

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 28/93

Fear of Torture

11 March 1993

TURKEY: 17 members of an extended family:

From Nusaybin:

Mohamed Ali Akgül  
his uncle and aunt, Ahmet and Nicuda Demir (female)  
and their three daughters

\_ahid Aksan }  
Mehmet Manif Akan }  
Ayhan Aksan (female) } brothers and sisters  
Cihan Aksan (female) }  
Teko\_in Aksan (female) }

Sranaz Aksan and his two sons

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Hac\_ (family name not known to Amnesty International)  
and his daughter

From Do ançay:

Hasan Demir, another uncle of Mohamed Ali Akgül

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of the above 17 members of an extended family who were detained by the gendarmerie (soldiers carrying out police functions in the rural areas) on 4 March 1993 and are now being held incommunicado. It is thought that all 17, including several women and young girls, are held at the Gendarmerie Headquarters in Nusaybin (Nusaybin Jandarma Komutanl ).

The 17 people named above were all detained on 4 March 1993, 16 of them in Nusaybin, a town near the border with Syria, and one in the village of Do\_ançay near Midyat, all in the province of Mardin. The son of Haci is said to have been killed when the detentions were being made. It is not known why they are being detained, but the area is known for intense activity by guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). The security forces are constantly making arrests among the local population of those they suspect of involvement with, or support of, the PKK. Any person detained on such suspicion is at great risk of being interrogated under torture.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is estimated to number some 10 million people, living mainly in southeastern Turkey. Since August 1984, when guerrillas of the PKK started armed attacks against the security forces, an alarming number

of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces. Furthermore, allegations of over 100 extrajudicial executions have been received during the past 12 months. More than 5,000 lives have so far been lost on both sides and among the civilian population in the context of the continuing fighting. Emergency legislation is in force in 10 provinces in the region and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbakir has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces.

Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture on 25 February 1988 and the UN Convention Against Torture on 2 August 1988. However,

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all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and systematic in Turkey. Most allegations relate to ill-treatment of detainees in police custody during their initial interrogation when they are usually denied access to relatives or a lawyer. New legislation to shorten the maximum detention period came into force on 1 December 1992. Now the normal maximum period of 24 hours, for which a non-political detainee may be held before being formally charged or released, may be extended to eight days in cases of ordinary crimes involving three or more suspects. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences to be tried in State Security Courts may be held without charge for 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in provinces under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in 10 provinces, including Mardin province.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of the 17 detainees named above, in particular the young girls among them, who were all detained on 4 March 1993 in or near Nusaybin and are thought to be held at Nusaybin Jandarma Komutanl ;
- seeking assurances that they are not subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- asking to be informed of any charges brought against them.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Mardin Gendarmerie Commander:

**Ankara, Turkey**

Albay Enver Uysal (Colonel)

Mardin Jandarma Alay Komutanl\_\_\_

Mardin, Turkey

**Salutation: Dear General**

**Telegrams: Jandarma Alay Komutanl\_\_\_,  
Mardin, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Colonel**

2) Gendarmerie General Commander:

Orgeneral Aydn\_lter

Jandarma Genel Komutan\_

Kuvvetlerie Komutanl\_\_\_

Bakanl\_klar

06100 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: General Iltter, Bakanliklar,**

3) Governor of Mardin province:

Mr Yahya Gür

Mardin Valili\_i

Mardin, Turkey

**Telegrams: Mardin Valiligi, Mardin,  
Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

4) Minister of the Interior:

Mr \_smet Sezgin

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_

06644 Ankara, Turkey

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

**Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR**

**Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

\_nsan Haklar\_ Ara\_t\_rma Komisyonu Ba\_kan\_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

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 April 1993.