

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"/ Fear of Torture

28 July 1995

**TURKEY**

**Ihsan Yaz\_c\_, father of 12**

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There are grave fears for the safety of Ihsan Yaz\_c\_ who was detained in Diyarbak\_r on 19 July 1995 and has since been held in unacknowledged detention.

On 19 July 1995 seven or eight plainclothes police officers, carrying weapons and walkie-talkies, came to the Melik\_ah tea-garden in Diyarbak\_r which Ihsan Yaz\_c\_ owns. They detained him and, according to eye-witnesses, took him away in a white Do\_an car with the registration number 21 TR 681. His family have made inquiries at all relevant detention centres and authorities, but both the police and the office of the prosecutor at the Diyarbak\_r State Security Court deny that he is being held.

Ihsan Yaz\_c\_, a livestock trader and now owner of the tea-garden, was detained several times previously and tortured. One of his sons is said to have joined the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) and was killed. After his son's death Ihsan Yaz\_c\_ was detained, reportedly tortured severely, then released. His family has been constantly harassed by the police and received death threats.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Any person suspected of supporting the PKK is at serious risk of torture, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution. In 1994 there were more than 55 confirmed "disappearances", and more than 400 people were killed in unclarified circumstances. In many cases their relatives believe that they have been killed for political reasons by agents of the state.

The conflict in southeast Turkey between government forces and armed members of the PKK has claimed more than 17,000 lives since it began in August 1984. Police operations against suspected PKK supporters and other Kurdish activists are being carried out all over Turkey. A state of emergency remains in force in 10 provinces in the east and southeast including Diyarbak\_r.

Detainees taken into custody on suspicion of political offences may be held without charge for up to 15 days. In the 10 provinces under emergency legislation the maximum detention period for political detainees may be doubled to 30 days.

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

- requesting confirmation of the detention of Ihsan Yaz\_c\_ in Diyarbak\_r on 19 July 1995;
- expressing concern that he has since been held in unacknowledged police custody and expressing your fears for his safety;
- urging that immediate steps be taken to establish his whereabouts and that his detention be duly registered at the State Security Court prosecutor's office;
- appealing that while in police custody he should not be subjected to any form of ill-treatment;
- asking for information concerning any charges against Ihsan Yaz\_c\_.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Diyarbakır Chief of Police

Mr Rıdvan Güler

Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürlüğü

Diyarbakır, Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Mudurlugu, Diyarbakir, Turkey****Salutation: Dear Sir**2) Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbakır State Security Court

Mr Bekir Selçuk

DGM Başsavcısı

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Diyarbakır, Turkey

**Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey****Salutation: Dear Sir**3) Minister of Justice

Mr Mehmet Moğultay

Adalet Bakanlığı

06659 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey****Faxes: +90 312 417 3954****Salutation: Dear Minister**4) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Algan Hacaloğlu

Office of the Prime Minister

Başbakanlık

06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Human Rights Minister, Ankara, Turkey****Faxes: +90 312 417 0476****Salutation: Dear Minister****COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission

Mr Sabri Yavuz

\_nsan Haklar\_ Ara\_t\_rma Komisyonu Ba\_kan\_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 420 5394**

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 8 September 1995.