

UA 223/94

"Disappearance" / Fear for safety

10 June 1994

TURKEY (1) **Servet Ipek**)
Ikram Ipek) from **Türeli village near Lice**
Seyithan Yolur)
(2) **Hikmet Aybay, aged 50**
Demet Ayay, his daughter aged 18, both from Adana
(3) **Mustafa Sayg_**

In three separate incidents, the six people named above have "disappeared" after being detained in May and June 1994. Amnesty International fears for their safety, particularly in view of the abduction and murder of a Kurdish lawyer and three Kurdish businessmen in recent days (see background below).

(1) On 18 May, soldiers from the Gendarmerie Headquarters in Lice raided the Dahla Zara settlement of Türeli village near Lice, province of Diyarbak_r. They gathered the villagers together and searched their houses, finding nothing. All 25 houses of the settlement were then burned together with the contents and the villagers' animals. Under threats, the villagers were ordered to leave. At around noon, the gendarmes (soldiers carrying out police duties in rural areas) left the settlement, taking **Servet Ipek, Ikram Ipek, Seyithan Yolur, Ismail Ipek, M. _erif Ipek, Ekrem Yolur** and **Enver Yolur** with them. The latter four were released after eight days, having been separated from the other three during the first night in custody. The three have since "disappeared". Their families' requests for information to Lice Police Headquarters, Lice Gendarmerie Headquarters and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbak_r have been met with silence. However, the State Security Court in Diyarbak_r responded on 6 June, saying that the three men were not registered as being in custody.

(2) At 12.30am on the night of 6 June, plainclothes police arrived in six vehicles at the house of Hikmet Aybay in the Ismet Pa_a district of Adana, southern Turkey. They detained **Hikmet Aybay** and his daughter **Demet**. When their family and lawyer sought confirmation of their detention, the Public Prosecutor denied that they were being held. It is thought they are being interrogated at the Anti-Terror Branch of Adana Police Headquarters.

(3) On 3 June, **Mustafa Sayg_** was going by motorcycle from the town of Suruç on the Syrian border to Alac_k village, in the province of Urfa. Witnesses saw him being stopped by gendarmerie soldiers, blindfolded and handed over to members of the Special Team (heavily armed units, trained for close combat with guerrillas, and under the control of the Interior Ministry). His family made inquiries as to his whereabouts, but police and gendarmerie denied that he was being held.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Police operations against suspected PKK supporters are being carried out all over Turkey. Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored in the southeast, creating the conditions in which the "disappearance" of detainees occurs. Moreover, military operations in the southeast have been intensified since early 1994, and in addition to daily armed clashes, the security forces are carrying out intense operations against villages which refuse to participate in the system of village guards

(villagers armed and paid by the government to fight the guerrillas). These operations have led to allegations of torture, "disappearance" and extrajudicial execution. The security forces are implicated in hundreds of mysterious killings in the southeast, and more than 70 officials and members of the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party (DEP) have been killed in as yet unclarified circumstances.

Most recently, on 3 June, **Sava_Buldan**, **Hac_Koray** and **Adnan_Y_ld_r_m** were abducted by about eight armed men from the Ç_nar Hotel in Istanbul. Sava_Buldan was reportedly a wealthy businessman, and all three were Kurds from the southeast. Hotel staff who witnessed the abduction reportedly said that the abductors showed police identification cards before taking the three Kurds away in unmarked cars (a Mazda, a Toyota and a Mercedes). The cars were allegedly seen later that day near the military area near Sapanca, not far from Istanbul.

On 4 June fishermen found the bodies of the three men near a river between Istanbul and Bolu. They had been tortured and shot in the back of the head.

According to Necdet Buldan, the brother of Sava_Buldan and a member of DEP, police at first acknowledged holding the three, but later denied it. When the Buldan family approached the Deputy Prime Minister for help immediately after the abduction, he reportedly told them, *"This matter is way above my head"*.

The abduction was preceded on 2 June by the murder of the lawyer **Muhsin Melik** in Urfa. Muhsin Melik, the former provincial chairman of DEP and a founder member of the new pro-Kurdish party HADEP (People's Democracy Party) was attacked by four or five unidentified assailants who shot him and his driver. He died of his wounds in hospital, reportedly after telling his brother that he had been shot by policemen. DEP officials claimed that Muhsin Melik was killed by the police in Urfa, that the police were minutes later at the scene of the shooting and that the wounded lawyer refused to get into the police car, saying, *"You are the people who shot me"*. The Governor of Urfa stated that two people had been detained in connection with the murder.

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

- expressing grave concern for the fate of the six people named above, who "disappeared" following their detention (stating in each case where and when detained and by whom);
- urging that immediate steps are taken to establish their whereabouts;
- asking to be informed of the results of the investigation in each case.

APPEALS for cases 1) and 3) to:

Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie:

Orgeneral Ayd_n_lter

Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____

Bakanl_klar, Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Jandarma Genel Komutani, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 418 0476

Salutation: Dear General

APPEALS for case 2) to:

Chief of Adana Police:

Mr Ramazan Er

Adana Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Adana, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Mudurlugu, Adana, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Sir

APPEALS for all three cases to:

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Nahit Ment_e

Içi_leri Bakanl____

Bakanl_klar

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Icisleri Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES 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 22 July 1994.