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Fear of t

TURKEY Feridun Çelik, lawyer, Mayor of Diyarbakır, HADEP
M. Selim Özalp, Mayor of Siirt, HADEP
Feyzullah Karaaslan, Mayor of Bingöl, HADEP
Ramazan Tekin, deputy Mayor of Diyarbakır, HADEP

The mayors of three towns, all of them members of the People's Democracy Party (HADEP), have been arrested and are thought to be held at the Diyarbakır Gendarmerie, where they are at serious risk of torture.

Feridun Çelik was arrested by Anti-Terror Branch police on 19 February at about 3.30pm, while he was on his way to the town hall. He was reportedly taken to Diyarbakır Gendarmerie for interrogation. In February 1999 he had been detained for a week, when he was beaten, denied food and held in overcrowded conditions.

M. Selim Özalp was arrested by Security Police and Gendarmerie officers in Siirt town hall on 19 February. He was immediately taken to Diyarbakır Gendarmerie for interrogation, while his home was reportedly searched by police. After two days of severe torture he had to be taken to Diyarbakır State Hospital for treatment. Doctors who examined him issued a report corroborating his torture allegations. His lawyer issued a formal complaint against the security officials responsible. He is now believed to have been taken back to the Gendarmerie. M. Selim Özalp had been detained in November 1998 and severely tortured for 10 days at Diyarbakır Police Headquarters Anti-Terror branch.

Feyzullah Karaaslan was detained on 20 February at Diyarbakır airport by security police officers and taken to Diyarbakır Gendarmerie for interrogation.

Ramazan Tekin, Deputy Mayor of Diyarbakır, was detained on 21 January 2000 by Gendarmerie officers. During the 10 days he was held at Diyarbakır Gendarmerie, he was beaten and tortured with electric shocks. When his lawyer was allowed to visit him after five days Ramazan Tekin told him about this. On 30 January Ramazan Tekin was remanded in custody by Diyarbakır State Security Court. Doctors from the Forensic Institute who examined him reportedly confirmed that his ribs were broken and his kidneys damaged. His lawyer filed a formal complaint against the security officers responsible for torturing him. Ramazan Tekin is now in Diyarbakır E-type prison, where he has been visited by a second lawyer who has reported seeing visible marks of torture on him. Ramazan Tekin gave a detailed statement about the torture, saying that it had increased after his lawyer visited him at the Gendarmerie.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HADEP is a legal party with a predominantly Kurdish membership, spread throughout the country. Since 1991, more than 100 members of HADEP and its predecessor parties have "disappeared", been tortured to death or extrajudicially executed.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees and for notification of their families are frequently ignored. This is extremely distressing for the families of detainees and creates conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

People suspected of offences that fall under the jurisdiction of the State Security Courts can be held in police custody without access to family, friends

or legal counsel for up to four days. This may be increased to 10 days in the provinces currently under a State of Emergency, such as Diyarbak_r. During the extended detention period detainees have the right of access to a lawyer, under certain conditions. This right is usually denied.

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

- urging that Feridun Çelik, M. Selim Özalp and Feyzullah Karaaslan not be tortured or ill-treated in detention;
- urging that they be granted access immediately to their lawyers, relatives and any medical care they require;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against them;
- reminding the Turkish government of its obligations under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a state party, which states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."
- expressing concern that Feridun Çelik, M. Selim Özalp and Feyzullah Karaaslan are held in unacknowledged detention. Rule 7 (1) of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners requires that all prisoners should be registered in a "bound registration book with numbered pages", available for scrutiny by the families and lawyers of detainees.
- urging the authorities to carry out a comprehensive and impartial investigation into the reported torture of Selim Özalp and Ramazan Tekin, with the results to be made public and those responsible brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

Diyarbak_r Gendarmerie

Diyarbak_r Jandarma Komutan_

Diyarbak_r Jandarma Komutanl____

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: Jandarma Komutanl____, Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Faxes: +90 412 2377113

Salutation: Dear General

Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie

General Rasim Betir

Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____

Bakanl_klar

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Jandarma Genel Komutani, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 312 418 9208

Salutation: Dear Chief of Staff

Minister of the Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan

Içi_leri Bakan_

Içi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Içi_leri Bakan_, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 312 418 9208

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Mehmet Ali Irtemçelik

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 312 417 0476

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country. It is most important for our work that they should be aware of Amnesty International's members' concerns. Please forward any replies you receive to your Section, to be passed on to the International Secretariat.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 March 2000.