

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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~~UA 262/92 Possible Extrajudicial Execution 11 August 1992~~

TURKEY: Hüseyin Deniz, journalist

Hüseyin Deniz, reporter in Ceylanp_nar (province of Urfa) for the daily newspapers Özgür Gündem and Cumhuriyet, was shot with one bullet to his head when on his way to the office in the morning of 9 August 1992. He was taken to Urfa State Hospital where he subsequently died. No information on the identity of the attacker has been made available.

Hüseyin Deniz, a writer, was a member of International PEN and was the fourth victim of attacks by unidentified assailants on journalists of Özgür Gündem. In December 1991 he was tried and acquitted at Ceylanp_nar Preliminary Court for possession of Kurdish books.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is the fifth attack within two months by unidentified assailants on journalists investigating human rights violations in the region under State of Emergency. Three of these have been killed: Hafız Akdemir of Özgür Gündem in the street in Diyarbak_r on 8 June; Yahya Orhan of Özgür Gündem in the street in Gercü_ near Batman on 31 July, and Çetin Abayay of Özgür Halk, who died of his wounds on 30 July after having been shot by unidentified attackers in Batman the previous day. In a further attack on 1 August, Celal Pekköl, brother of journalist Metin Pekköl of Özgür Gündem was shot in the street in Batman, possibly a case of mistaken identity. On 5 August Burhan Karadeniz of Özgür Gündem was shot in the street in Diyarbak_r and seriously wounded (see UA 258/92, EUR 44/70/92 of 6 August 1992).

From its experience in other parts of the world, Amnesty International has observed that journalists are frequently a prime target in areas where there is a pattern of serious human rights abuses, and in particular extrajudicial executions. As journalists and human rights monitors intimidated by the killings leave the area, human rights violations increasingly go unreported.

Journalists and local correspondents working for newspapers and magazines such as 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

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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 Diyarbak_r has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces.

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

- expressing concern at the killing of the journalist Hüseyin Deniz who was shot on 9 August 1992;
- calling for a prompt, full and impartial investigation into the attack on Hüseyin Deniz and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- urging the authorities to take all possible measures to protect the lives of journalists investigating human rights violations.

APPEALS TO

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

Salutation: Dear Minister

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 ICSL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

2) Prime Minister:

Mr Süleyman Demirel

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Office of the Prime Minister

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 0476, + 90 4 230 8896

3) Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr Ünal Erkan

Salutation: Dear Governor

Ola_anüstü Hal Valisi

Diyarbak_r, Turkey

Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Telexes: 72110 OHVT TR, 72084 DYVA TR

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

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 September 1992.