

EXTRA 158/97 Fear of "disappearance"/Torture

19 November 1997

TURKEYBereket Da_ (f)
Ramazan Demir

Ömer Yüksel
Hüseyin Karakoyun,
Ismet Karakoyun
M. Ali Yüksel
Ali Erol
Musa Erol
Ahmet Turgay,
_ehmuz Yeter,
Izzet Yeter
Ahmet Yavuz
_erif Yurt
Oktay Yurt
Fikret Yurt
_ehmuz Açıan
Abdullllah Baran
_evket Baran
Mustafa Ak_n
Hasan Kanat
A.Rahman Kanat
Cevzet Turan
Osman Aykal

There is grave fear for the safety of 28 villagers (including the above-named) who have been held in unacknowledged detention for 10 days in an unknown location.

During a security operation on 10 November 1997, 31 people from the village of Ç_narönü, near the town of Savur in Mardin province, were reportedly detained by gendarmes from the Sürgücü Gendarmerie Station. This operation reportedly took place immediately subsequent to an armed clash, near the village, in which one soldier was killed.

Three of the villagers, since released, have reported that those still detained were subjected to torture.

The village has remained cordoned off by the security forces since the arrests with no-one allowed in or out. According to information received, however, 11 houses were burned down in the village on 16 November, including those of Abdullah Baran, _evket Baran, _ehmuz Yeter and Ömer Yüksel.

Attempts made by relatives of those detained to obtain information from the regional and local governors, the security forces and the public prosecutors in Savur and Mardin have been in vain.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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 four days.

This period may be increased to 10 days in the six provinces currently under State of Emergency and to seven days in the rest of Turkey during which detainees would have to be granted access to a lawyer. The State of Emergency was lifted in Mardin province one year ago.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification to their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees and creates conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can more easily occur.

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

- expressing your concern for the safety of 28 villagers from Ç_narönü village near Savur in Mardin province, held in unacknowledged detention since 10 November 1997;
- expressing particular concern about reports that they were being subject to torture;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to establish their whereabouts and state of health and that their relatives be informed of this without further delay;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against the villagers.

APPEALS TO:

1. Mardin Chief Public Prosecutor:

Mardin C. Ba_savc_s_
C. Ba_savc_l____
Mardin, Turkey

Telegrams: Bassavcisi, Mardin, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

2. Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie:

General Fikret Özden Boztepe
Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____
Bakanl_klar
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Jandarma Genel Komutani, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: + 90 312 418 9208
Salutation: Dear General

3. Minister of the Interior:

Mr Murat Ba_eskio_lu
_çisleri Bakanl____
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: + 90 312 418 1795
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Hikmet Sami Türk
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: + 90 312 417 0476

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 17 December 1997.