

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Fear of "disappearance"

28 June 1994

TURKEY

Ahmet TEKIN

Ahmet Tekin was detained on his way from Diyarbak_r to the Y_ld_z (Kurdish name: Bamusi) district of Darakol (K_ya) village between 8.00 and 8.30am on 7 May 1994. Amnesty International fears for his safety following a report that his relatives saw him in Lice state hospital 10 days later in a very bad condition. His present whereabouts are not known, and his period of detention has exceeded the 30-day maximum allowed by Turkish law. Amnesty International fears that he may have "disappeared".

Ahmet Tekin, married with six children, was detained by soldiers at a checkpoint on the road from Diyarbak_r to Darakol. He was taken off the bus in which he was travelling and taken to Lice Gendarmerie Headquarters. Three days later, Ahmet Tekin's mother came to Lice Gendarmerie Headquarters to present a written request to the Lice prosecutor for confirmation of her son's arrest and detention. She happened to catch sight of her son, blindfolded, in the yard of the Gendarmerie. The Gendarmerie apparently refused to accept the written request and they are reported to have behaved towards his mother in an insulting fashion, referring to her as "the mother of a terrorist", and kicking her.

A few days later, Ahmet Tekin's mother received a message from her son via a fellow detainee who had been released. Ten days afterwards relatives of Ahmet Tekin reported that they had seen him in Lice state hospital, in a very bad condition. Ahmet Tekin's mother presented written requests to the Lice Prosecutor, the Chief Prosecutor of Diyarbak_r State Security Court, Diyarbak_r Gendarmerie Headquarters, and the State of Emergency Governor for the region. So far she has received no reply.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There has been a striking increase in reports of "disappearances" since the summer of 1993 - particularly in the southeastern provinces, where police and gendarmerie have the right to hold political suspects completely incommunicado for a month. The detainee is not allowed access to a lawyer, family, friends or doctor. It is extremely unusual for the police to notify relatives that a person has been detained, and they frequently refuse information concerning where or why the person is being held. What is particularly distressing for relatives is that the 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, and increasingly disregarded in the rest of the country. This abuse of registration procedures creates the conditions in which the "disappearance" of detainees can occur.

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

- expressing grave concern for the well-being of Ahmet Tekin, who was detained at the Lice Gendarmerie Headquarters on 7 May 1994;
- urging that immediate steps are taken to establish his present whereabouts and state of health;
- asking to be informed of the results of such investigations.

APPEALS TO1) Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie:

Orgeneral Ayd_n_lter

Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____

Bakanl_klar

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Jandarma Genel Komutani, Ankara, Turkey**Faxes: +90 312 418 0476****Salutation: Dear General**2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Nahit Ment_e

Içi_leri Bakanl____

Bakanl_klar

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Icisleri Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey**Faxes: +90 312 418 1795****Salutation: Dear Minister**3) Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Ünal Erkan

Ola_anüstü Hal Valili_i

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**Faxes: +90 832 26 174****Salutation: Dear Governor****COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

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 9 August 1994.