

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/23/93
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Date: 5 March 1993

*FURTHER INFORMATION ON
THE "DISAPPEARANCE" OF DR HASAN KAYA AND METIN CAN
TURKEY*

The bodies of Metin Can and Dr Hasan Kaya were found on 27 February following their disappearance in Elazi_, southeast Turkey, a week earlier on 21 February 1993. The bodies were found some 120 kilometres from Elazi_ and were lying under a bridge by the side of a river approximately 10 kilometres from the town of Tunceli. Their hands were reportedly bound with wire behind their backs, their shoes were missing, their bodies bore marks of cigarette burns, Dr Hasan Kaya's eyes were gouged out and both had been shot with one bullet in the head. Two cartridges of pistol ammunition were found at the site, but there was no blood on the ground and no mud on their socks, suggesting that they might have been killed elsewhere and the bodies then dumped by the river.

The two men were believed to have been abducted after having been called away from Metin Can's home by a telephone call. Their families subsequently received disturbing telephone calls, the first of which said, "We killed Metin and Hasan. Our condolences!". The telephone calls stopped after a tap was put on Metin Can's phone. Metin Can's car, in which the two men had left the house, was found abandoned on the day of their disappearance. Metin Can had been chairman of the Human Rights Association (HRA) in Elaz__ since the foundation of the branch and is said to have previously received death threats. Dr Kaya was a family friend.

Autopsies were conducted on their bodies in Tunceli and Elazi_, but the findings have not yet been publicly released. However, according to reports received, it appears that both were tortured and ill-treated prior to their death. The autopsies are said to have revealed that Metin Can had been strangled and had a broken rib, while Dr Hasan Kaya had a broken tooth and traces of a cord around his neck.

According to reports, tension was high in Elaz__ over the weekend following the discovery of the bodies and the police occupied strategic points in the city. The funeral of the two murder victims was attended by thousands of mourners.

The killings of Metin Can and Dr Hasan Kaya strongly resemble the abduction, torture and killing of Vedat Ayd_n, board member of the Diyarbak_r branch of the Human Rights Association, in July 1991, whose body was found under a bridge some 60 kilometres from Diyarbak_r. There are persistent allegations that the security forces were involved in his killing.

Over the last two years there has been an alarming increase in extrajudicial executions in the predominantly Kurdish southeast of Turkey where emergency legislation is in force.

Members of the Human Rights Association have been amongst those murdered. In recent weeks there has been a disturbing increase in pressure on the Human Rights Association: on 18 February, Kemal Kılıç, a HRA board member in Urfa was killed by unknown assassins; on 23 February Mehmet Gökalp, HRA representative in Derik, was detained and is currently being interrogated, allegedly under torture, at Mardin Gendarmerie Headquarters. On 25 February Hac Ouz, chairman of the Siirt HRA branch, was detained in Siirt.

Amnesty International has repeatedly appealed to the Turkish authorities to establish commissions of inquiry into the killings in the southeast in order that responsibility may be established. Turkey has consistently failed to respond to this recommendation. Amnesty International is again renewing appeals to the government as a matter of urgency to take immediate steps to establish responsibility for the killings.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Europe
Date: 5 March 1993

FOLLOW-UP TO MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

(See EUR 44/13/93 - 25 February 1993)

Dr Hasan Kaya and Metin Can

TURKEY

Keywords

Theme: Extrajudicial execution

Profession/association: Doctor/Lawyer

Summary

Metin Can, chairman of the Human Rights Association in Elazi_, and his friend Dr Hasan Kaya both "disappeared" in Elazi_, southeast Turkey, on 21 February 1993. They have now both been found murdered with signs of torture and mutilation apparent on the bodies.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals and should be sent to the addresses below:

- expressing deep concern about the torture and murder of the human rights activist and lawyer Metin Can, and of his friend, Dr Hasan Kaya, in Elaz__ on 27 February 1993
- urging that every step possible is undertaken to find those responsible for the abduction, torture and murder of the two men and to bring them to justice
- asking that the findings of the autopsy reports are made public and seeking information on the conduct of the murder investigation.

Addresses:

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

2) Minister of Human Rights:

Mr Mehmet Kahraman

Devlet Bakan_

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Inan Haklari Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 419 15 35

3) Governor of Elaz__ Province:

Mr Do_an Ünlüsoy

Elaz__ Valili_i

Elaz__, Turkey

Telegrams: Elazig Valiligi, Elazig, Turkey

4) Chief of Elaz__ Police:

Mr Tuncay Kalabak

Elaz__ Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Elaz__, Turkey

Telegrams: Elazig Muduru, Elazig, Turkey

Copies to:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.