelikbilek, aged 45

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Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Abdurrahim Çelikbilek who was last seen in Diyarbakır on 24 June 1996 and has since been missing. His family believe that he has been detained by members of the security forces and fear for his life. Their inquiries with the Police Headquarters and the prosecutor's office at the State Security Court in Diyarbakır have failed to establish his whereabouts.

On 24 June Abdurrahim Çelikbilek left his home in Diyarbakır at 7am. At about 3pm he telephoned his wife mentioning that he was with friends in a coffee-house. His friends later told the family that he had left on his own.

Abdurrahim Çelikbilek, who is an active member of the People's Democracy Party (HADEP), was previously detained three times during the summer of 1994. On one occasion he was held for 10 days, the other times for one day each. He alleged that he was tortured in detention. Out of custody, he reported that he was constantly being followed by the police.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Abdurrahim Çelikbilek's brother, Abdulkadir Çelikbilek, was abducted on 14 December 1994 from a tea-garden in the Yenişehir quarter of Diyarbakır by unidentified men who forced him into a car. A relative described how his body was found a week later near a graveyard in Diyarbakır on 21 December: *"The body was on a garbage can next to the Mardin Kapı graveyard. There were marks of torture all over it. The skin on the feet had been torn off with pliers. The arms, legs and head were swollen with red swellings. The whole body was black. There was a mark on the neck. (I asked about this at the morgue and the doctor said that after he had been killed something had been tied round his neck and he had been dragged). After they had shown me the body they put me back in the car and we went to Abdulkadir's house. On the pretext of searching it they really wrecked it. Later they were told over the radio that the prosecutor had arrived at the body. In order to be there, they gave up searching half way and we went again to the body. The prosecutor didn't ask me anything. He only confirmed the place where the body had been found and it was taken to the morgue. I was also put into a police car and we went straight to the morgue. The policeman in the car said to me 'All the villagers from Tepecik are going to die in the streets like this'".*

Amnesty International wrote to the Turkish government regarding the case in April 1995 and never received a reply. Abdurrahim Çelikbilek submitted an application for investigation of this case to the European Commission on Human Rights in Strasbourg.

On 14 February 1996 Abdurrahim Çelikbilek's son was reportedly killed in a clash between soldiers and the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party).

The Peoples' Democracy Party (HADEP), is a political party with a largely Kurdish membership, which operates legally. Its predecessors HEP and DEP were closed down by the Constitutional Court for "separatism". More than 100 members and officials of these three parties have been killed since 1992, including the parliamentary deputy for Mardin, Mehmet Sincar, who was shot in Batman on 4 September 1993. His assassins have never been brought to justice.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Abdurrahim Çelikbilek, believed to have been taken into detention on 24 June 1996 after he left a coffeehouse at around 3pm in Diyarbak\_r;
- calling for an immediate investigation to establish his whereabouts as a matter of urgency and urging that his family be informed of the outcome;
- noting that Abdurrahim Çelikbilek's brother Abdulkadir was detained in Diyarbak\_r on 14 December 1994 and his body found a week later and that an application regarding his case is pending with the European Commission on Human Rights;
- asking to be informed of the result of the investigation.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. Prime Minister:

Mr Necmettin Erbakan  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telex: 44061/ 44062/ 44063 bbmt tr/ 42099 basb tr**  
**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476**  
**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

2. State of Emergency Regional Governor:

Necati Bilican.  
Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**  
**Telexes: 72110 OHVT TR; 72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the Governor"; 72090 JASY TR**  
**Faxes: +90 412 224 3572**  
**Salutation: Dear Governor**

3. Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbak\_r State Security Court:

Mr Bekir Selçuk  
DGM Ba\_savc\_s\_  
Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mrs. Tansu Çiller  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
D\_i\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 Ankara

**Fax: +90 312 419 1547**

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 15 August 1996.