EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 90/93 Fear of Torture 26 Oc TURKEY Mehmet Çak_, board member of Democracy Party (DEP) in

Viran_ehir Ali Kuran, secretary of DEP in Viran ehir

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Mehmet Çak_ and Ali Kuran who are being held incommunicado at the Police Headquarters in _anl_urfa. It fears that both men are being subjected to torture during interrogation.

In the early hours of 20 October 1993, officers of the Anti-Terror Branch of _anl_urfa police detained Mehmet Çak_, his wife Saime and their five-month-old baby together with Mehmet Delen, a visitor to their house in Viran_ehir. The following day, Mehmet Delen and Saime Çak_ were released. They said that they feared Mehmet Çak_ was being tortured. Saime Çak_ had heard her husband's screams while she herself was blindfolded and the baby was crying in distress. Two other detainees who have since been released reported seeing Mehmet Çak_ at the police headquarters. His face was swollen, he had marks on his hands and face, and appeared very exhausted.

Ali Kuran, the secretary of DEP in Viran ehir was detained on 24 October.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Democracy Party (DEP) is the only legal Kurdish party in Turkey, represented by 17 deputies in the Grand National Assembly. More than 50 of its leading officials and members have been assassinated in the past two years, the wave of killings culminating in the murder of deputy Mehmet Sincar on 4 September 1993. Scores of its members have been detained in recent months on charges of making separatist propaganda and supporting the guerrillas of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority estimated at some 10 million, living mainly in southeastern Turkey. Since 1984, when guerrillas of the PKK started armed attacks against the security forces, more than 7,000 lives have been lost on both sides and among the civilian population. The security forces and the PKK are both involved in large-scale military operations covering the entire region. A state of emergency continues to be in force in 10 provinces in the region, though not in _anl_urfa province, and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbakir 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. Following a programme of visits to Turkish police stations in 1990, 1991 and 1992, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT - established by the Council of Europe) reported: "In the light of all the information at its disposal, the ECPT can only conclude that the practice of torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment of persons in police custody remains widespread in Turkey and that such methods are applied to both ordinary criminal suspects and persons held under anti-terrorism provisions".

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. New legislation to shorten the maximum detention period came into force on 1 December 1992. Now non-political detainees may be held for up to eight days before being formally charged or released. Detainees held 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:

- expessing concern about the reported torture of Mehmet Çak_, held since 20 October in incommunicado detention at anl urfa;

- expressing concern also for the safety of Ali Kuran, held since 24 October in incommunicado detention at _anl_urfa;

- urging that both detainees are granted prompt access to their lawyers and families and are promptly brought before a judge;

- seeking assurances that they are not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO

1) Deputy Prime Minister Mr Murat Karayalç n Office of the Prime Minister Ba bakanl k 06573 Ankara, Turkey Telegrams: Deputy Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey Telex: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr 42099 basb tr 42875 bbk tr Faxes: +90 44 17 04 76 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER +90 42 30 88 96 (attn: Deputy Prime Minister) Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister 2) Chief of anl urfa Police: Mr Mehmet Cebe Emniyet Müdürlü ü anl urfa, Turkey Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Sanliurfa, Turkey Salutation: Dear Sir 3) Minister of Foreign Affairs: Mr Hikmet Çetin Ministry of Foreign Affairs D i leri Bakanl 06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: 90 4 287 3869 Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 22 November 1993.