

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

6 October 1992

TURKEY:

_ehmus Yanalak

Mehmet Ürün

Abbas Elçi

Halil Elçi

Bilal Elçi

Talip Elçi

Abdullah Elçi

Zinnet Elçi

Nusret Öktem

Sait Yak_emir

Süleyman Balta

Hac_Ya_basan

Mehmet Ya_basan

Cemil Ya_ar

Ömer Ya_ar

Ibrahim Y_ld_z

A Halim Y_ld_z

Ya_n Y_ld_z

Meryem Fidan (female)

Feysi Fidan

Mehmet Fidan

Saliha Yavuç (female)

Ömer Ölge

Abdurrahim Ölge

Mehmet Ölge

Hamit Ölge

Abdullah Onan

Sait Yakaman

On the night of 29 September 1992, gendarmerie (soldiers on police duties) and village guards (paramilitary force) surrounded the village of Hisar, near Silopi in the province of __rnak. When villagers started to move around on the morning of 30 September, the security forces came out of hiding, began arresting villagers and fired on any who tried to flee. Four persons were killed and about 30 were arrested, including those named above.

Those arrested were taken to __rnak Police Headquarters. The rest of the population of the village was made to stand in the open for the rest of the day while soldiers searched the houses. It is alleged that the soldiers stole or destroyed the villagers' private property. The villagers were then reportedly held under house arrest for three days.

On 3 October 1992, _ehmus Yanalak, Mehmet Ürün, Abbas Elçi, Abdullah Elçi and Sait Yak_emir were brought from __rnak Police Headquarters to the hospital in Cizre. People who saw them in hospital reported that their faces were bloody and that they were not able to walk without assistance. Another source stated that the doctor who treated them wanted to write a medical report documenting their injuries, but that the police prevented him from doing so. The doctor reportedly complained to the local prosecutor and the local governor.

It is feared that those named above are being interrogated under torture at __rnak Police Headquarters.

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.

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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. 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or your own language:

- urging that those detained in the village of Hisar, __rnak province, (name five of those listed above) be given an opportunity to appoint and consult with legal counsel, that they should be permitted access to their families, and that they should not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment;

- expressing concern about the suppression of medical evidence and urging that the complaint made by the doctor who examined _ehmus Yanalak, Mehmet Ürün, Abbas Elçi, Abdullah Elçi and Sait Yak_emir be thoroughly investigated;

- requesting clarification of the circumstances of the killing of four persons in their village, Hisar, on 30 October 1992.

APPEALS TO

1) Minister of Health:

Y_ld_r_m Aktuna
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
Sa_l_k ve Sosya Yard_m
Bakanl____
06434 Ankara, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Minister

Telegrams: Health Minister, Ankara, Turkey

2) Gendarmerie General Commander:

Orgeneral E_ref Bitlis
Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutan_
Kuvvetleri Komutanl____
Bakanl_klar
Ankara, Turkey

Salutation: Dear General

Telegrams: Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutani, Ankara, Turkey

3) __rnak Police Headquarters:

__rnak Emniyet Müdürlü_ü
__rnak

Salutation: Dear Police Chief

Turkey

Telegrams: __rnak Emniyet Müdürlü_ü, __rnak, Turkey

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 5 November 1992.