

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 4/116/96

EXTRA 125/96 Fear of torture / Fear of "disappearance" 12 August 1996

TURKEYM. Hanefi I__k, aged 46, member of Human Rights Association (HRA)

Shortly after 5pm on 8 August 1996, M. Hanefi I__k was reportedly detained after he had left the office of the Turkish Human Rights Association in Diyarbak_r. An anonymous telephone caller informed his family that he had been detained near the bus station in the Da_kap_ district of Diyarbak_r, but failed to give further details. His whereabouts remain unknown, despite inquiries with the relevant authorities.

M. Hanefi I__k, who is married with seven children, is a civil servant working at Dicle University in Diyarbak_r. He is an activist of the HRA and in 1992-94 was a board member of the Diyarbak_r branch of the teachers' union E_it-Sen. He was previously detained on 27 February 1995 during a raid by plainclothes police at the Diyarbak_r branch office of the HRA. On 9 March 1995 he was formally arrested and committed to prison. He was released by the court on 1 May 1995.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency in the southeast, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture is often applied to extract confessions, to elicit information about illegal organizations, to intimidate detainees into becoming police informers or as informal punishment for assumed support of illegal organizations. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of M. Hanefi I__k, detained in the Da_kap_ district of Diyarbak_r, on 8 August 1996 and since held incommunicado at an unknown location;
- urging an immediate investigation to establish his current whereabouts;
- appealing that his detention be duly registered, his family be informed of his whereabouts without delay and he be promptly brought before a judge to be charged or released;
- seeking assurances that he is not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO:

1. Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbak_r State Security Court:
Mr Bekir Selçuk
DGM Ba_savc_s_

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi
Diyarbak_r, Turkey
Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Prosecutor

2. Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Necati Bilican
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
Faxes: +90 412 224 3572
Salutation: Dear Governor

3. Diyarbak_r Chief of Police:

Mr R_dvan Güler
Diyarbak_r Emniyet Müdürü
Diyarbak_r, Turkey
Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Diyarbakir, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mrs Tansu Çiller
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
D__i_leri Bakanl____
06100 Ankara
Fax: +90 312 419 1547

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 15 September 1996.