

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 255/93 (EUR 44/76/93, 5 August 1993) - "Disappearance"

TURKEY: Ferhat Tepe, correspondent for the daily newspaper Özgür Gündem in Bitlis

Amnesty International has just learned that the abductors of Ferhat Tepe have made further contact with his family. The organization remains seriously concerned for his safety.

On the morning of 4 August 1993, at 3.10am, _sak Tepe, Ferhat's father, received a second telephone call from the abductors which he taped. The caller complained that _sak Tepe had not closed the DEP (Democracy Party) offices as he had been instructed in his telephone call of 29 July and threatened, "If you do not take one billion Turkish Lira to an address in Elaz__, we will kill your son. At this address live Mehmet _enol and Hasan De_er who will be able to pass the money on to the right people." _sak Tepe went to Bitlis Police Headquarters and handed over a tape of the telephone conversation. He then set out for Elaz__ together with three of his relatives. While they were on their way, a telephone call came through to his sister-in-law in Tatvan. The caller said that Ferhat Tepe would be exchanged for her son, who is alleged to have joined the guerillas, if he surrendered to the armed forces. When _sak Tepe arrived in Elaz__, he went to the given address together with the local police who had already searched the apartment and found that it was empty.

Mehmet _enol and Hasan De_er, both journalists with the same newspaper as Ferhat Tepe, Özgür Gündem, had lived at the apartment for some time. They were detained some three weeks ago and gave the address to the police as their place of residence.

However, _sak Tepe spoke with neighbours there who confirmed that the two journalists had left some weeks ago.

_sak Tepe claims to recognize the voice of the caller as being that of an army officer whom he had met about two weeks before the abduction of his son at a meeting between the officer and local politicians to discuss what should be done about the prevailing situation in southeast Turkey. During that meeting the officer had very strongly criticized DEP, of which _sak Tepe is the provincial president, for always making an effort to claim from the security forces the bodies of dead guerrillas to give them a proper burial. He said "You own up to their bodies, but you don't mourn the deaths of the soldiers killed in the conflict who come from places like Afyon, Bal_kesir or Kayseri". The officer specifically asked _sak Tepe what children he had. In the second telephone call from the abductors, the caller told _sak Tepe "Now you can feel the pain that the families of the killed soldiers feel".

_sak Tepe told the police after the first telephone call from the abductors that he thought the voice of the caller sounded like that of an officer he had met. The police said they could not interfere with the military authorities. _sak Tepe has

also appealed to the Governor of Bitlis province that the officer should be questioned. The Governor sent him to the brigade headquarters to see the officer himself, but when _sak Tepe arrived there, the officer was on leave. Another officer told _sak Tepe: "You have to find him yourself."

_sak Tepe has sent appeals to the Prime Minister, the Interior Minister and the Chief of General Staff, but has received no reply. The police in Bitlis are said to have made no serious effort to investigate the abduction and to establish the whereabouts of Ferhat Tepe.

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

- expressing grave concern for the life of Ferhat Tepe, abducted in Bitlis on 28 July 1993 by an unidentified person;
- urging that _sak Tepe's allegations that an army officer may be linked to his son's abduction be investigated;
- urging that all possible steps are taken without further delay to establish the whereabouts of Ferhat Tepe and to secure his release.

APPEALS TO

1) Chief of the Turkish General Staff:

General Do_an Güre_

Bakanl_klar

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: General Güre_, Bakanliklar, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear General

2) 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

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

4) 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

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 16 September 1993.