

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Extrajudicial Execution

3 July 1991

TURKEY: **Hüseyin Siddik Tan, board member of Human Rights Association
 branch in Batman
Azad Tan, his son, aged 10
Cengiz Tek

Mustafa Özer, lawyer**

On the morning of 2 July 1991, a bomb exploded in Batman in the car of Hüseyin Siddik Tan, shortly after he had driven from home and parked outside his shop. The first three people named above were injured in the blast and received treatment in Diyarbakir University Hospital. Hüseyin Siddik Tan underwent an operation on his eye. The car was totally destroyed.

Hüseyin Siddik Tan is a board member of the Human Rights Association branch in Batman, which was closed down by the authorities. The branch is appealing against the closure. He was also the subject of urgent appeals by Amnesty International in August 1990 (see UA 318/90, EUR 44/122/90, 1 August 1990, and follow-up EUR 44/127/90, 13 August 1990) when he was held in incommunicado detention for some 23 days during which he was reportedly subjected to "rough treatment". He was then charged with giving assistance and shelter to Kurdish guerrillas and put on trial. The outcome of that trial is not known. The explosion in his car was the third such incident in two weeks:

In the early hours of 18 June 1991, an explosive device detonated in the car of Mustafa Özer which was parked in front of his house in Diyarbakir. According to reports received, the explosion was a very powerful one, leaving an 80cm crater in the concrete of the road and causing extensive glass damage in the neighbourhood. Nobody was injured in the blast. People with experience in the arms industry thought the total destruction of the car looked like the effect of military explosives. However, the police have informed the Diyarbakir Prosecutor that they so far have not been able to establish the type of explosive used. It is not known who planted the device and what the motives behind the bombing are.

Mustafa Özer is a lawyer and known Human Rights activist. He was for some time president of Diyarbakir Bar Association and a board member of the Human Rights Association in Diyarbakir. After the military coup of September 1980 he defended many clients in political trials before military courts.

The second of the three bombings occurred on the night of 25 June 1991: at midnight an explosion destroyed the Diyarbakir office of the Turkish Human Rights Association. A man living across the road from the building was injured in the blast. A wall collapsed and furniture and equipment were badly damaged. The offices of two political magazines located in the same building were also damaged. Members' photographs and the association's telephone register are said to have disappeared from the premises.

Members of the Human Rights Association have received death threats in the past by letter and telephone.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Turkish Human Rights Association, founded in 1986, faced considerable pressure from the authorities from the start. Several of its officials have been detained and imprisoned and members of the association's regional branches have been prosecuted for producing campaigning material without government consent. Leading members have been tried on a variety of charges, most trials eventually ending in acquittal. Several branches have been closed: the branch in Batman indefinitely.

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

- expressing concern at three reported incidents of bomb attacks on the Human Rights Association in southeast Turkey within 15 days;

- urging that a prompt and thorough investigation is carried out to establish those responsible for the bombings;

- appealing for all possible steps to be taken to protect members of the Human Rights Association from further such attacks.

APPEALS TO:

President Turgut Özal
Devlet Ba_kanli_i
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: President Ozal, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 42875 bbk tr
Faxes: (via Press Office) + 90 4 168 5012

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanlik
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr;
42099 basb tr; 42875 bbk tr
Faxes: + 90 41 17 04 76 PRIME MINISTER;
+ 90 42 30 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Mustafa Kalemli
Içi_leri Bakanli_i
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR
Faxes: + 90 4 118 1795;
+ 90 4 125 6520 (Ministry of Interior)

COPIES TO:

President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Eyüp A_ik
Insan Haklari Ara_tirma Komisyonu Ba_kani
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 4 11 91 664; +90 4 42 06 941

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat

or your section office if sending appeals after 14 August 1991.