

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**"Disappearance"**

**30 July 1993**

**TURKEY:**

**\_hsan HARAN**

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Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of \_hsan Haran who was reportedly taken into custody on or around 22 July 1993 but whom the authorities deny holding.

\_hsan Haran of Ar\_kl\_ village, Lice, was reportedly taken into custody on or around 22 July 1993 as he entered the town of Hazro in Diyarbak\_r province by gendarmerie and village guards who were carrying out searches at a road-block. Detainees who had been in the custody of Hazro gendarmes at that time, but were later released, reportedly informed \_hsan Haran's father that they had seen \_hsan Haran in detention. The family submitted a petition to Hazro Chief Prosecutor on 29 July 1993 asking for information concerning the health and whereabouts of \_hsan Haran. The same day the Chief Prosecutor replied stating that he had not been informed of \_hsan Haran's detention. The prosecutor's office should be informed immediately of all details relating to any person in police or gendarmerie detention.

Also on 29 July, the family received an anonymous phone call claiming that \_hsan Haran had been released in Hazro. However, he has not reappeared.

The family report that they have frequently been the target of threats by the security forces, because two of the extended family reportedly joined the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas, and two others are remanded in custody in Diyarbak\_r Prison on charges of harbouring guerrillas of the PKK.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has written to the Turkish authorities in connection with two previous "disappearances" in Hazro. On 25 September 1991 \_brahim Gündem was taken from his home in Hazro by plainclothes policeman and gendarmes. He was never seen again. Ahmet \_ahin was detained as he walked into Hazro on 18 March 1993 and after four days was reportedly transferred to Lice Gendarmerie Headquarters. On 20 April his family received a statement from Diyarbak\_r State Security Court stating that Ahmet \_ahin had been detained on suspicion of assisting guerrillas of the PKK but had been released on 27 March 1993 - an unusual release date since it fell on a Saturday during a religious holiday.

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 PKK started armed attacks against the security forces, more than 6,000 lives have been lost on both sides and among the civilian population in the context of their fight for an independent Kurdish state. In mid-March 1993 the PKK declared a unilateral ceasefire and its intention to end the fighting

and to enter the democratic process as a political party. Operations by the security forces against the PKK continued. The ceasefire was broken when on 24 May guerrillas of the PKK ambushed a convoy of soldiers, reportedly travelling unarmed and in civilian clothes. They killed 33 soldiers and two civilians, and the security forces are responding with large-scale military operations covering the entire region. A state of emergency continues to be in force in 10 provinces in the region and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbakir has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces.

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

- expressing grave concern at the unacknowledged detention in Hazro since 22 July 1993 of \_hsan Haran and stating that this concern is heightened by the fact that two detainees in Hazro have "disappeared" in the last two years;

- urging that immediate steps are taken to establish the whereabouts of \_hsan Haran;

- urging that, if he is in police custody, he is not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment and requesting to be informed of any charges against him.

**APPEALS TO**

1) 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**

2) 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

**Faxes: + 90 4 287 3869**

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 10 September 1993.