

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/77/91

Distr: UA/SC

UA 189/91

Fear of Torture

5 June 1991

TURKEY:

Hidayet Kiliç, (f) aged 18, from Kurtalan village

Osman _atir, student, detained 27 May 1991) from
Kasim Ekinçi, IHD member, detained 28 May 1991) Siirt
Musa Tan, detained 3 June 1991)

Halit Ekinçi)
Ibrahim Basut, shepherd) from Çizmeli village
Sait Kaymaz, shepherd)

_hsan Erdem, village headman)
Ahmet Erdem) from Ballikavak
Hasan Ekin) (Lode) near Eruh

Amnesty International has learned of further detentions in the Siirt/_irnak area of southeast Turkey in recent days as follows.

Hidayet Kiliç (f) was detained on 2 June 1991 in the town of Kurtalan. The reason for her detention and her current whereabouts are not known to Amnesty International.

Those detained in the town of Siirt were Osman _atir, a student, on 27 May 1991, Kasim Ekinçi, a member of the Turkish Human Rights Association (IHD), on 28 May 1991 and Musa Tan on 3 June 1991. It is believed that they are being held in Siirt Police Headquarters.

In Çizmeli (Kurdish name: Nivelâ) village three villagers: Halit Ekinçi, _brahim Basut, a shepherd, and Sait Kaymaz, also a shepherd, were detained on 28 May 1991. It is believed that they are being held in Eruh Gendarmerie Headquarters.

In the village of Ballikavak (Kurdish name: Lode) near Eruh three villagers: Ihsan Erdem, a village headman, Ahmet Erdem and Hasan Ekin were detained on 31 May 1991 on suspicion of providing shelter and assistance to guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). It is believed that they, too, are being held in Eruh Gendarmerie Headquarters.

It is feared that the detainees may be tortured during interrogation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is not officially recognized by the authorities, but is estimated to number some 10 million people. The Kurdish population lives mainly in southeastern Turkey. Frequent allegations of torture and ill-treatment have been received from the region and the number of torture allegations increased substantially after the 1980 military coup. Since August 1984, when Kurdish guerrillas - members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) - started armed attacks, an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces, where more than 2000 lives so far have been lost in the continuing fighting.

In May 1990 the Turkish government issued Decrees 424 and 425 (in December replaced by Decree 430), further extending the already extraordinary powers of the Emergency Legislation Governor. Subsequently, in August 1990, the government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights.

Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture on 25 February 1988 and the UN Convention Against Torture on 2 August 1988. However, all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and systematic in Turkey. Allegations of torture have continued since the transfer of power to a civilian government in 1983. Most allegations relate to ill-treatment of detainees in police custody during their initial interrogation when they are usually denied access to relatives or a lawyer. Under current legislation the maximum detention period before being formally charged or released is 24 hours; in cases involving three or more suspects or due to the 'nature of the crime' it may be extended to 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in areas under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in ten provinces, including Siirt and _irnak.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging that all detainees mentioned above are given prompt access to their families and lawyers and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;

- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

APPEALS TO

Atilla Koç
Siirt Valisi
Governor of Siirt Province
Siirt, Turkey
Telegrams: Siirt Valisi, Siirt, Turkey

Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Hayri Kozakçio_lu
Ola_anüstü Hal Valisi
Diyarbakir, Turkey
Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey
Telex: 72110 OHVT TR
72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the Governor"
72090 JASY TR
Fax: +90 831 26174

President Turgut Özal
Devlet Ba_kanli_i
06100 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: President Özal, Ankara, Turkey
Telex: 42875 bbk tr
Faxes: (via Press Office) +90 4 168 5012

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Abdülkadir Aksu
Içi_leri Bakanli_i
06644 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telex: 46369 ICSL TR
Fax: +90 41 28 43 46

COPIES TO:

President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Eyüp A_ik

_nsan Haklari Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kani

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

Fax: +90 4 11 91 664

+90 4 42 06 941

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 July 1991.