

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 74/92

Fear of Torture

4 September 1992

TURKEY:

Diyadin Koç, electrician aged 30

Amnesty International has recently learned that on 15 August 1992, Diyadin Koç, board member of the People's Labour Party (HEP) in Diyarbakır, was detained. It is not known to Amnesty International where in Diyarbakır he is being held in incommunicado detention. He is said to have been severely tortured [presumably witnessed by fellow-detainees who have been released meanwhile] and his family fear for his life. Under current legislation he may be held until 15 September.

On and around 15 August, the anniversary of the day when the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) started its insurgency against the security forces eight years ago, scores of people were detained in the Kurdish provinces under State of Emergency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is estimated to number some 10 million people, living mainly in southeastern Turkey. Since August 1984, when guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) started armed attacks against the security forces, an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces. Furthermore, allegations of over 100 extrajudicial executions have been received during the past 12 months. More than 4,000 lives have so far been lost on both sides and among the civilian population in the context of the continuing fighting. Emergency legislation is in force in 10 provinces in the region and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbakır has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces.

Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture on 25 February 1988 and the UN Convention Against Torture on 2 August 1988. However, all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and systematic in Turkey. Most allegations relate to ill-treatment of detainees in police custody during their initial interrogation when they are usually denied access to relatives or a lawyer. In August 1990, the government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights. Under current legislation the maximum period a detainee may be held before being formally charged or released is 24 hours; in cases involving three or more suspects or due to the 'nature of the crime' it may be extended to 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in areas under emergency

legislation or martial law. A State of Emergency is in force in Diyarbak_r province.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- urging that Diyadin Koç is granted prompt access to his family and lawyer;
- seeking assurances that he is not ill-treated while being held in police custody;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against him.

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APPEALS TO:

1. Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Ünal Erkan

Ola_anüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

**Telexes: 72110 OHVT TR; 72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the Governor";
72090 JASY TR**

Salutation: Dear Governor

2. Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

3. Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel

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 4 417 04 76 PRIME MINISTER; + 90 4 230 88 96 (attn: Prime
Minister)**

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

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 18 September 1992.