

UA 374/94 Possible Extrajudicial Executions/Fear for safety 11 October 1994

**TURKEY** Mehmet Salih Sabuttekin, HADEP official in Yüre\_ir, Adana  
Rebih Çabuk, HADEP president in Yüre\_ir, father of five  
Sefer Cerf, HADEP Yüre\_ir board member, father of eight

Samet Yaman, HADEP president in Adana  
Ma\_allah Kasaphan, HADEP board member in Adana  
Hakk\_Kuru, HADEP board member in Seyhan, Adana  
Abdurrahman Yakut, former HADEP president in Yüre\_ir  
\_ehmuz Özgün, HADEP board member in Seyhan

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There is serious concern for the safety of officials of the Adana branch of the People's Labour Party (HADEP) who have seen three of their colleagues killed in recent days, and who themselves have received death threats.

On 28 September, HADEP official Mehmet Salih Sabuttekin was shot dead by two unidentified assailants as he left his home in Yüre\_ir, a district of Adana.

Eye-witnesses claim they saw a red *Toros* car in the area, which they recognized as belonging to the Anti-Terror Branch of Adana Police Headquarters. Samet Yaman and Rebih Çabuk, also HADEP officials, said their car was followed as they left Mehmet Salih Sabuttekin's house after paying their respects to his family.

The month before, on 13 August, Rebih Çabuk's house had been visited by four plainclothes police who came to "check" that he was resident there. He was not at home, but his wife reported that the police forced her into a car and drove her around for two hours while subjecting her to threats and insults and interrogating her about who visited their house. On 3 October Rebih Çabuk and fellow HADEP official Sefer Cerf were shot in Güneydo\_u café in the Mutlu district of Adana, reportedly by a blond man of medium height, aged 30 to 35. The gunman ran down Street 1275, met a thin dark boy, aged about 15, at the bridge joining the Mutlu and \_ehit Erkut Akbay districts, and the two escaped on a motorcycle and a bicycle. Sever Cerf died immediately. Rebih Çabuk and a third man, Salih Satan, who was wounded in the leg, were taken to hospital, where Rebih Çabuk died.

On 4 October, Ahmet Dizman, who had driven the two men to hospital, was reportedly abducted by plainclothes police officers in a white Renault car, (reg: 01 HC 644). He was driven out of the city where he was punched and beaten with the butt of a weapon. His jaw was broken. According to his brother, the abductors told Ahmet Dizman it was because he had attended Rebih Çabuk's funeral and because he had refused to be an informer, telling him, "*We are police officers*". The car is known as a police car.

On 8 October, HADEP official \_ehmuz Özgün, together with 28 women, went to Rebih Çabuk's house to pay their respects. The minibus in which they were travelling was stopped in the Yenido\_an district of Adana by police and the women were insulted and slapped. \_ehmuz Özgün was taken to the PTT Evleri Police Station where he was interrogated about his address and his place of work. He was subjected to death threats and warned not to work for HADEP.

Meanwhile the police have visited the houses of Ma\_allah Kasaphan, Hakk\_Kuru and Abdurrahman Yakut in Adana to "check" that they are living there. Samet Yaman, has repeatedly received death threats by telephone.

It is feared that these five officials of HADEP Adana provincial branch are now at risk of extrajudicial execution.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

HADEP, the People's Labour Party, is the successor to HEP and DEP which were both closed down by the Constitutional Court for "separatism". It has a predominantly Kurdish membership and works for the civil and political rights of the Kurdish minority.

There have been several political killings in Adana in recent weeks and at least two cases of "disappearance". The victims were Kurds who had previously been under suspicion by the security forces because of their or their families' political activities. They include Süleyman Önde\_, Haz\_m Abdo, Maksut Polat, Metin Akta\_, Lokman Al\_c\_o\_lu. Mehmet Turgay and Kas\_m Alpsoy, a member of DEP, "disappeared" (see UÄ 207/94, EUR 44/44/94, 31 May, and update). Yalç\_n K\_liç, the nephew of HADEP president Fadil K\_l\_ç in Suruç near Urfa, died in hospital on 2 October after eight days interrogation under torture at Adana Police Headquarters (see UA 368/94, EUR 44/113/94, 6 October).

The intensification of pressure against officials and members of HADEP coincides with the setting of a date, 4 December 1994, for by-elections. The are needed because 22 parliamentary seats have become vacant, the majority of them as a result of the banning of the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party (DEP) in June 1994.

Another seat has been vacant since the killing of DEP deputy Mehmet Sincar on 4 September 1993 in Batman in circumstances strongly suggesting security force involvement. In the weeks preceding local elections in March 1994, a number of DEP candidates and activists were extrajudicially executed, mainly in the southeast, before the party decided to boycott the elections. With Rebih Çabuk, 101 officials and members of HEP/DEP/HADEP have been killed in the past three years.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Samet Yaman, Ma\_allah Kasaphan, Hakk\_Kuru, Abdurrahman Yakut and \_ehmuz Özgün of HADEP provincial branch in Adana who are receiving frequent death threats;
- voicing outrage about the recent killings of HADEP officials M. Salih Sabuttekın, Rebih Çabuk and Sefer Cerf in Yüre\_ir-Adana;
- demanding an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into these and other political killings in the Adana area;
- urging that all necessary steps be taken to prevent further killings.

#### **APPEALS TO**

1) President Süleyman Demirel  
Office of the President  
Cumhur Ba\_kanl\_\_\_\_  
06100 Ankara

**Telegrams: President Demirel, Ankara**  
**Telexes: 42303 kosk tr**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) Minister of the Interior:  
Mr Nahit Mente\_e

Içi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
Bakanl\_klar  
06644 Ankara, Turkey  
**Telegrams: İcisleri Bakanlıđı, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Faxes: +90 312 418 1795 or +90 312 418 1066**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**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 5 December 1994.