

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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~~UA 33/92~~ ~~Possible Extrajudicial Execution~~ ~~29 January 1992~~

**TURKEY: Harbi Arman (31), a shopkeeper, married with 3 children**

On 18 January 1992 the body of Harbi Arman, a Kurd and active board member of the Malazgirt local branch of the People's Labour Party (HEP - a legally authorized political party which is particularly concerned with issues relating to Turkey's Kurdish minority), was found dead under a bridge near the village of Örnek, 24 km north of Diyarbak\_r.

In September 1991 seven people from Malazgirt had been detained and interrogated at Mu\_ Police Headquarters. During their interrogation it was alleged that Harbi Arman had sheltered guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), and one of the detainees claimed that a police officer threatened him saying "We are going to kill you and Harbi Arman unless you leave the province of Mu\_". Amnesty International was informed that some days after the detainees had been brought to court, Harbi Arman heard that he was wanted by the police and presented himself at the police station where he was detained for one day. Reportedly, no official record was made of his detention and he was released without charge.

Harbi Arman told his brother that he had been informed by telephone that he was to attend a hearing of the trial against the other detainees in the State Security Court in Diyarbak\_r on 15 January 1992. He left Malazgirt on 14 January, and a bus driver confirmed that he arrived in Diyarbak\_r the same day. Four days later Harbi Arman's blindfolded body was found by villagers.

There have been allegations that this killing may have been carried out by members of the security forces. There is a widespread belief in the area that this and other killings and "disappearances" have been carried out by the kontrgerilla, an undercover force allegedly engaged in secret operations against Kurdish separatist organisations, but whose existence is denied by the government.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Turkey has a Kurdish minority of some 10 million people living mainly in southeastern Turkey. Since August 1984, when Kurdish guerrillas of the PKK started armed attacks, a large number of reports of torture and ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces. During 1991 there was an alarming increase in the number of allegations of extrajudicial execution and "disappearance" in the area, and in 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. Since May 1991 there have been at least 18 killings in the Midyat/Nusaybin district alone in which the security forces have been implicated.

A number of local politicians have been targets of extrajudicial execution (see Southeast Turkey: Attacks on Human Rights Activists and Killings of Local Politicians, AI Index: EUR 44/114/91). Many of the victims have been active members of HEP. Vedat Ayd\_n, President of Diyarbak\_r Branch of HEP, was taken from his house in Diyarbak\_r at around midnight on 5 July 1991 by several armed men who introduced themselves as plainclothes police officers, and his body was found with 4 bullet wounds three days later. On 10 January 1992 Mehmet Demir, Deputy Provincial President of HEP, left his restaurant in Siirt, southeast

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Turkey, and has not been seen since. Abdurrahman Sö\_üt, a member of the Nusaybin branch of HEP was shot near his home in Nusaybin on 18 January 1992.

See also UA 414/91 (EUR 44/155/91, 27 November 1991) concerning the abduction and killing of \_smail Hakk\_ Kocakaya in Diyarbak\_r, and UA 446/91 (EUR 44/159/91, 17 December 1991) concerning the killing of Agit Akibe and \_brahim Demir in Çukurlu, near \_dil, \_\_rnak province.

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

- urging a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into the killing of Harbi Arman in the province of Diyarbak\_r on or around 14 January 1992;
- recommending that the investigation should be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the United Nations (UN) Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions and in the "Manual on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions" (1991) published by the UN;
- 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 Harbi Arman should be brought promptly to justice.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Dear Prime Minister**

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr, 42099 basb tr, 42875 bbk tr**

**Faxes: + 90 41 17 04 76**

**+ 90 42 30 88 96 (mark both for the attention of the Prime Minister)**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr \_smet Sezgin  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Dear Minister**

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Telexes:** 46369 IC SL TR  
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**COPIES TO:**

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Ahmet Türk

\_nsan Haklar\_ Ara\_t\_rma Komisyonu Ba\_kan\_  
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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 11 March 1992.