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£TURKEY: @Killing of Resul Sakar in Cizre

Cizre is a border town in the south close to the point where the borders of Iraq, Syria and Turkey meet. The town, suspected of providing a base for the guerrillas of the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party), is under extremely tight security, with armoured cars constantly patrolling the streets and all crossroads covered by armed checkpoints. Ordinary citizens dare not venture out of their houses from late afternoon, even when there is no curfew in force. Many political killings have occurred there during the past year.

Shortly after midnight on 2 November 1992, a group of 20-30 security force members in plain clothes rang the bell of Resul Sakar's house in the Kurtulu\_ district of Cizre. Some who had their faces covered and spoke Kurdish were thought to be village guards (villagers armed and paid by the government to fight the guerrillas). They did not wait for the door to be opened, but leapt over the wall into the courtyard and knocked on the door of the living room, threatening to break it down if it were not opened. Resul Sakar was ill in bed and told his wife and son to let the police in. Three officers entered and began insulting the family, threatening them with their weapons and beating the 18-year-old son. They said they wanted to take Resul Sakar for interrogation. The police did not allow him to get dressed, but dragged him away in his pyjamas. The son followed the men to the main road, 150 metres away from the house, where he heard the noise of armoured vehicles and turned back. Neighbours later stated that the police had come around inquiring in the neighbourhood for directions to Resul Sakar's house and smashing lights to darken the street. They estimated that the police were out searching in the neighbourhood for up to half an hour. They also noted three eight-wheel armoured vehicles which appeared on the Idil road bordering the Kurtulu\_ district about the time the police dragged Resul Sakar from his home. Those who saw the armoured vehicles were of the opinion that Resul Sakar may have been taken away in one of them. Two hours later at 3am gunshots were heard in the Cudi district of Cizre which borders Kurtulu\_, separated by the road to Idil. In the morning at 7am Resul Sakar's body was found in an empty yard behind the Industrial Training School. There were no cartridge cases or blood at the site. The body had 15 entry and exit bullet holes, and the autopsy report stated that Resul Sakar was shot from behind.

Resul Sakar was a member of the Workers' Party (\_\_\_çi Partisi) and had been the local president of the Socialist Party in Cizre which was banned in July 1992. The Socialist Party and its successor, the Workers' Party, have a policy of non-violent, but outspoken support for the political emancipation of the Kurds. Both parties have always taken the position that Turks and Kurds should

be "brothers". Resul Sakar, formerly an imam (prayer-leader in the mosque), is said to have been well-respected in the area.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned about the continuing series of killings in southeast Turkey of local politicians, human rights activists, journalists, and villagers who refuse to participate in the village guard system or who are suspected of links with the PKK. Since the killing of Yakup Kara, the mayor of Hilal, and his four fellow-travellers in June 1991 more than 100 killings have been reported from the Kurdish provinces under State of Emergency in which involvement of the security forces has been alleged. In spite of strong evidence to that effect, the Turkish authorities have consistently failed to respond to Amnesty International's appeals for the setting up of commissions of inquiry into these killings, as recommended by the United Nations Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions (1989).

Amnesty International is calling for a prompt, full and impartial investigation into the circumstances in which Resul Sakar was killed. The organization is appealing to the Turkish authorities to make public the methods and findings of the investigation and to bring those responsible to justice.

#### 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 PKK started armed attacks on 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. More than 5,000 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.

