

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/181/96

2 December 1996

Further information on UA 30/96 (EUR 44/22/96, 8 February 1996) - Death threats
/ Fear for safety

TURKEYAbdurrahman Mü_tak, headman of Ye_ilyurt village
and other residents of the village

Amnesty International continues to be gravely concerned for the safety of Abdurrahman Mü_tak and other villagers who acted as plaintiffs and witnesses in the personal petition which Abdurrahman Mü_tak filed with the European Commission of Human Rights of the Council of Europe against the Turkish Government for ill-treatment which they suffered in 1989. In January of that year the villagers were not only brutally ill-treated by the security forces, but some were also forced to smear human excrement over each other's mouths. In a so-called "friendly settlement" reached in March 1994 the villagers were awarded compensation to be paid by the Turkish Government. Since then, however, there has been a long record of harassment and intimidation of the villagers by the local village guards. On 18 November 1996 their lawyer Hasip Kaplan described in a press conference some of the most recent incidents and asked President Süleyman Demirel to intervene on behalf of the villagers.

On 9 February 1996 the telephone which is properly held in the village headman's house as a facility for the whole village, was transferred to the house of the head of the village guards.

On 6 May 1996 Abdurrahman Mü_tak's satellite dish was confiscated and a prosecution was initiated against him for allegedly watching MED-TV (a Kurdish-language television station broadcasting from abroad).

On 30 May 1996 the village guard chief submitted a petition to the Cizre Gendarmerie stating that the plaintiffs' statements made in the Ye_ilyurt trial were false and that the villagers had given the compensation money to the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party).

On 1 August 1996 Abdurrahman Mü_tak's father Ramazan Mü_tak was shot at in the village.

On 10 September 1996 Abdurrahman Mü_tak was attacked by village guards and beaten. He received a medical certificate stating that he was unfit to work for seven days.

During the month of November, village guards entered the house of villagers Selahattin Mubariz and Ömer Mubariz because they refused to do village guard service. Selahattin Mubariz was beaten up, as was Ömer Mubariz's wife. Both villagers had acted as witnesses in the Ye_ilyurt trial at the European Court of Human Rights. They complained to the local prosecutor and to the local governor. Following this incident, those villagers not participating in the village guard system began to leave the village.

On 19 November Abdurrahman Mü_tak was again beaten by village guards and was afterwards afraid to stay in the village. He applied to the local governor who told him that anyone who interfered with him in the village would be answerable to him, the governor.

On 23 November Abdurrahman Mü_tak went back to the village. Towards evening his house was surrounded by village guards and towards the morning shots were fired at his house. There were about eight young children in the house at the time. The prosecutor went with Abdurrahman Mü_tak to his house to establish whether or not there was any evidence of the shooting and found bullet-holes in the walls of the house.

On 28 November Abdurrahman Mü_tak again went into the village accompanied by the prosecutor and soldiers. The prosecutor confiscated ammunition from the village guards who in any case had already hidden away their weapons. It is understood that on 1 December the local governor issued firearm licences to eight village guards in Ye_ilyurt; these are believed to be the same guards from whom the unlicensed ammunition had previously been confiscated.

All male adult members of the family have temporarily left Ye_ilyurt, but plan to return soon. The women and children remain in the village.

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

- expressing grave concern at the reported attacks and harassment against Abdurrahman Mü_tak, his father Ramazan and other villagers of Ye_ilyurt, by village guards;
- calling for the perpetrators to be brought to justice;
- calling for immediate and effective measures to guarantee the safety of Abdurrahman Mü_tak and his family and fellow-villagers.

APPEALS TO:

1. President Süleyman Demirel

Office of the President
Cumhurba_kanl____
06100 Ankara

Telegrams: Cumhurbaşkanlığı, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 42303 kosk tr

Faxes: +90 312 468 5026

Salutation: Your Excellency

2. Minister of the Interior

Mrs Meral Ak_ener
İçişleri Bakanl____
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 2390

Salutation: Dear Minister

3. State of Emergency Regional 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

COPIES TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Lütfü Esengün

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476

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 13 January 1997.