

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 28/96

Fear for safety / Fear of torture

15 February 1996

TURKEY Naif Aydemir, Kurd, aged 23

At noon on 15 February 1996, as Naif Aydemir was waiting with his four-year-old son, Ibrahim, and a bicycle at the Bayramo_lu bus stop near the Police Headquarters in the Ba_lar district of Diyarbak_r, a white Broadway car (registration 23 DS 012) pulled up beside them. Two men in plain clothes rushed out, covered Naif Aydemir's mouth with their hands to prevent him from shouting, dragged him into the car and drove off, leaving the child and bicycle behind. Witnesses to the abduction informed Naif Aydemir's family.

According to reports, Naif Aydemir was previously held in unacknowledged detention for 12 days by soldiers in Lice in 1990-91, and again for one week in Mersin in December 1995 after which he was released while fellow detainees were charged and committed to prison in Konya.

In view of similar incidents in Diyarbak_r involving members of the security forces, it is feared that Naif Aydemir may "disappear" or be tortured in custody or become the victim of an extrajudicial execution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The PKK has been fighting Turkish security forces since 1984 in an intense conflict in which more than 18,000 people have been killed, including civilians. Any person suspected of supporting the PKK or any other illegal armed organization is at serious risk of torture, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution. At least 35 cases of "disappearance" in police custody have been reported in 1995.

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. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency in the southeast such as Mardin province, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Naif Aydemir, who was abducted, presumably by plainclothes police, in Diyarbak_r on 15 February 1996 and since held at an undisclosed location;
- urging that an immediate investigation be carried out to establish his whereabouts and that his family be informed of the outcome;
- appealing that he is not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- requesting to be informed of the results of the investigation.

APPEALS TO:1. Diyarbakır Chief of Gendarmerie:

General Altay Tokat

Jandarma Komutanı

Jandarma Komutanlığı

Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: General Tokat, Jandarma Komutanlığı, Diyarbakır, Turkey**Salutation: Dear General**2. Diyarbakır Chief of Police:

Mr Rıdvan Güler

Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürü

Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürü, Diyarbakır, Turkey**Salutation: Dear Sir**3. Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbakır State Security Court:

Mr Bekir Selçuk

DGM Başsavcısı

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Başsavcısı, Diyarbakır, Turkey**Salutation: Dear Sir**4. Deputy Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Ahmet Kayhan

Olağanüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakır, Turkey**Telexes: 72110 OHVT TR****72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the Governor"****72090 JASY TR****Salutation: Dear Governor****COPIES TO:**State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Adnan Ekmen

Office of the Prime Minister

Başbakanlık

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 and -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 20 March 1996.