

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/60/96

EXTRA 54/96

Fear of "disappearance" / Fear of torture

22 April 1996

TURKEY

Atilla Osmano_lu, aged 18, shopkeeper

On 25 March 1996 Atilla Osmano_lu was reportedly detained in his family's shop in the Ili Melikamet district of Diyarbak_r by two plainclothes police officers.

The officers told his relatives that they would take him to the canteen of the Police Headquarters on a business matter and return him 15 minutes later. The police put him into their car and his family have not heard of him since.

His family have made inquiries about Atilla Osmano_lu's whereabouts with various authorities, but without success. Amnesty International fears for his safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency, of which Diyarbak_r is one, and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

Any person suspected of supporting the PKK or any other illegal armed organization is at serious risk of torture, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution. In 1994 there were more than 55 confirmed "disappearances", and more than 400 people were killed in unclarified circumstances. More than 20 cases of "disappearance" in police custody have been reported in 1995.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Atilla Osmano_lu and urging that his whereabouts be immediately established and that he be given access to his family;
- requesting to be informed of the result of the investigation into his whereabouts;
- appealing that he not be subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO:

1) Interior Minister

Mr Ülkü Güney

Ministry of Interior

Çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 418 1066 / 418 1795

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbak_r State Security Court:

Mr Bekir Selçuk

DGM Ba_savc_s_

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Bassavcısı, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

3) Diyarbakır Chief of Police:

Mr Rıdvan Güler

Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürü

Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Muduru, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Emre Gönensay

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dışişleri Bakanlığı

06100 Ankara

Faxes: +90 312 419 1547

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 25 May 1996.