

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 01/95 (EUR 44/03/95, 6 January 1995) and follow-up (EUR 44/14/95, 23 January) - Fear of Torture

TURKEY: Salih Güler, 24, correspondent for *Özgür Ülke* in Diyarbak\_r  
Ismail Hakk\_Keleci, 22, corr. for *Özgür Ülke* in Diyarbak\_r

new name: Do an Denizhan, correspondent for *Özgür Ülke* in Van

On 24 January 1995, at around 6.30pm, the Van office of the Kurdish-owned newspaper *Özgür Ülke* was raided by five or six plainclothes policemen who gained access by breaking down the door. Reportedly, one of the correspondents present in the office, Do\_an Denizhan, was detained and taken away while being beaten. When the newspaper applied to Van Police Headquarters and other authorities in Van for information of his whereabouts, they denied holding Do\_an Denizhan. There are fears for the correspondent's safety.

Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be kept incommunicado in police custody for up to 30 days in provinces under emergency legislation such as Van.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sources of information on human rights abuses in southeast Turkey are being systematically stifled. Scrutiny of the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation by outside agencies is becoming increasingly difficult.

In December 1994, the newspaper *Özgür Ülke* became the target of a coordinated bomb attack which destroyed three of its premises in Ankara and Istanbul on the night of 3 December, killing one staff member and injuring 18 in addition to wrecking the newspaper's facilities. The Kurdish-owned newspaper and its predecessors, the only papers in Turkey consistently reporting human rights violations in particular from the southeast, have been continuously prosecuted. Almost all of its issues have been confiscated. Six of its correspondents and 11 people distributing and selling the newspaper have been murdered under circumstances suggesting security force involvement, and two staff journalists have "disappeared". Scores of its editors, correspondents and other staff have been detained and tortured.

#### FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing concern for the safety of Do\_an Denizhan, held in unacknowledged detention in Van since 24 January 1995;
- urging that immediate steps are taken to establish his whereabouts and inform his family and lawyer;
- seeking assurances that he is not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- asking to be informed of any charges brought against Do\_an Denizhan.

#### APPEALS TO:

1) Deputy Prime Minister  
Mr Murat Karayalç\_n  
Ba\_bakanl\_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Deputy Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr; 42875 bbk tr**

**Faxes: +90 312 417 04 76 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

**Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister**

2) Van Public Prosecutor:

Cumhuriyet Savc\_s\_

Van Savc\_l\_\_\_\_

Van, Turkey

**Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Savciligi, Van, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 28 February 1995.