

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/130/92

Distr: UA/SC

EXTRA 105/92 Fear of Torture/Fear of "Disappearance" 14 December 1992

TURKEY: Ekrem Ka_

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Ekrem Ka_ who was arrested on 10 December 1992 in Diyarbak_r and whose detention has not been acknowledged by the police.

On the evening of 10 December 1992 at around 10 pm plainclothes police officers came to the house of Ekrem Ka_ in Diyarbak_r, identified themselves as police and detained Ekrem Ka_. When his relatives made inquiries with Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters and the prosecutor's office they were unable to find out where he was being held. They then submitted a written application to the prosecutor's office at Diyarbak_r State Security Court on 11 December and received a reply that same day saying that a person by the name of Ekrem Ka_ was not registered as being in detention.

Given the high incidence of political killings and alleged extrajudicial executions in the region including Diyarbak_r town and province, there are grave fears for the life of Ekrem Ka_.

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 against 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. Furthermore, allegations of over 100 extrajudicial executions have been received during the past 12 months. 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.

Turkey ratified the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture on 25 February 1988 and the UN Convention Against Torture on 2 August 1988. However, all information available to Amnesty International indicates that torture is still widespread and systematic in Turkey. Most allegations relate to ill-treatment of detainees in police custody during their initial interrogation when they are usually denied access to relatives or a lawyer. In August 1990, the government derogated from Articles 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights, all of which contain important safeguards for human rights. New legislation to shorten the maximum detention period came into force on 1 December 1992. Now the normal maximum period of 24 hours, for which a non-political detainee may be held before being formally charged or released,

may be extended to eight days in cases of ordinary crimes involving three or more suspects. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences to be tried in State Security Courts may be held without charge for 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in provinces under emergency legislation or martial law. Emergency legislation is currently in force in 10 provinces, including Diyarbak_r.

Page 2 of EXTRA 105/92

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

- expressing grave concern that Ekrem Ka_ has been held in unacknowledged police detention since 10 December 1992 when he was arrested in Diyarbak_r;
- requesting to be informed of his present whereabouts;
- urging that his family be informed promptly of his place of detention and be granted access to him;
- seeking assurances that he is not subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment while being held.

APPEALS TO

1) Chief of the Turkish General Staff:

General Do_an Güre_
Bakanl_klar
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: General Gures, Bakanliklar, Ankara, Turkey

Salutation: Dear General

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr

42099 basb tr

42875 bbk tr
Faxes: + 90 4 417 04 76
+ 90 4 230 88 96

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission
nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey

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 January 1993.