

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 279/92 Killing and Wounding of Civilians/Fear of Torture 4 September 1992

TURKEY: Among those civilians killed were:

Hezni Erkol	Güler Sökmen, aged 13
Zehra Koval	Veysi Sökmen, aged 6
Halime Kürtel	Sema Sökmen, aged 9
Süleyman Kürtel	Kumru Güngen
Abdulaziz Besin	Gülüm Güngen, aged 6
Hac_K_l_ç	Menive Güngen, aged 14
Yusuf Vatan	Ibrahim Artuç
Yusuf Yaman	

Among those wounded are:

Abdullah Ats_z	Güle Artuç, aged 1
Salih Altan	Ay_e Artuç, aged 4
Ahmet Y_ld_r_m	Remz_ye Artuç, aged 10
Ahmet Vatan	Mehdi Artuç, aged 12
Abdurahman Balta	Vesile Artuç, aged 35
Fatma Balta	Kadriye Artuç, aged 6
Orhan Uysal	Hac_ Güngen
Abdurahman Düre	Saadet Güleç, aged 10
Süleyman ....	Meryem Beter, aged 65

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Reportedly at least 15 civilians named above, including five children, were killed by security forces in the Kurdish town of \_\_rnak in southeastern Turkey between the night of Tuesday, 18 August 1992, and noon on the following Friday 21 August. Four members of the security forces were also killed. The exact circumstances in which the killings took place are not known. Five hundred people were detained in \_\_rnak by the security forces, many of whom have been released, but around 140 remain in detention and there are fears that they may be ill-treated during interrogation.

Initially it was reported that government buildings in \_\_rnak were attacked by large numbers of guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) on the night of 18 August and that the security forces responded by bombing, heavy shelling and firing on houses and shops over the next 48 hours. Subsequently, the PKK denied that they had launched an attack. According to the newspaper Turkish Daily News of 24 August, journalists who arrived in \_\_rnak following a limited lifting of the curfew which had been imposed after the events: "[R]eported they were prevented from speaking to local political officials by the police, and there was no way to get an objective account of what had happened between last Tuesday night and Friday noon. Reportedly those who managed to approach reporters in secrecy could only say they were under fire for two days and claim that tanks and cannons were used to hit buildings occupied by civilians."

Thousands of people have fled \_\_rnak and are living in makeshift accommodation. There have been further reports of attacks on civilians in villages surrounding \_\_rnak.

On 26 August, Amnesty International called on the Turkish Prime Minister, Süleyman Demirel, to initiate immediately an independent, impartial inquiry into the events in \_\_rnak, especially the killings, and to make the findings public. The organization also urged that all steps were taken to ensure that no one was ill-treated in police custody.

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#### **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 Diyarbakir has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces.

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

- calling for a thorough and impartial investigation to be carried out without delay into the events in \_\_rnak between 18 and 21 August 1992, in particular all killings and wounding of civilians, including those named above, by the security forces, and for its findings to be made public;  
- urging that all steps are taken to ensure that those held in police custody are not ill-treated.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

1. 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**

**Telegrams: Interior Minister,  
Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR**  
**Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

2. Minister of the Interior:  
Mr \_smet Sezgin  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

3. 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**

4. Governor of Sirnak Province:

Mr Mustafa Malay

\_rnak Valili\_i

\_rnak, Turkey

**Telegrams: Sirnak Valisi, Sirnak,  
Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**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 16 October 1992.