

EXTERNAL

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*@MEDICAL CONCERN*

**Dr Ata Soyer - Death threats  
£TURKEY**

Dr Ata Soyer is one of 28 people who in recent weeks have been the target of death threats. A leaflet threatening death to these people has been distributed in several towns in the predominantly Kurdish southeast of Turkey. Those named in the leaflet are either Kurdish members of parliament, or have in some way spoken out publicly on behalf of Turkey's Kurdish minority or investigated cases of human rights violations against them. Dr Soyer, who is himself not a Kurd, but a Turk, is said to have done much to help Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Turkey in the wake of the Gulf War and it is this which is believed to be the reason for his inclusion on the death list.

The leaflet containing the threats lists 28 names, including that of Dr Soyer, and is signed "*Islami Cihad-B (Islami Yumruk)*" ("Islamic Holy War - B (Fist of Islam)"). This organization was hitherto unheard of in Turkey and, although the threats purport to have come from such an organization, they are widely attributed to the Turkish security forces.

Some of those named on the list have, indeed, already been harassed by the security forces. According to a British human rights delegation, Leyla Zana, an independent MP for Diyarbakir, was directly threatened by the Commander of the Gendarmerie in Diyarbakir. She was visiting Tepe near Bismil with a British human rights delegation on 18 April 1992 when, in the presence of the Diyarbakir Police Chief and an MP for Cizre, Colonel Yediildiz said:

"You are my enemy. I will only be satisfied when I have spilt your blood. Even if I killed you and drank your blood, I still would not be content. I am going to kill you, but first I am going to discredit you."

Another of those named on the list, the President of the Turkish Human Rights Association in Sirnak, was sought by security personnel who came to his house in armoured vehicles at 2am on 5 May. He was absent travelling at the time.

Killings and "disappearances" have become a reality in southeast Turkey where over the last year there has been a spate of unsolved killings. Amnesty International is deeply concerned by the threats and believes that there is a very real risk to those named. Translated extracts from the written threat are given as an appendix and a full list of those threatened is also appended.

## Killings and "disappearances" in the southeast of Turkey

Over fifty killings and a number of "disappearances" have occurred in southeast Turkey since the summer of 1991 in which there have been allegations of the involvement of the security forces. The principal targets of the spate of killings, which are continuing, have been local politicians (in particular members of the People's Labour Party perceived to represent the Kurdish minority)\*\*, local representatives of the Human Rights Association, journalists investigating human rights abuses, and inhabitants of villages which have refused to participate in the system of government-appointed village guards, particularly those suspected of having links with the Kurdish Workers' Party either directly or through family members. (The Kurdish Workers' Party [PKK] has, since 1984, been fighting a guerrilla war for an independent Kurdish State.)

Some journalists and many Kurds in the southeast attribute the succession of alleged extrajudicial executions throughout 1991 and 1992 to a body called the *kontrgerilla* which is part of the Turkish secret service. It was originally created in 1953 and is said to have specialized since 1984 in operations against insurgents in the southeast.

From December 1991 killings and instances of non-fatal woundings were increasingly carried out in the streets by assassins who, according to eye witnesses, were often very young. These killings were attributed by some sources to *Hizbullah*. There is some doubt, however, about the existence of *Hizbullah* as an organized armed force in Turkey, and it is widely believed that such assassinations are carried out at the instigation of the country's security forces. It is claimed that elements within the security forces have been inciting local people to carry out killings of members of the Kurdish opposition. Two journalists investigating such a possible link were assassinated in February 1992.

Although *Islami Cihad-B (Islami Yumruk)* is a previously unknown organization, its targets appear to be the same as those previously attributed to the *kontrgerilla* and *Hizbullah*.

Dr Soyer's work with Iraqi Kurdish refugees appears to have placed him at serious risk and Amnesty International is urging the Turkish authorities to take all possible measures to ensure his safety and that of the other 27 people threatened with death. Dr Soyer is resident in Ankara and is a member of the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association.

For further information on the situation in the southeast and on human rights violations in Turkey generally, please see *Turkey: Torture, extrajudicial executions, "disappearances"*, AI Index EUR 44/39/91, published in May 1992.

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\*\*All the independent MPs on the death list are members of the People's Labour Party (HEP)

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To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Europe  
Date: 28 May 1992

*MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

**Dr Ata Soyer - Death threats  
TURKEY**

**Keywords**

Theme: Death threats/ Fear of extrajudicial execution

Profession/association: Doctor and Central Council member of the Turkish Medical Association

**Summary**

Dr Ata Soyer is one of 28 people who have recently been the target of written death threats circulating in southeast Turkey. Those targeted are either Kurdish members of parliament, or have in some way spoken out publicly on behalf of Turkey's Kurdish minority or investigated instances of human rights violations against them. Dr Soyer, who is not himself a Kurd, is believed to have been included on the list of those threatened because he has been involved in aiding the Iraqi Kurdish refugees in Turkey. Full details are given in the attached.

**Recommended Actions**

- 1) Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses given below
  - expressing deep concern about death threats made against Dr Ata Soyer and others in southeast Turkey who are named in a leaflet signed by *Islami Cihad-B (Islami Yumruk)*
  - noting with concern that over 50 unresolved killings have already occurred in the region and that the involvement of the security forces in these killings has been alleged
  - seeking information on what has thus far been done to investigate responsibility for the threats
  - appealing to the government to institute urgent measures to prevent further killings and "disappearances"

- seeking information on how the killings which have occurred over the last year have been investigated, whether autopsies have been performed, under whose authority, and whether forensic or other evidence has been uncovered which would allow some clarification of the circumstances surrounding the killings

### Addresses

Mr Süleyman Demirel

Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara,  
Turkey**

**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr  
42099 basb tr  
42875 bbk tr**

**Faxes: + 90 44 17 04 76  
+ 90 42 30 88 96**

Mr \_smet Sezgin

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06644 Ankara, Turkey

(Minister of the Interior)

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara,  
Turkey

Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR

Faxes: + 90 44 18 1795

Orgeneral E\_ref Bitlis

Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutan\_  
Kuvvetleri Komutanl\_\_\_\_

Bakanl\_klar

Ankara, Turkey

(Gendarmerie General Commander)

**Telegrams: Jandarma Kuvvetleri  
Komutani, Ankara, Turkey**

Mr Ünal Erkan

Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

(Emergency Legislation Governor)

Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi,

Diyarbakir, Turkey

**Telexes: 72110 OHVT TR**

**72084 DYVA TR**

**Faxes: + 90 831 26174**

**(telephone first and ask to switch on the  
fax machine: "Lütfen fax sinyal veriniz")**

### Copies to:

Türk Tabipleri Birli\_i

(Turkish Medical Association)

Mithatpa\_a Cad. 62/18

06420 Yeni\_ehir - ANKARA

Turkey

Insan Haklari Ara\_tirma Komisyonu Ba\_kani

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

(President of the Parliamentary Human

Rights Commission)

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

### 2) Letters from Medical Associations:

Please approach your national Medical Association asking that they also send appeals either to the addresses given or direct to the Turkish Embassy or other diplomatic representatives in your country. (Medical groups may also send some letters direct to diplomatic representatives.)

## Appendix I

**TRANSLATED EXTRACTS FROM THE LEAFLET THREATENING DEATH**

[The names of the 28 people threatened are given in Appendix III. The leaflet also directs general threats against the Kurdish Workers' Party, PKK, its organizations and its leader, Abdullah Öcalan (widely known as Apo), which since 1984 has been fighting a guerrilla war for an independent Kurdish state.]

"The Religious Union of ERNK", the dogs of Apo, will be killed by the Fist of Islam sooner or later.

"Islami Cihad-B (Islami Yumruk) will continue the struggle with these hypocrites as it has done in the past in K\_z\_Itepe, Nusaybin, Batman and Diyarbak\_r [scene of a continuing series of killings believed to be extrajudicial executions], with the permission of Almighty God.

"The killing of such persons is proper.

"Oh Muslims, the blood of correspondents and writers of *Yeni Ülke*, *Özgür Halk*, *Newroz*, *Deng*, *Ikibin'e Do\_ru* is yours to spill.

"The highest worship is to combat these wretched hypocrites, sons of the infidel.

"Show the fighters of the Fist of Islam the path to these people whom you know.

"In unity and brotherhood on the path of Allah, let us continue to destroy these hypocrites, with the permission of Allah.

"- death to Apo, the spawn of infidel Nimrod.

"- death to the hypocrites of Apo.

"- the love of Allah is the source of our struggle.

"Muslims, we swear in the name of Allah that

"the whore Leyla Zana [there then follow 27 further names, including that of Dr Soyer]

"will be slaughtered in the name of Allah."

## Appendix II

**LIST OF THOSE THREATENED**

Leyla Zana (female) [independent MP for Diyarbakir]  
 Sedat Yurtta\_ [MP for Diyarbakir]  
 Hatip Dicle [independent MP for Diyarbakir]  
 Zübeyir Aydar [independent MP for Siirt]  
 Do\_u Perinçek [Publisher]  
 Yalçın Küçük [Writer and publisher]  
 Musa Anter [Writer]  
 Mahmut Al\_nak [MP for \_irnak]  
 Ahmet Türk [independent MP for Mardin]  
 Sedat Edip Bucak [MP for \_anl\_urfa]  
 Salih Sümer [MP for Diyarbakir]  
 Mahmut Uyan\_k [MP for Diyarbak\_r]  
 S\_rr\_\_ak\_k [MP for Mu\_]  
 Muzaffer Ar\_kan [MP for Mardin]  
 Adnan Ekmen [MP for Batman]  
 Orhan Do\_an [independent MP for Cizre]  
 Selim Sadak [independent MP for \_\_rnak]  
 Nizamettin To\_uç [independent MP for Batman]  
 Abdülkerim Zilan [MP for Batman]  
 Mehmet Sincar [independent MP for Mardin]  
 Yavuz Binbay [IHD president in Van]  
 Cabbar Leygara [lawyer from Diyarbak\_r]  
 Sekvan Aytu [IHD President in \_\_rnak]  
 Bar\_\_ Mü\_takhan [correspondent for foreign newspaper]  
 Ha\_\_m Ha\_imi [Mayor of Cizre]  
 Faik Tünefan [IHD member, Istanbul]  
 Ömer Hazar [IHD member, Istanbul]  
 Dr Ata Soyer [Central Council member of the Turkish Medical Association]

