

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 70/94 Possible "disappearance" / Fear for safety

30 November 1994

TURKEY

brahim Bahattin Karakütük, journalist, aged 29

There is grave concern for the safety of \_brahim Bahattin Karakütük, the foreign affairs correspondent of the Kurdish-owned daily *Özgür Ülke* (Free Country).

He left the newspaper's offices in Ankara at 1pm on 29 November 1994 to go to the Russian Embassy where he was to conduct an interview. He reportedly left the embassy at about 3pm on foot and has not been seen or heard of since. It is feared that he has been abducted by members of the security forces and that he may be extrajudicially executed.

\_brahim Bahattin Karakütük told colleagues at the Ankara office that a few days ago unidentified persons had followed him in quite an obvious manner to his house in Kavakl\_dere. He had apparently also been followed on previous occasions.

The Anti-Terror Branch of Ankara Police Headquarters denied holding him when asked by the President of the parliamentary Human Rights Commission, Sabri Yavuz. All other attempts to establish his whereabouts have so far been unsuccessful.

\_brahim Bahattin Karakütük has been foreign affairs correspondent for *Özgür Gündem* during the paper's two years of existence and, since it ceased publication in May 1994, for its successor *Özgür Ülke*. Reportedly, he has had professional contacts with the Russian Embassy on numerous occasions.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kurdish-owned *Özgür Gündem* and *Özgür Ülke* have been the only newspapers in Turkey which consistently reported human rights violations from the predominantly Kurdish provinces in the east and in the southeast where a State of Emergency is in force and where the security forces are pursuing a policy of "total conflict" against guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). Nine of their correspondents and 11 people distributing and selling the newspaper have been murdered under circumstances suggesting security forces involvement and one female staff journalist has "disappeared" in Istanbul. Scores of its editors and other staff have been detained and tortured, many of them are still in prison and on trial or awaiting trial.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of *Özgür Ülke* journalist \_brahim Bahattin Karakütük who has not been seen since 29 November 1994 and is feared to have "disappeared" in Ankara;
- urging that immediate steps are taken to establish his present whereabouts and state of health;
- asking to be informed of the results of this investigation.

#### APPEALS TO

1) Deputy Prime Minister:

Mr Murat Karayalçın

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 0476 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**  
**Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister**

2) Chief of Police in Ankara:

Mr Orhan Ta\_anlar  
Ankara Emniyet Müdürlü\_ü  
Konya-Samsun Karayolu  
Ankara, Turkey  
**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Ankara, 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 10 January 1995.