

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: EUR 44/22/94
Distr: UA/SC

UA 131/94 "Disappearance"

30 March 1994

TURKEY: Hatice Çiftçi (f) - "disappeared" in Adana 25 March
Hüseyin Ta_kaya - "disappeared" in Siverek 16 March
Naz_m Babao_lu - journalist "disappeared" in Siverek 12 March
Cüneyt Ayd_nlar - "disappeared" in Istanbul on or about 6 March

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Hatice Çiftçi, Hüseyin Ta_kaya, Naz_m Babao_lu and Cüneyt Aydınlar following their "disappearance" in recent weeks. The organization has noted a serious increase in "disappearances" in Turkey in the past months.

On the night of 25 March 1994 **Hatice Çiftçi**, an unemployed chemical engineering graduate, did not return to her home in Adana. Five members of the Democracy Party (DP) detained on 25 March reported hearing her name called in the Anti-Terror Branch of Adana Police Headquarters, and seeing her taken from her cell on the opposite side of the same corridor.

Hatice Çiftçi's family have applied to the local prosecutor's office, and to the police, asking for information about her whereabouts, but both authorities have denied that she is being held.

On 16 March **Hüseyin Ta_kaya** was taken from his home in Siverek by a First Lieutenant of the gendarmerie and the head of the local village guard militia accompanied by some 20 village guards (villagers paid and armed by the government to fight the guerrillas of the PKK - Kurdish Workers' Party). As he was led away, Hüseyin Ta_kaya is said to have pleaded: *"Don't let them take me away, they will kill me"*. His cousin Zühreyla Ç_nar was allegedly beaten and her arm broken by the village guards when she attempted to intervene. The Gendarmerie Headquarters in Siverek deny that he is being held in custody, even though his family witnessed the detention.

On 12 March **Naz_m Babao_lu**, journalist for the _anl_urfa branch of the newspaper *Özgür Gündem*, was reported to have "disappeared" when he left for the nearby town of Siverek in response to a telephone call from a contact, Murat Yo_unlu, urging him to collect some important information. Witnesses report seeing Naz_m Babao_lu walking towards the town hall. The same day, newspaper staff from _anl_urfa went to Siverek when Naz_m Babao_lu failed to telephone the office. They made inquiries in Siverek, and eventually went to the police headquarters where they found Murat Yo_unlu, apparently in custody. He denied calling Naz_m Babao_lu asking him to come to Siverek, and the police denied holding Naz_m Babao_lu in custody.

Cüneyt Ayd_nlar "disappeared" after being detained on 20 February by members of the Anti-Terror Branch of Istanbul Police Headquarters. Fellow detainees, now formally arrested and held in Sa_malılar Prison, have issued a statement saying that they saw Cüneyt Ayd_nlar, looking extremely ill, being taken from his cell at Istanbul Police Headquarters on 2 March. In addition, his detention was registered by the State Security Prosecutor on 26 February. On or about 6 March Cüneyt Ayd_nlar was brought to an outlying district of Istanbul where he was seen by neighbours in very poor condition, apparently with broken arms. The police claim that he later succeeded in escaping and produced a statement signed by witnesses confirming the escape. Members of Istanbul Human Rights Association went to talk to some of the witnesses, and found that they had been obliged to sign the statement without knowing the contents - and indeed a Kurdish woman who signed could not speak Turkish, or read or write.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During 1993 and 1994 there has been a striking increase in reports of "disappearances" - particularly in the southeastern provinces. Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored in the southeastern provinces where a State of Emergency is in force, and increasingly disregarded in the cities in the rest of Turkey. Lack of proper registration and notification is not only extremely distressing for families, but it creates the conditions in which "disappearances" can occur and torture takes place. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) and the UN Committee against Torture (UN CAT), both of which are mechanisms of international human rights instruments to which Turkey is a State Party, have published reports to the effect that torture is widespread and systematic in Turkey

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Hatice Çiftçi, Hüseyin Ta_kaya, Naz_m Babao_lu and Cünzüt Aydinlar, all of whom "disappeared" while in police custody in March;
- urging that immediate steps are taken to establish their whereabouts;
- noting the findings of the ECPT and the UN CAT regarding the practice of torture in Turkey as published in their reports of December 1992 and November 1993, respectively;
- asking that urgent measures be taken to stem the serious increase in "disappearances", of which there were at least 26 reports in 1993.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Nahit Mente_ç

_çi_leri Bakanl__

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 428 4346

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Prime Minister:

Mrs Tansu Çiller

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr

42099 basb tr

42875 bbk tr

Faxes: +90 312 417 04 76 PRIME MINISTER

+90 312 230 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Hikmet Çetin

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Đ_i_leri Bakanl__

06100 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 287 3869

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 11 May 1994.