

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of Torture

30 September 1991

TURKEY:

Detained on or around 28 September:

Yusufhan Zorba, Board member of Van branch of the Turkish Human Rights Association (IHD), said to be under severe torture  
Mehmet irin Zorba, uncle of Yusufhan Zorba (above)  
enar Turgut, producer of the film "Siyabed-u Xeco", filmed in Van, Gurbet ... (f) based on a Kurdish legend  
Muhittin Aksin  
akir Kanat, member of Van branch of IHD, said to be under severe torture  
Cemal Koçak  
emsettin Koçak, aged 70, father of Cemal Koçak (above)  
Hüseyin Karakoyun  
ehmuz Karakoyun  
Hayrettin Yacan  
Salih Ba\_\_

Detained near Malazgirt on or around 15 September 1991:

Tevfik Kalkan  
Mehmet Nihat Çener

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A total of 26 people have been detained in a police operation which apparently began in Van some time after the capture of two alleged members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in Malazgirt, near Mu\_ in southeast Turkey on about 15 September. Arrests in Van began on 27 September. The operation is apparently still continuing, with many houses being raided, and there have been reports of detainees being beaten while being taken away for interrogation. Some detainees who were released on 29 September have reported being beaten and suspended by the wrists.

All those mentioned above are being held at the Political Branch of Van Police Headquarters (lawyers and family are not normally permitted access to detainees in police custody in Van), where it is believed that they are being subjected to torture.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is estimated to number some 10 million people. The Kurdish population lives mainly in southeastern Turkey. Frequent allegations of torture and ill-treatment have been received from the region and the number of torture allegations increased substantially after the 1980 military coup. Since August 1984, when Kurdish guerrillas - members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) - started armed attacks, an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces. Some 3,000 lives have so far been lost on both sides and among the civilian population in 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. In May 1990 the Turkish government issued Decrees 424

and 425 (in December replaced by Decree 430), further extending the powers of the Emergency Legislation Governor.

Under current legislation the maximum detention period before being formally charged or released is 24 hours; in cases involving three or more suspects or due to the 'nature of the crime' it may be extended to 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in areas under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in Van.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- urging that the detainees at Van Police Headquarters whose names are indicated above are given prompt access to their family and lawyer and that they are not ill-treated while in detention;
- requesting to be informed of any charges against them.

**APPEALS TO**

Minister of the Interior:

Mr Mustafa Kalemlı  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**  
**Telex: 46369 IC SL TR**  
**Fax: +90 4 118 1795**  
**+90 4 125 6520 (Ministry of Interior)**

Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Necati Çetinkaya  
Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**  
**Telex: 72110 OHVT TR**  
**72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the Governor"**  
**72090 JASY TR**  
**Fax: +90 831 26174**

Van Chief of Police:

Sabri Yakar  
Emniyet Müdürü  
Van Emniyet Müdürlü\_ü  
\_skele Caddesi  
Van  
Turkey

**Telegrams: Emniyet Müdürlü\_ü, Van, Turkey**  
**Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Istanbul, Turkey**  
**Telexes: 30811 IEHM TR or 30812 EMMH TR or 26177 IEMT TR**  
**Fax: +90 1 172 81 82**

**COPIES TO:**

- President of Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Eyüp A\_k  
\_nsan Haklar\_ Ara\_t\_rma Komisyonu Ba\_kan\_  
TBMM  
Ankara, Turkey

**Fax: +90 4 11 91 664**  
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and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 November 1991.