

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 258/92 Fear of Extrajudicial Execution/Health Concern

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TURKEY: Burhan Karadeniz, journalist

On the morning of 5 August 1992, Burhan Karadeniz, a journalist working for the newspaper Özgür Gündem was attacked from behind by three men while on his way to work in Diyarbakır. Reportedly, somebody called out to him as the attacker took aim which made him turn around and see the assassin before being hit in the back of his neck by one bullet which exited near his throat. It is alleged that doctors at Diyarbakır State Hospital, to which he was taken, have been threatened not to treat him. When he was put on the 4pm flight to Ankara for treatment there, police removed him from the plane and had him returned to the hospital. He is said to be in a serious condition and in danger of being paralyzed.

Burhan Karadeniz had been detained previously on or around 9 July 1992 while covering the commemoration of the killing of Vedat Aydın in Diyarbakır a year ago. He was beaten and insulted before being released four days later without being charged. He had received anonymous death threats by telephone since starting work for the newspaper on 30 May 1992.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

This is the fourth attack within two months by unidentified assailants on journalists investigating human rights violations in the region under State of Emergency, three of whom have been killed: Hafız Akdemir of Özgür Gündem in the street in Diyarbakır on 8 June 1992; Yahya Orhan of Özgür Gündem in the street in Gercüş near Batman on 31 July 1992, and Çetin Abayay of Özgür Halk, who died of his wounds on 30 July 1992 after having been shot by unidentified attackers in Batman the previous day. In a further attack on 1 August 1992, Celal Pekgöl, brother of journalist Metin Pekgöl of Özgür Gündem was shot in the street in Batman, possibly a case of mistaken identity.

Journalists and local correspondents working for newspapers and magazines like the Kurdish-owned daily Özgür Gündem, Free Agenda, and its sister publication, the weekly Yeni Ülke, New Land, Özgür Halk, Free People, Gerçek, Truth and 2000'e Do ru, Towards 2000, have been the targets of prosecutions, harassment by the police, detention, ill-treatment and torture, death threats and killings ever since their papers started publication. Their declared policy is to investigate and publicize human rights violations committed by the security forces, in particular in the Kurdish provinces under State of Emergency where reporting has been severely restricted. Issues of these and similar publications are frequently confiscated.

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority which is estimated to number some 10 million people, living mainly in southeastern Turkey. Since August 1984, when guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) started armed attacks on the security forces,

an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces. During the past 12 months over 100 cases of alleged extrajudicial executions have been reported from the region. More than 4,000 lives have so far been lost on both sides and among the civilian population in the context of the continuing fighting. Emergency legislation is in force in 10 provinces in the region and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbakir has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- appealing that Burhan Karadeniz is given all medical attention he may require, be it in Diyarbak\_r or in Ankara;
- urging that every step possible is taken to ensure his future safety;
- calling for a prompt, full and impartial investigation into the attack on Burhan Karadeniz and that those responsible are brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr \_smet Sezgin

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Telex: 46369 ICSL TR**

**Fax: +90 4 418 1795**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

2) Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba\_bakanl\_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Telex: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr**

**42099 basb tr**

**42875 bbk tr**

**Faxes: +90 4 417 04 76 PRIME MINISTER**

**+90 4 230 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

3) Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Ünal Erkan

Ola\_anüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**

**Telex: 72110 OHVT TR**

**72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the Governor"**

**Fax: +90 831 26174 (telephone first and ask to switch on the fax machine: "Lütfen fax sinyal veriniz")**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES TO:**

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission  
\_nsan Haklar\_ Ara\_t\_rma Komisyonu Ba\_kan\_  
TBMM  
Ankara, Turkey

and 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 17 September 1992.