

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 101/93 (EUR 44/110/93, 19 November 1993) - and follow-ups (EUR 44/112/93, 24 November; EUR 44/119/93, 9 December; EUR 44/121/93, 17 December; EUR 44/06/94, 25 January 1994; EUR 44/37/94, 13 May) - Fear of Torture / Legal Concern

TURKEY:Hüsniye Ölmez (f); Meral Dan__ Be__ta__ (f), Secretary of the Human Rights Association (IHD) branch in Diyarbak_r; Mesut Be__ta__, her husband, IHD member; Sabahattin Acar (note correct name); Baki Demirhan; __inasi Tur; Arif Altunkalem, IHD member; Nevzat Kaya; Vedat Erten; Tahir Elçi (from Cizre); Niyazi Çem (from Istanbul); Fuat Hayri Demir; Gazanfer Abbasio_lu; Selim Kurbanolu; __mam__ahin; Arzu __ahin (f)

and: Sedat Aslanta__, lawyer

Sedat Aslanta__, who was detained in Ankara on 12 May 1994, has been transferred from police custody to Ankara Central Closed Prison.

Two arrest warrants had been issued *in absentia* for Sedat Aslanta__: one in connection with the trial of 16 lawyers (named above) of the Diyarbak_r Bar Association currently taking place before Diyarbak_r State Security Court; the other in connection with a press statement issued on 27 May 1993 by the "Democratic Platform", a group of leading members or representatives of trade unions, associations and publications in Diyarbak_r, protesting against human rights violations in the region.

A trial was opened before Diyarbak_r State Security Court against the 24 signatories of this joint press statement. They were charged with making "separatist propaganda". On or around 20 April 1994, 21 of them were convicted and sentenced to 20 months' imprisonment and a fine of 208 million Turkish Lira each; two defendants were acquitted, one had died in the course of the proceedings. It appears that Sedat Aslanta__ has been imprisoned to serve this sentence, although the appeal is still pending. Until the verdict has been ratified by the Court of Appeal, it is not yet legally binding and cannot be legally executed.

Since the joint press statement of May 1993 does not advocate violence, Sedat Aslanta__ is considered to be a prisoner of conscience and his imprisonment to be in violation of his right to freedom of expression, as safeguarded in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a State Party.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the lawyer Sedat Aslanta__ as a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned in contravention of his right to freedom of expression, as safeguarded in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights to which Turkey is a State Party.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Justice:
Mr Seyfi Oktay

Adalet Bakanl____
06659 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Adalet Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: 90 312 417 3954
Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Prime Minister:
Mrs Tansu Çiller
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr; 42875 bbk tr
Faxes: +90 312 417 04 76 PRIME MINISTER
+90 312 230 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

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 17 June 1994.