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UA 367/94	Medical Conc	ern /	Ill-Treatment	5	October	1994
TURKEY	Mehmet Doluviran Mehdi Yaman Mehmet Akgül Hasan Orak Hanefi Haram	) ) ) )	under intensive care in Diyarbak_r State Hospita	1		
	_ahabettin Fidan Zulfikar Bayram Esat Dikin _irin Bilin (m) _ehmuz Karagöz Hasan Onur Muhyedin Pirinçlio	_lu	) ) In Dicle Universit ) Medical Faculty ) with head injuries )	-		

At least 80 prisoners in Diyarbak\_r E-Type Prison (special prison for political prisoners) have been wounded, some severely, after police and soldiers entered the prison on 4 October 1994. One prisoner has died.

Ramazan Özüak, aged 19 - died

According to a lawyer from the Diyarbak\_r Bar, who visited the prison on 5 October and talked to prisoners on Ward 29, events on 4 October proceeded as follows:

At about 10am, large numbers of plainclothes police, uniformed police and soldiers armed with sticks, iron bars and firearms entered the prison, apparently with the purpose of moving some of the prisoners, currently on hunger-strike and boycotting trial hearings, out of the prison. When the prisoners blocked the entrances to the wards, the ceilings and walls were blown apart, allegedly with explosives, and tear-gas was fired in. This happened in Wards 18, 27 and 31 where 306 prisoners are being held. The prisoners were rendered incapable, brought out into the prison yard and allegedly beaten until the morning of 5 October. At about 5am they were put in prison vans and driven out of the prison, towards Urfa. It is presumed that they are being sent to Gaziantep E-Type Prison.

Seventy-two wounded prisoners were taken to Diyarbak\_r State Hospital where at least five (named above) are being treated in intensive care. Others, including the seven named above who have head injuries, were taken to the Medical Faculty of Dicle University in Diyarbak\_r. Some are believed to have been taken to the Military Hospital. The body of one prisoner from Ward 27, Ramazan Özüak, arrived on 4 October at Diyarbak\_r State Hospital from the prison. There were burns on his body, but the cause of death is not known. Twelve prisoners have meanwhile been discharged from hospital.

Reportedly, some wardens were wounded in the attack, though none of them is believed to have been hospitalized.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Diyarbak\_r E-Type Prison reportedly holds more than 1,000 Kurdish political prisoners, on trial or convicted of activities for the Kurdish Workers' Party PKK. In February 1994, the Justice Minister stated that some 6,500 political

prisoners were being held in Turkey and that due to the rate of arrests this number would soon reach 10,000. The vast majority of these political prisoners are suspected or convicted members or supporters of the PKK. For the past 100 days, those currently on trial have boycotted PKK trial hearings in State Security Courts all over Turkey and, as a consequence, numerous violent incidents have been reported from the E-Type and Special Type prisons where these Kurdish political prisoners are held.

The conflict in southeast Turkey between government forces and guerrillas of the PKK has claimed nearly 13,000 lives since it began in August 1984. Police operations against suspected PKK supporters are being carried out all over Turkey. A state of emergency remains in force in 10 provinces in the east and southeast where police and gendarmerie have the right to hold political suspects incommunicado for up to one month.

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

- expressing grave concern about the reported severe ill-treatment of 306 political prisoners from Wards 18, 27 and 31 of Diyarbak\_r E-Type Prison on 4 and 5 October 1994;
- urging that all injured prisoners are given the medical treatment they may require and that they are not discharged while still in need of treatment; urging that immediate investigations be carried out into the alleged ill-treatment, and into the death of Ramazan Özüak, and that those responsible be brought to justice, asking to be informed of the findings of these investigations;
- urging that future prison transfers are carried out in a humane manner.

Please bring to the attention of the Medical Coordinator in your Section.

## APPEALS TO

1) Minister of Justice:

Mr Mehmet Mo\_ultay
Adalet Bakanl\_\_\_\_
06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey Faxes: +90 312 425 4066 or 417 3954

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbak\_r State Security Court:

DGM Ba\_savc\_s\_ Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi Diyarbak r, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

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

## COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:
Prof Mümtaz Soysal
D\_\_i\_leri Bakanl\_\_
06100 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: 90 312 287 1886

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 November 1994.