

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

21 February 1991

**TURKEY:** Ayfer Ok (f), aged 23  
Mesut Kesinkaya, aged 20  
\_zzet Gümü\_çü, aged 20, student  
Bengin Gümü\_çü, aged 15, brother of the above  
Tamer Tanr\_kulu, aged 22  
Muammer Tanr\_kulu, aged 23, brother of the above  
Özcan Camc\_, aged 23  
+ one other person whose name is not known

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On the night of 18 February in the Ba\_lar area of Diyarbakir, those named above were detained as they arrived at the house of \_zzet Gümü\_çü (which the security forces had declared a temporary police post). They are now held in incommunicado detention at the headquarters of the "Rapid Force" anti-riot police in Diyarbakir, where it is believed they may be interrogated under torture, on suspicion of having offered support and shelter to members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is not officially recognized by the authorities, but is estimated to number some 10 million people. The Kurdish population lives mainly in southeastern Turkey. Frequent allegations of torture and ill-treatment have been received from the region and the number of torture allegations increased substantially after the 1980 military coup. Since August 1984, when Kurdish guerrillas - members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) - started armed attacks, an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces, where more than 2000 lives so far have been lost in the continuing fighting.

In May 1990 the Turkish government issued Decrees 424 and 425 (in December replaced by Decree 430), further extending the already extraordinary powers of the Emergency Legislation Governor. Subsequently, in August 1990, the government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights.

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

- urging that Ayfer Ok, Mesut Kesinkaya, \_zzet Gümü\_çü, Bengin Gümü\_çü, Tamer Tanr\_kulu, Muammer Tanr\_kulu, Özcan Camc\_ and one unnamed detainee are given facilities to appoint legal counsel;
- urging that they are given prompt access to their family and lawyers;
- and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

**APPEALS TO:**

Abdülkadir Aksu  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
İçişleri Bakanlıđı  
06644 Ankara

Telegrams: \_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_, Ankara, Turkey  
Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR  
Faxes: +90 41 28 43 46  
+90 41 17 23 90

Diyarbakir Emniyet Müdürü  
Ramazan Er  
Diyarbakir Chief of Police  
Diyarbakir, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Chief Prosecutor to the State Security Court  
Diyarbak\_r DGM Ba\_savcis\_  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Ba\_savcil\_\_\_\_, Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**COPIES 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 3 April 1991.