

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

18 January 1995

TURKEY

Veysi Karagül, former president of DEP in Derik

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of Veysi Karagül who was detained by plainclothes police at his home in Mersin on 24 December 1994 and has not been heard of or seen since.

Veysi Karagül was president of the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party (DEP) in Derik in the province of Mardin. He was previously detained in November 1993 with 20 members of the DEP managing committee in Derik and held in prison for five months, reportedly for participating in an unauthorized demonstration. They were all released one day after the local elections of 27 March 1994, which DEP had boycotted, and were threatened that they would be killed if they did not give up their political activities. Subsequently, Veysi Karagül's grocery shop and the local office of DEP were burned down. After his release, Veysi Karagül left Derik and settled in Mersin. In June 1994, DEP was banned by the Constitutional Court for 'separatism'.

On the evening of 24 December 1994, plainclothes police came to Veysi Karagül's home in the Akkent district of Mersin and took him away. Reportedly, they brought him back the following day, searched the home without finding anything, and beat his wife Nebahat Karagül and their 14-year-old daughter before dragging Veysi Karagül away again. In spite of Nebahat Karagül's petitions to the State Prosecutor and the Police Chief in Mersin, the family have had no news of him. On one occasion the police told the wife that Veysi Karagül may have been transferred to the Police Headquarters in Bingöl. This reply increased her concern for her husband's safety, as he did not have any connections with Bingöl. Had police told her that Veysi Karagül had been transferred to Derik or Mardin, the provincial capital, it might have been more credible, Nebahat Karagül stated.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

DEP, like its predecessor HEP (People's Labour Party) and its successor HADEP (People's Democracy Party) had a predominantly Kurdish membership and worked for the civil and political rights of the Kurdish minority. In the weeks preceding local elections in March 1994, a number of DEP candidates and activists became victims of extrajudicial executions mainly in the southeast, before the party decided to boycott the elections. With the recent assassination of four HADEP officials in Adana (see UA 374/94, EUR 44/116/94, 11 October 1994, and update EUR 44/10/95, 12 January 1995), more than 100 officials and members of HEP/DEP/HADEP have been killed in the past three years.

Detainees held on suspicion of a political offence may be held without charge for up to 15 days. In the 10 provinces under emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days. Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored in the southeastern provinces and increasingly disregarded in the rest of Turkey. Lack of proper registration and notification is not only extremely distressing for families, but also creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail

letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing grave concern for the health and safety of Veysi Karagül, former president of DEP in Derik who has "disappeared" in unacknowledged detention in Mersin since 24 December 1994;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to establish his whereabouts and state of health and that his family be informed without delay;
- asking to be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

APPEALS TO:1) Mersin Public Prosecutor

Cumhuriyet Savc_s_
Mersin Savc_l____
Mersin, Turkey

Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Savciligi, Mersin, Turkey**Salutation: Dear Sir**2) President Süleyman Demirel

Office of the President
Cumhur Ba_kanl____
06100 Ankara

Telegrams: President Demirel, Ankara, Turkey**Salutation: Your Excellency**3) Deputy Prime Minister

Mr Murat Karayalç_n
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Deputy Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr; 42875 bbk tr****Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 Deputy PRIME MINISTER; +90 312 230 8896****Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister****COPIES TO:**President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission

Mr Sabri Yavuz
nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

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 1 March 1995.