

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/159/91

Distr: UA/SC

UA 446/91

Extrajudicial Execution

17 December 1992

TURKEY: Agit Akibe (aged around 45)
 _brahim Demir (aged around 30)

Agit Akibe, headman of Çukurlu village in southeast Turkey and _brahim Demir, a relative, were found dead, blindfolded and with their wrists bound, in a small cave near their village on 13 December. Both were members of Turkey's Kurdish minority.

The previous day they had submitted a petition to the local governor of the district of _dil requesting that approximately 100 soldiers, who have been occupying houses and the school in Çukurlu village for several months, should be ordered to leave. Shortly after Agit Akibe and _brahim Demir had returned from _dil, five villagers witnessed them being summoned for questioning by a lieutenant attached to the army unit in the village.

When Agit Akibe and _brahim Demir did not return, the villagers searched the area and on the morning of 13 December found the bodies of the two men. Autopsies showed that Agit Akibe had been shot once in the head, while _brahim Demir had been beaten to death. Amnesty International believes that they may have been victims of extrajudicial executions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since May 1991 Amnesty International has received reports of 19 alleged extrajudicial executions and one "disappearance" which all occurred in the Midyat/Nusaybin area of southeast Turkey. The victims are all Kurdish people from villages which have refused to participate in the corps of government-appointed village guards, a system of some 20,000 armed civilians paid by the authorities to counter the activities of the guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) and to deny them access to logistical support from the villages in the area. Although villagers are reluctant to serve as village guards for fear of inviting reprisals from the guerrillas, they also fear reprisals from the security forces should they refuse. However, during 1991 there have been widespread resignations from the corps of village guards.

During November Amnesty International sent a memorandum to Turkey's newly formed government urging the independent and impartial investigation of 25 allegations of "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution in Turkey during 1991, including the incidents in the Midyat/Nüsaybin area.

Since then an additional "disappearance" and four killings have been brought to the organization's attention, including the two mentioned above which occurred close to the Nusaybin/Midyat area. Although there have been previous allegations of extrajudicial execution and "disappearance" in Turkey, the volume of such incidents in 1991 suggests that a new pattern of human rights violations may be emerging in Turkey. (see also UA 360/91, EUR 44/139/91, 29 October 1991; UA 414/91, EUR 44/155/91, 27 November 1991; and the circular Southeast Turkey: Attacks on Human Rights Activists and Killings of Local Politicians, AI Index: EUR 44/114/91, 9 August 1991).

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

- urging a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the killing of Agit Akibe and _brahim Demir near Çukurlu village, __rnak province;
- recommending that the investigation should be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the United Nations Manual on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions;
- pointing out that such an investigation would be the most effective way of preventing further extrajudicial executions;
- urging that those found to be responsible for the killing of Agit Akibe and _brahim Demir should promptly be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO

1) Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel
Office of the Prime Minister
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 41 17 04 76 PRIME MINISTER
+ 90 42 30 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR
Faxes: + 90 4 118 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission

Mr Ahmet Türk

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

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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 28 January 1992.