

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

19 July 1993

TURKEY:

Hamdi _im_ek, aged 63, a Christian

Hikmet _im_ek, 27, son of Hamdi, a Christian

M. Salih Demirhan, 37

_brahim Ak_n, 34, village *imam* (Muslim prayer leader)

Halit Özdemir

_emdin Culaz

Amnesty International is concerned for the lives of the six men named above who were detained in their village five weeks ago and whom the authorities deny holding.

During the night of 12 June 1993, PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party) guerrillas raided the gendarmerie post in Görümlü village in the province of __rnak and killed six soldiers. On 14 June, the security forces in turn raided the predominantly Christian village and detained the six villagers named above. Although 35 days have passed, their families have no news of their whereabouts and the State Prosecutor in Silopi claimed that they were not detained and are not being held in custody.

According to a petition which the wife of Hamdi _im_ek submitted to the authorities in __rnak, the security forces hung a cross around the neck of village *imam* _brahim Ak_n, saying that all the villagers were Christian and that they were going to kill them all. It is also alleged that the men were tortured in the village in front of their relatives.

As five weeks have passed since the six villagers were taken into custody, and their detention has not been acknowledged, there is grave concern for their safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is receiving information suggesting that a major offensive by government forces intended to eradicate the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) has begun, and fears that this offensive will be accompanied by serious human rights abuses by both the government forces and guerrillas of the PKK.

In mid-March 1993 the PKK declared a unilateral cease-fire and stated that it wished to pursue its objectives through the democratic channels available in Turkey. However, the cease-fire began to disintegrate when on 24 May guerrillas of the PKK ambushed a convoy of soldiers, reportedly travelling unarmed and in civilian clothes. The guerrillas abducted and then killed 32 soldiers and four civilians.

Renewed hostilities have brought a sudden increase in reports of human rights abuses by both sides. Unprotected by the most basic safeguards against torture, villagers such as those named above, are frequently exposed to the most brutal treatment - sometimes resulting in terrible injuries or even death. (See Amnesty International's

report Escalation in human rights abuses against Kurdish villagers, July 1993, AI Index: EUR 44/64/93)

A State of Emergency is in force in 10 provinces in the southeast of Turkey, including Mardin province, and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbakir has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces. Under emergency legislation political detainees may be held for a maximum of 30 days before being formally charged or released.

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

- urging that an immediate investigation is carried out to establish the whereabouts of the six villagers from Görümlü village named above, who were detained in the village on 14 June 1993 by members of the security forces;

- requesting to be informed of the findings;

- appealing that all steps be taken to ensure that the villagers are not tortured or subjected to other forms of ill-treatment if held in police custody.

APPEALS TO

1) Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie:

Orgeneral Ayd_n_lter

Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____

Bakanl_klar

6100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Jandarma Genel Komutani, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 418 0476

Salutation: Dear General

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Mehmet Gazio_lu

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) 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 4 417 04 76, + 90 4 230 88 96

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Hikmet Çetin

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

D_i_leri Bakanl____

06100 Ankara, Turkey

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 30 August 1993.