

AI NEWSLETTER JANUARY 1995

Worldwide appeal RWANDA

Felicité Dusabi, a 24 year-old Tutsi woman, worked as a primary school teacher in southwestern Rwanda.

When the war between the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) and the Rwandan Army resumed on 8 April, she took refuge at the parish of Shangi in Cyangugu prefecture. Shortly afterwards, the Interahamwe militia launched an assault on the parish, killing some 5,000 people. A week or so later, militia units returned to attack the remaining refugees, including Felicité Dusabi, who were hiding in the church ruins.

"Eh, miss Teacher, you are still alive?", one of the militia asked her. When she said yes, he asked for money, but she had none to give him. He took her skirt instead. "I lay there covered in blood," she said, "as they had cut off the head of a woman next to me, and her body covered mine. They continued to beat bodies with batons, so that when I left I had to walk on human remains."

Two Hutu women eventually helped Felicité Dusabi escape to Zaire.

On 20 September, UN soldiers in the area found about 8,000 bodies in two mass graves.

Between April and early July last year, an estimated 500,000 people, most of them Tutsis, were massacred. The killings were largely perpetrated by members of the security forces and militia gangs loyal to President Habyarimana, a Hutu, who was killed on 8 April in a missile attack on his plane.

Please write to the Rwandan authorities, urging them to cooperate with United Nations inquiries into allegations of human rights violations including crimes against humanity and genocide, and asking them to ensure that Felicité Dusabi receives appropriate treatment and compensation. Write to: Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu or Minister of Justice Alphonse-Marie Nkubito in care of: the Rwanda Patriotic Front/ 3, rue de l'Observatoire/ Bruxelles/ Belgium

Worldwide appeal - Indonesia

Dr Muchtar Pakpahan, aged 41, the leader of an independent trade union, was sentenced on 7 November to three years' imprisonment for allegedly "inciting" others to disobey the government during demonstrations in April. The actions described as "incitement", such as urging workers to demand a wage rise, were both legal and peaceful. Dr Pakpahan is a prisoner of conscience.

The verdict was delivered on the opening day of the Asia Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) summit meeting in Jakarta (see front page). The charges against Dr Pakpahan and 10 other labour leaders, some of whom have already received sentences ranging from five to 15 months' imprisonment on similar charges, were evidently aimed at intimidating activists and labour organizations. The Indonesian Government imposes heavy practical and legal restrictions on labour rights. Direct military and police interventions in labour disputes are routine and often involve ill-treatment of workers and labour activists.

Dr Pakpahan's trial was grossly unfair and contravened Indonesia's own Criminal Procedure Law. In September, a judicial hearing on the legality of his arrest was cancelled by the court. Lawyers were not informed of the precise charges against him until the first session of the trial on 19 September, and then given only three days to prepare a defence. The court refused to give the defence a copy of Dr Pakpahan's interrogation deposition and denied lawyers' request to bring expert witnesses before the court.

Some foreign governments criticised the sentence, which the authorities justified by saying that Dr Pakpahan and others were "criminals who had disrupted stability and triggered a haemorrhage of foreign investment". In his defence statement, Dr Pakpahan noted that: "What is on trial here are not my actions, but my ideas." He is appealing against his sentence.

Please send letters calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Dr Muchtar Pakpahan to President Suharto, Presiden RI, Istana Negara, Jl. Veteran, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Worldwide appeal -- BRAZIL

Fathers Ricardo Rezende and Benedito Rodrigues Costa, Brother Henri des Rosiers and town councillor Elpidio Pereira da Silva are among 40 people on a "death list" in Xinguara in the south of Pará state, northern Brazil.

Five people on the list have already been killed, two have been attacked and others have fled the area. Gunmen who revealed the existence of the list claim that those on it have been singled out because they support peasant farmers involved in land disputes in the region.

AI has repeatedly urged the authorities to investigate death threats and "death lists" in the south of Pará - a region in which scores of rural workers and trade union leaders have been killed. Civil and military police have participated in many of these killings.

A gunman arrested in September 1994 confessed to being hired by a landowner to kill Father Ricardo Rezende and another man -- who has since been shot and seriously wounded. Two days later (after the arrest or after the shooting?) a man telephoned the priest's house and said: "Tell Father Ricardo that his days are numbered and tell those who work with him to watch out too."

In November 1994 the State Governor announced an investigation into a landowner's claims that he had paid police officers to assist in tracking down and killing several rural workers and leaders.

Please write urging a full investigation into death threats made to members of the church and rural workers in the south of Pará state, and into the alleged involvement of military police in carrying out hired killings. Call for all those responsible to be brought to justice as a first step towards curbing violence in the region.

Exmo. Sr Presidente da República
Federativa do Brasil
Sr Fernando Henrique Cardoso
Palácio do Planalto
Praça dos Tres Poderes
Brasília D.F., Brazil

Articles -- Asia**Indonesia: "Operation Cleansing"**

The Indonesian authorities cracked down on government critics, labour activists and alleged criminals in an effort to "clean up" the capital, Jakarta, in the run-up to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, held in November.

The crackdown began in April with an anti-crime campaign known as "Operation Cleansing", and was broadened to include arbitrary arrest of peaceful protesters, who were in some cases tortured; the unfair trial and arbitrary imprisonment of labour activists; and a dramatic escalation in the number of alleged criminals unlawfully killed by the police.

Dozens of East Timorese independence activists attempted to enter the grounds of the US embassy in Jakarta, on 12 November, the third anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre, in which up to 270 peaceful demonstrators were killed by Indonesian security forces. Some 29 protesters managed to enter the embassy grounds, but at least 35 others were detained by the Indonesian security forces before they could get inside the gates. Their whereabouts were still not known at the end of November.

In East Timor, there were several demonstrations, some violent. The security forces conducted house to house searches, resulting in scores of arrests. AI is concerned that those detained may be ill-treated and some may ultimately be imprisoned as prisoners of conscience.

Several countries taking part in the APEC meeting expressed concern about the human rights situation in Indonesia and East Timor. Japan said it would take account of the human rights situation in East Timor when considering development aid to Indonesia. US officials sought assurances that the protesters who had entered the embassy grounds would not be punished if they left. Portugal offered political asylum to the protesters, who agreed to accept the offer on 21 November.

India
INDIA

Many thousands of people have been arbitrarily detained, tortured or otherwise ill-treated under India's Terrorist and Disruptive (Prevention) Activities Act (TADA), according to an AI report published in November.*

People detained under TADA can be held without charge for up to 180 days, which can be extended to a year, and are at serious risk of torture during this time. Those who are charged face grossly unfair trials before special courts, which are often convened in jails. Penalties are harsh, and can include sentences of death.

The Act defines "terrorist" and "disruptive activities" so vaguely that they encompass peaceful expression of political or other conscientiously held views. The result is that peaceful activists or suspected common criminals are often arrested as "terrorists".

When the Indian Government introduced TADA in 1987, it claimed that the legislation was temporary and that "scrupulous care has been taken to protect the rights of the individual under the process of law." In AI's view, "scrupulous care" has not been a feature of this legislation, and the Act urgently needs reform.

AI is therefore urging the Indian Government to order a prompt review of TADA to bring the Act in line with the rights guaranteed by international standards, and is calling for the immediate release or fair trial of prisoners held under TADA who are not known to have used violence.

* *The Terrorist and Disruptive (Prevention) Activities Act: the lack of scrupulous care*. AI Index: ?????

Americas

Mexico

Mexico: New President inherits unresolved human rights' legacy

are there any pictures available? particularly something in colour – could wait for swearing in or use something from Chiapas if you know of anything?

On 1 December Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León, Mexico's newly- elected President, was sworn into office. He is the latest in a long line of representatives of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), Institutional Revolutionary Party, which has ruled Mexico for nearly 70 years.

The new President has inherited a legacy of serious human rights problems. Although Mexico has taken steps in recent years to adopt legal and administrative measures for the protection of human rights, AI remains concerned about a long-standing and continuing pattern of violations (particularly against the poorest sectors of society, including Indian peasants), and impunity for the perpetrators.

The Indian uprising in the southern state of Chiapas began exactly a year ago, and was viciously suppressed by the Mexican army, which carried out gross human rights violations against both combatants and civilians. Yet those responsible have escaped justice.

In one case, three Tzeltal peasant activists -- Sebastián Santis López, Severino Santis Gómez and Hermelindo Santis Gómez -- were arrested, brutally tortured in front of dozens of witnesses, and "disappeared" by Mexican troops, which raided their community in Morelia, Chiapas, on 7 January 1994. Their bodies were discovered and identified a month later; an independent forensic examination indicated that they had been extrajudicially executed. Despite the forensic and witness evidence, no member of the army has been prosecuted for these murders.

In October AI sent a memorandum to President-elect Zedillo summarizing its concerns and setting out recommendations to his future government to end human rights violations in Mexico. Among the most important were those underlining the need to end the impunity with which the police and security forces act. Only the prosecution and eventual conviction of all human rights violators will prove that the government is no longer prepared to tolerate such violations in Mexico.

Peru**PERU: UN COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE EXAMINES PERU'S RECORD**

The UN Committee against Torture (CAT) met in early November in two public sessions with delegates from the Peruvian Government, who insisted that the "days when Peru did not investigate or punish those who violated human rights were long over..."

The CAT did not agree, and subsequently published a damning indictment of the human rights situation in Peru, concluding that the "widespread practice of torture during the interrogation phase in terrorism-related cases, and the impunity that is enjoyed by the perpetrators, is of profound concern to the Committee."

CAT expert Ricardo Gil Lavedra said that Peru's anti-terrorist legislation contributed to the continued use of torture. "The reports of various NGOs," he continued, "including Amnesty International, and the reports of the special UN rapporteurs on torture... coincided in concluding that torture is carried out on a massive scale in Peru."

In a report submitted to the CAT, AI challenged the claim by the Peruvian Government that effective legislative and administrative safeguards exist to prevent torture and punish torturers.

For example, the law explicitly prohibits those involved in detaining and interrogating a suspect from being called as witnesses during the suspect's trial. The possibility of cross-examining those accused of torturing or ill-treating the suspect is thereby precluded, and an important safeguard designed to ensure a fair trial is removed.

ARGENTINA

Guillermo Maqueda, a student accused of attacking a military barracks in 1989, was released in September. AI groups in Germany and Italy had been working on his case because he appeared to have been the victim of a miscarriage of justice. The Argentinian Government had reduced his sentence from 10 years to five following a decision by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.

Africa articles

Nigeria

Dozens of critics of the Nigerian government have been killed and hundreds of suspected opponents jailed in an attempt to stifle democratic opposition to the military government, which seized power in 1993. The president-elect, Moshood Abiola, is in prison awaiting trial on charges of treason. Hundreds of demonstrators have been arrested and lethal force used to crush pro-democracy protests and strikes. Prominent trade unionists, opposition politicians, journalists, human rights activists and ethnic group leaders have been detained.

In Ogoniland alone, at least 50 people were killed by government troops during 1994. Homes were destroyed and more than 600 people detained. The Ogoni people have been protesting the pollution of their environment by oil companies. The leaders of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People are being held without charge or trial. Its president, the internationally-known writer, Ken Saro-Wiwa, has been held since May, sometimes chained hand and foot and denied the medical care he needs.

AI is calling on the Nigerian authorities to stop the human rights violations committed against the Ogoni by government troops. It is also calling for the unconditional and immediate release of president-elect Moshood Abiola and all other prisoners of conscience and for the abolition of legislation allowing indefinite detention without charge or trial.

In December AI representatives visited Nigeria to undertake research and to meet government officials.

**Rwanda
TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA**

On 8 November the United Nations Security Council agreed to establish an ad hoc tribunal for Rwanda responsible for bringing to justice perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and violations of humanitarian law committed during 1994.

AI welcomed the decision, but warned: "If the new tribunal is to do its job effectively the international community needs to provide sufficient human and material resources and cooperate with the tribunal, including by the surrender or transfer of suspects to the new tribunal."

It is also vital that the international community provide massive assistance to Rwanda so that it can establish a judicial system capable of bringing to justice those responsible for grave human rights abuses, in national tribunals which satisfy international standards for fair trial. Such courts should also try those responsible for thousands of political killings before 1994, particularly those committed since the civil war began in 1990.

Middle East

SYRIA

An AI delegation to Syria in October was given high-level access to Government officials. This was the first time AI representatives have been able to hold substantive talks with the Syrian Government.

AI raised the cases of more than a thousand people, representing a range of victims of human rights violations over the last 25 years. Among them was Riad al-Turk, a 63-year-old lawyer who has been in incommunicado detention for 14 years without charge or trial. In 1993, he was permitted a single visit with his wife and daughter, but he has not seen them since. He is being held because of his membership in the Communist Party Political Bureau.

Delegates met the Ministers of Interior, Justice and Health, as well as the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the President of the Supreme Court (SSSC), and other senior judges and officials, and raised AI's concerns over the whole range of human rights violations in Syria.

While acknowledging that several thousand prisoners have been released since 1991, AI urged the government to speed up the releases of those still unfairly imprisoned, investigate allegations of torture, account for those who have "disappeared" or died in custody, and introduce safeguards aimed at stopping future abuses of human rights.

ESCALATING HARASSMENT OF AI IN MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In November AI's Secretary-General Pierre Sané protested the escalating harassment of local groups in Egypt and across the Middle East and North Africa.

"If AI members are banned from carrying out their activities, and we can't send our researchers to investigate the human rights situation, what clearer signal do we need that we are not welcome?" Pierre Sané said.

In October Egyptian authorities banned AI's Egyptian members from holding their annual general meeting, and accused AI's organizational field worker of carrying out "illegal activities".

These actions fit a pattern of harassment that AI members, delegates and staff members face elsewhere in the region.

In Tunisia, the government has harassed the AI section for over two years. The section has not been receiving AI publications and an IS staff member has been refused permission to enter the country.

In Kuwait, the authorities continue to refuse legal registration to the groups, which imposes restrictions on their activity. The government has denied entry visas to the AI membership development team.

Europe -- articles

Uzbekistan

Release of prisoners of conscience

Five prisoners of conscience were released by special presidential decree in November, including Pulat Akhunov, subject of a worldwide appeal in April 1994. In detention since July 1992, he had been serving a four-and-a-half-year sentence after being convicted on criminal charges that AI believes were fabricated.

Also released were Atanazar Aripov and Salavat Umurzakov, activists in the outlawed *Erk* party, who had been jailed in March 1994 for five and three years respectively for "conspiracy to seize power".

The other two men had also been convicted on apparently fabricated criminal charges. Inamzhon Tursunov, a regional *Erk* leader, was serving a two-year prison term for "hooliganism", and Nosyr Zokhir of the outlawed *Birlik* movement was serving two and half years for illegal possession of drugs and a weapon.

While welcoming these releases, AI remains concerned about repression of government opponents, including the continued detention of other probable prisoners of conscience.

Azerbaijan

Sevda Vagif kyzy Nukhiyeva, a 15-year-old ethnic Azeri who spent over a year as a hostage of ethnic Armenian forces in the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) in Azerbaijan, was unconditionally released in October 1994. Her sister Sevil, her mother Raisa, two girl cousins and their mother were also released.

Sevda was featured as a worldwide appeal in November 1994; news of her release came after the newsletter went to press.

Europe: Calls for anti-death penalty treaty

The parliamentary body of the 32-member Council of Europe has called for a treaty to abolish the death penalty for all crimes.

The request came in the form of a recommendation adopted by the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly on 4 October. The recommendation now goes to the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers for action.

The treaty would be in the form of an optional protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights. At present, the Sixth Protocol to the Convention provides for the abolition of the death penalty in peacetime. Twenty-five states have either ratified or signed the Sixth Protocol.

The treaty would be the first in the world to provide for the abolition of the death penalty with no exception allowed in wartime. The treaty would also oblige states parties not to reintroduce the death penalty under any circumstances.

January 1995 Focus Manuscript - Turkey

(word count - 3,321)

Intro (picture/page one)

These Kurdish villagers are listening intently to a journalist reading out a list (supplied by Amnesty International) of 11 members of their village who were taken by Turkish security forces from the village of Alaca in south eastern Turkey on 20 October 1993 and never seen again.

"We still believe that our loved ones are alive somewhere," said the brother of one of the "disappeared", "There were thousands of soldiers in our village with tanks and vehicles. We all saw them being taken away. How can the authorities now deny that they have them?"

In this part of Turkey "disappearances" are occurring at an alarming rate, torture in custody is widespread, and there is at least one new victim of political killing in southeast Turkey every day. It is the civilian Kurdish population that has suffered most in the 10-year-conflict between the guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), who are fighting the Turkish security forces for Kurdish autonomy.

This conflict has claimed more than 13,000 lives since it began in August 1984. A state of emergency remains in force in 10 provinces in the southeast, where police and gendarmerie have the right to hold political suspects incommunicado for up to one month.

In their efforts to deal with insurgency, the security forces are failing to distinguish between civilians and those involved in guerrilla warfare. It has been estimated that as many as two million people have been displaced by the conflict. Thousands have been driven from their homes by acts of brutality and intimidation. Villagers have been ill-treated, tortured, killed or "disappeared". Hundreds of settlements have been emptied after threats of violence, and evacuated villages burned down or demolished. Refugees who have been forced out of their homes and villages are now living in growing shanty towns on the outskirts of Diyarbakir and other cities in the southeast.

The increasing ferocity of the security force operations has been matched by the actions of the PKK, which has taken hostages, carried out summary "executions", and attacked and killed civilians. During attacks on Kurdish communities it perceives as supporting the government, the PKK has captured and killed not only village guards -- villagers armed by the government to fight PKK guerrillas -- but their wives and children as well. Villagers are caught between the two sides: they are often reluctant to become village guards, fearing reprisals by the PKK -- but if they refuse their villages are raided by the security forces.

Both sides in the conflict have used the threat of violence to control information sources in the area. The PKK has threatened and killed journalists. The Turkish authorities have attempted to conceal their own human rights violations by the systematic intimidation of the journalists, lawyers and human rights activists who continue reporting the truth at the risk of their lives. Scores have been killed, most report death threats and many are charged with crimes in an attempt to silence them. Human rights monitors

are being forced to leave the region, and only one out of 13 branches of the Turkish Human Rights Association in the region is still fully functioning.

While human rights violations are most intense in the southeast, the methods of repression are reflected in the major cities of the west.

The grave security situation permits police to act with impunity and the law is used to stifle dissent in the media. Torture is routine, including in the Anti-Terror Branches of Istanbul and Ankara Police Headquarters.

The problem of torture in Turkey has been widely recognized not only by human rights bodies. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture visited Turkey three times between 1990 and 1992 and criticized the government for failing to take any steps to prevent widespread torture. During two impromptu visits to Ankara Police Headquarters and the Diyarbakir Police Headquarters it found equipment clearly used for torture. At Ankara Police Headquarters the committee discovered:

"a low stretcher-type bed equipped with eight straps (four each side), fitting perfectly the description of the item of furniture to which persons had said they were secured when electric shocks were administered to them. No credible explanation could be proffered for the presence of this bed in what was indicated by a sign as being an 'interrogation room'...[T]he delegation's discoveries caused considerable consternation among police officers present; some expressed regret, others defiance."

After a three year investigation, the United Nations Committee against Torture concluded that "inadequate legislation which in practice allows room for the use of torture may also add to the systematic nature of this practice".

There were at least 34 deaths in custody in 1994 in circumstances which suggested that the victims died as a result of torture.

"Disappearances", ejes, human rights defenders etc (pages 2&3)

"I supported the government. But they came to my village and burned it down. They took me to the gendarmerie station and tortured me. My ribs were broken. They collected the people outside the village and gave them nothing for four days. They also burned all of our crops. I came to Ankara to ask help from the government."

This is what Mehmet Gürkan, head of the village of Akçayurt, told the Turkish Daily News on 3 August. On 18 August he "disappeared". He had returned to his village to collect a few belongings and was seen being detained by members of the security forces before being taken away in a helicopter. When his wife made inquiries the authorities denied holding him.

Mehmet Gürkan had spoken out after the inhabitants of his and other villages in the area were forcibly evacuated by the security forces on 7 July, after a clash had taken place between government forces and the PKK near his village. An estimated 2,000 villagers including women and children were herded into a containment area and held for a week in inhuman conditions. For much of the time they were without food or drink and many were reported to have been severely tortured by members of the security forces specially trained in anti-guerrilla tactics. Eight men were beaten unconscious.

In the southeastern provinces the security forces have the right to hold political suspects completely incommunicado for a month. Detainees are forbidden access to a lawyer, family, friends or doctor. Police frequently deny holding detainees causing panic amongst relatives who fear the worst. This abuse of procedures which stipulate prompt and proper registration of detainees has created the conditions for the "disappearance" of people in custody.

Before 1993 there were few reported "disappearances" in Turkey: since then however, the number of people who have "disappeared" has dramatically increased. Most of the victims are villagers in the southeast, but "disappearances" have also occurred elsewhere, including in Istanbul and Ankara. "Disappearance" is used by the Turkish security forces, like extrajudicial execution, as a convenient tool in the anti-insurgency struggle.

Hüseyin Koku, the President of the People's Democracy Party (HADEP) in the town of Elbistan in southern central Turkey was reportedly so severely tortured while in police custody in March 1994 that he has had difficulty walking ever since. He needs constant medical attention. Now he has "disappeared".

Hüseyin Koku was followed by the police and had been detained many times before, including on local elections day in March 1994. He was released three months later. On his way to his doctor on 20 October a car pulled up beside him and he was made to get in. Although initially told he was being held by the police, his wife and family, their lawyers and party officials have tried in vain to establish his whereabouts. They are gravely concerned for his health and safety.

Simply being a member of certain opposition political parties in Turkey can be fatal. More than 100 officials and members of the pro-Kurdish HADEP or its predecessors have been killed in the last three years. There is now strong evidence to suggest that Turkish security forces have planned and carried out political killings using proxies – people used by the security forces to obscure the link between such killings and the state. DEP deputy Mehmet Sincar was killed in September in the city of Batman, in circumstances which suggest security force involvement.

HADEP is the successor to the People's Labour Party (HEP) and the Democracy Party (DEP), both of which were closed down for "separatism" by Turkey's Constitutional Court. Like its predecessors, HADEP has a predominantly Kurdish membership and works for the civil and political rights of the Kurdish minority.

Party officials have been followed, threatened, shot at, abducted, and their homes and offices raided. Seven DEP parliamentary deputies and one independent Kurdish deputy are on trial on charges of "separatism" and could face the death penalty. Six other deputies fled the country when their party was banned in June 1994.

Almost every week more people are thrown into prison for the expression of their non-violent opinions.

Authors, journalists, lawyers and human rights activists -- anyone in fact who writes or speaks out about the Kurdish issue or the fast-deteriorating human rights situation in the southeast of the country -- have been intimidated, detained, tortured and even killed.

Six journalists from one paper alone, the Kurdish-owned Özgür Gündem, have been killed during the 18 months of its existence in circumstances that suggest security force involvement, and a female staff reporter from the paper has "disappeared" in Istanbul. The newspaper consistently reported human rights violations in the southeast until it was forced to close down.

There has been a dramatic rise in the number of people detained and prosecuted under Article 8 of the Anti-Terror Law since 1993. This appears to be closely linked to the escalating conflict in the southeast. Under Article 8 anyone prosecuted for "separatist propaganda" can face long jail sentences. In July 1993, the Prime Minister and Chief of Staff called on members of the press to support the government in the "total war" against separatism. Part of this strategy appears to be an attack on freedom of expression.

Many of those imprisoned have taken a clear stand against violence in their comments on the Kurdish issue. The lawyer Ahmet Zeki Okçuoğlu is serving an 18 month jail sentence for taking part in a discussion on the Kurdish question which was published in a magazine in 1991. Before handing himself over to the authorities he said: "For years I have opposed terrorism, opposed violence, and clearly stated this. In my whole life I have never used a weapon."

Mahmut Akkurt was sentenced to one year of imprisonment for a speech he made two years previously at a public meeting when he was president of the Bal_kesir branch of the Human Rights Association. Mahmut Akkurt was convicted under Article 312 of the Turkish Penal Code for "praising a crime" - though to Amnesty International's knowledge he did not advocate violence. He was arrested on 31 October 1994 and is currently held in Kepsut prison, Bal_kesir province.

The journalist Oral Çal__lar was sentenced to two years in prison for publishing a book of interviews with leaders of various armed and unarmed Kurdish organizations. He said: "I was considered a terrorist just because I carried out my duty as a journalist". Oral Çal__lar is free pending appeal.

In May 1994 Mehdi Zana, the former mayor of Diyarbak_r and husband of the imprisoned parliamentarian Leyla Zana, began serving a four-year sentence for his testimony to the Human Rights Sub-Committee of the European Parliament on 3 December 1992 in which he said: "Like all Kurds sentenced for the 'crime of separatism' I have been stripped of my political rights for life. I should perhaps make it clear that while I continue to campaign peacefully for the recognition of the rights of the 15 million Kurds living in Turkey, I am not a member of any party or movement."

A woman lawyer and secretary of the Diyarbakir branch of the Turkish Human Rights Association said she was assaulted and tortured while being held incommunicado for four weeks at the local Gendarmerie Headquarters in November 1993. Meral Dan__ Be_ta_ was soaked for an hour naked in freezing cold water. She was also blindfolded, slapped, kicked and subjected to crude sexual insults. She said: "They brought me a statement and asked me to sign while I was blindfold. I said, 'I am a lawyer - I am not going to sign anything that I have not read'".

Her trial, in which she is accused of supporting the PKK, continues. But AI believes that the real reason for her prosecution is her work for clients who have made official complaints against the Turkish security forces for torture and other human rights violations.

AI and others, including Turkish parliamentarians, have called for Article 8 of the Anti-Terror Law to be repealed or amended to ensure that no one can be imprisoned for the expression of his or her non-violent beliefs. A revision of the law was submitted to the Judicial Commission of the Turkish Parliament in November 1994, but it is not clear whether the draft text would, if it became law, prevent the continued locking up of prisoners of conscience.

PKK

PKK guerrillas raiding the village of Kazanköyü, A_r_, entered the house of primary school teacher Sait Korkmaz on 28 September, dragged him out, bound his hands and legs, and shot him dead.

There has been an increase recently of such attacks on teachers by the PKK -- the armed political group fighting for a separate Kurdish state. In the following two months 13 teachers were summarily "executed" by PKK guerrillas. The PKK reportedly shot dead four primary school teachers in Mardin province, southeast Turkey on 6 November 1994.

At a meeting with representatives of AI in London in August 1994, a representative of the PKK said that the organization had committed itself to abide by Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 which provides that persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of the armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed *hors de combat* by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, must be treated humanely in all circumstances and should not be ill-treated or killed.

Nevertheless, PKK guerrillas persistently kill prisoners and civilians in open violation of this most basic requirement of international humanitarian law. The intention to kill teachers in southeast Turkey declared in a PKK public statement in October 1994 suggests that, contrary to the assurances given to AI, the PKK has established the murder of civilians as open policy.

Teachers, local politicians, the families of village guards and other civilians -- generally those it regards as agents of the state or people it suspects of collaborating with the security forces -- have all been targets of the PKK.

In one of the worst incidents, during an attack on village guards in the village of Ormancik in January 1994, 16 women and children were killed when PKK guerrillas threw grenades into the building in which they were sheltering.

The PKK has also claimed responsibility for bomb attacks which were clearly directed at civilian targets. In January 1994, a six-year-old boy was killed by a bomb planted in the governor's office in Diyarbakir, and two people were killed by bombs placed on buses in Ankara.

In one incident in October 1993, they killed 35 prisoners, including two children in the Çat district of Erzurum, and in another 32 unarmed members of the security forces and four civilians were abducted and killed near Bingöl in May 1993.

AI has repeatedly condemned all summary "executions", attacks on civilian targets and hostage-taking and publicly called on the leadership of the PKK to ensure that their forces respect internationally recognized humanitarian standards.

Appeal 1

Two teenage cousins, Ercan and Zeki Diril, trying to return to their village in southeast Turkey from Istanbul have "disappeared".

The village of Kovankaya in Hakkari province was burned to the ground by the Turkish security forces in 1990 after its inhabitants refused to participate in the village guard system. The villagers fled to Istanbul. Kovankaya was partly rebuilt by returning villagers in 1992. After working in Istanbul for six

months, the two boys, aged 15 and 17, decided to return to Kovankaya. They set out on 15 May 1994 and stopped for a few nights at Uzungeçit, some distance from their village. But they never reached Kovankaya. According to eye-witnesses they were arrested by village guards in the town of Uzungeçit and handed over to gendarmes from the town of Uludere.

Known locally as Mehri, Kovankaya is one of the last Assyro-Chaldean Catholic villages in Hakkari province. The community there, which numbered more than 5,000 before the armed conflict began in southeast Turkey in 1984, has dwindled to five families, through migration to Istanbul and Europe. On 4 June 1994 Kovankaya was again burned by security forces on 4 June 1994 and the inhabitants forcibly evicted. They are now living in another settlement in the area.

Please send appeals, urging that a thorough investigation be carried out urgently to establish the whereabouts of Zeki Ercan Diril and _lyas Edip Diril following their arrest by security forces at Uzungeçit, Hakkari province, on 19 May 1994, to: Minister of the Interior, Mr Nahit Mente_e, _çi_leri Bakanl___, Ankara, Turkey.

Appeal 2

Fatime Akal_n

"My brother was brought into the police station. They applied psychological pressure by saying that they would torture us together, or torture him in front of me. They told me that if I did not accept their accusations they would torture my brother until he was crippled in his legs."

Laboratory technician Fatime Akalin alleges not only that she was herself tortured but that she was made to watch her brother being tortured in front of her.

A shop steward for the health workers' union, she was detained by police at her work on 18 April 1994 and interrogated at the Anti-Terror Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters, for alleged membership of an illegal organization.

She told AI that she was soaked with cold water and thrown into a cell. At midnight she was taken out again and given electric shocks.

On the third day of her detention, she was beaten and forced to wear a blindfold, and then stripped of her clothes.

The methods of torture used were chosen to leave as few traces as possible.

She was released on 2 May 1994, but is being prosecuted for membership of the Turkish Revolutionary Communist Union (TIKB), an illegal organization.

Please write calling for a full inquiry into Fatime Akalin's allegations of torture while in police custody to: Minister of Justice, Mehmet Mo_ultay, Ministry of Justice, Adalet Bakanl___, 06659 Ankara; and to: Minister of State with responsibility for Women and Children, Öney Alpago, Office of the Prime Minister, Ba_bakanl_k, 06573 Ankara, Turkey

Appeal 3

Schoolteacher Bekta_Avc_ is believed to have been held captive by the PKK for more than a year. His family fear for his life and are desperate for news of him.

Married with two children, Bekta_Avc_ is the Principal of Yeniköy Middle School in Bingöl, one of 10 provinces in the southeast under emergency legislation. He was abducted by PKK guerrillas on 24 October 1993. His family have received no news of him since.

To AI's knowledge, Bekta_Avc_ had no connection with the security forces. He is apparently being held because of his professional status as a teacher and because of his Turkish ethnic origin.

AI has twice written to the PKK leadership asking why Bekta_Avc_ was being held and what arrangements were being made for his release, but has received no reply.

The PKK pledged to respect the Geneva Conventions which safeguard civilians, the wounded and prisoners, yet it has attacked local politicians, journalists, teachers and other civilians, and in October 1994 declared that it will kill teachers on duty in southeast Turkey.

Please write to the following daily newspapers describing Bekta_Avc_'s case, explaining that AI considers him to be a prisoner of conscience, expressing concern that no news has been heard of him for more than a year, and asking the newspaper to publicise AI's concern. Write to: Sabah (Morning), Medya Plaza, Bas_n Ekspres Yolu, 34540 Güne_li, Istanbul, Turkey; and to Özgür Ülke, Alemdar Mah, Ba_musahip Sok, Talas Han Kat: 4, Ca_alo_lu, Istanbul, Turkey.