

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 266/93 (EUR 44/78/93, 10 August 1993) - Fear of "Disappearance"

TURKEY:Aysel Malkaç (female), journalist with Özgür Gündem in Istanbul

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Amnesty International remains extremely concerned for the life of Aysel Malkaç and is calling for renewed appeals on her behalf.

No news has been forthcoming about the fate of the 22-year-old journalist who "disappeared" in Istanbul on 7 August 1993 after leaving on business the offices of Kurdish newspaper Özgür Gündem where she has been working since May 1993. Reportedly, eye-witnesses claim to have seen her being detained in the street by plainclothes police officers, but are too afraid to testify publicly. All efforts by the newspaper and Aysel Malkaç's lawyers to establish her whereabouts have been unsuccessful. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences may be held in police custody for a maximum of 15 days before being formally charged or released. However, the Istanbul police authorities deny holding Aysel Malkaç, and it is now 20 days since she went missing.

Following the death of yet another Özgür Gündem journalist, Ferhat Tepe, there are now grave fears for the life of Aysel Malkaç. Ferhat Tepe was abducted, allegedly by members of the security forces, in Bitlis on 28 July, and his body was discovered on 5 August by a fisherman in a lake hundreds of kilometres from where he was abducted. He was the sixth journalist of Özgür Gündem to have been murdered in mysterious circumstances (see UA 255/93, EUR 44/76/93, 5 August 1993 and follow-ups of 6 and 12 August 1993).

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 26 August, Ya\_ar Kaya, the owner of Özgür Gündem was detained on unknown charges, one day after he had been received as Chairman of the Democracy Party (DEP) by President Süleyman Demirel for talks at the President's invitation.

Several of its editors and correspondents are currently in prison or police custody, including editor \_ . Davut Karada\_ and the eight-months-pregnant correspondent Nezahat Özen from Mardin. The State Security Court in Istanbul is seeking to close the newspaper permanently on charges of separatist propaganda and praising the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). It is the only newspaper in Turkey to consistently report human rights violations in the provinces under State of Emergency where most of Turkey's Kurds live.

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

- reiterating your deep concern that yet another journalist from Özgür Gündem is missing: Aysel Malkaç in Istanbul since 7 August 1993;

- urging that everything possible is undertaken without further delay to establish her whereabouts and to secure her safety.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Prime Minister:

Mrs Tansu Çiller

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 4 417 04 76**

**+ 90 4 230 88 96**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Mehmet Gazio\_lu

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06644 Ankara, Turkey

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

**Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) Istanbul Chief of Police:

Mr Necdet Menzir

Istanbul Emniyet Müdürü

\_stanbul, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey**

**Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR, 30812 EMMH TR, 26177 IEMT TR**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Hikmet Çetin

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

D\_\_i\_\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06100 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 21 September 1993.