

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 44/010/2001

26 February 2001

Further information on UA 26/01 (EUR 44/007/2001, 30 January 2001) - Fear of torture / "Disappearance"

TURKEYSerdar Tan__, age 24
Ebubekir Deniz, age 26

Serdar Tan__ and Ebubekir Deniz are alive and held in unacknowledged detention at __rnak Gendarmerie Headquarters, according to unconfirmed, unofficial reports.

There had been no news of the men since 25 January, when they went to their local gendarmerie station. Both are representatives of the People's Democracy Party (HADEP) in Silopi district.

Although witnesses reported seeing the two men go into the gendarmerie building in Silopi, and lawyers, human rights organizations and HADEP asked for information, the authorities at first claimed that the men had not been detained. After a few days, the Silopi Gendarmerie Commander, the governor of __rnak province and the Governor for the Region under State of Emergency reportedly acknowledged that the two men had been called to the gendarmerie, but said that they had been released after giving statements. The authorities posted notices calling on the citizens to come forward with any information about the two men's whereabouts.

According to his father, the gendarmerie had threatened Serdar Tan__ before he "disappeared", to force him to resign as district head of HADEP. The father was apparently called to the gendarmerie building on 17 January to make his son resign, and Serdar Tan__ was called in and threatened the next day. According to recent newspaper reports Serdar Tan__ had written to the State President, the Justice Minister and the Minister of the Interior to tell them about these threats.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Serdar Tabis and Ebubekir Deniz, and asking to be told where they are;
- urging the authorities to grant them immediate access to their lawyers and their families;
- urging that they are not tortured or ill-treated;
- asking to be informed of any charges that may be brought against them;
- reminding the 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."

Sirnak Gendarmerie Headquarters

Jandarma Komutan_
Sirnak Jandarma Komutanl____
Sirnak, Turkey

Fax: + 90 486 216 6517

Telegrams: Sirnak Jandarma Komutanligi Sirnak, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Commander

Governor of Sirnak

Mr. Hüseyin Ba_kale (name corrected)

Sirnak Valisi
Sirnak Valili_i
Sirnak, Turkey

Fax: + 90 486 456 1188 (number corrected)
Telegrams: Sirnak Valili_i, Sirnak, Turkey
Salutations: Dear Governor

Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie

General Aytaç Yalman
Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____
Bakanl_klar
Ankara, Turkey

Telegram: Jandarma Genel Komutan_, Ankara, Turkey
Fax: + 90 312 418 9208
Salutation: Dear General

Minister of Interior

Mr Saadettin Tantan
Içi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: + 90 312 418 17 95
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Rü_tü Kaz_m Yücelen
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Fax: + 90 312 417 0476

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 9 April 2001.