

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/136/91
Distr: UA/SC

11 October 1991

Further information on UA 320/91 (EUR 44/128/91, 30 September 1991) - Fear of Torture

TURKEY:

Yusufhan Zorba, Board member of Van branch of the Turkish Human Rights

Association (IHD) said to have been severely tortured
Mehmet irin Zorba, uncle of Yusufhan Zorba
enar Turgut, producer of the film "Siyabed-u Xeco", based on a Kurdish legend.

Gurbet ... (female)

Muhittin Aksin

akir Kanat, member of Van branch of IHD, said to have been severely tortured

Cemal Koçak, member of Van branch of IHD

emsettin Koçak (aged 70), father of Cemal Koçak)

Hüseyin Karakoyun

ehmuz Karakoyun

Hayrettin Yacan

Salih Ba__

Tevfik Kalkan

Mehmet Nihat Çener

After being detained in September, all of the above with the exception of emsettin Koçak were formally arrested by a judge in Van on 9 October 1991. The prosecutor stated that 16 people had been detained in the operation, and that 14 had been formally arrested, and charged with membership of or offering shelter and assistance to, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). emsettin Koçak, who was released, is reported to be in very poor physical condition, with bruising around the chest, and suspected cracked rib. All those arrested were held in Van Closed Prison until 11 October when they were transferred to Diyarbakir where they will stand trial in the State Security Court.

The film "Siyabend-u Xece", for which enar Turgut wrote the script and was helping to produce, was a love story in the Kurdish language, set against the social background of southeast Turkey, and is based on a book of the same name which was previously banned. The filming was allegedly nearing completion when enar Turgut was detained.

enar Turgut's lawyer was permitted to see him on 30 September and 2 October, but on both occasions the interviews were held under the supervision of police officers. When the lawyer asked the prosecutor to arrange a confidential interview with her client, he reportedly stated that even being permitted to see him was a big achievement and almost unheard of in Van. The lawyer was not permitted to attend the interrogation by the judge prior to formal arrest.

Those who observed the detainees being brought to court said that some of them seemed to have difficulty in walking. It is alleged that detainees were subjected to beating, cold water under pressure, electric shocks and being hit with sandbags suspended from the ceiling. All detainees were taken for

medical examination immediately prior to their appearance in court, but proper consultation and medical examination was not possible since the detainees were accompanied by police into the doctor's room.

Please do not send any further appeals. The fear of torture is now past. Thanks to all those who took part in the action. Amnesty International will monitor the case and give the UA network further information as soon as it becomes available.