

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 286/94 (EUR 44/66/94, 22 July) and follow-ups: EUR 44/67/94, 26 July) - Torture / Fear of Torture / Arbitrary Detention

TURKEY Cemil Timur)
 Zeydin Timur) from Evrek village
 _evket Timur)
 Hasan Aykut
 Fehim Yalçın from _epire village
 Saadi Özlü and his brother
 Osman Özlü from Sergivan village

New names: Hazal Timur (f)
 Heybet Timur (f)
 Abubekir Kutlu (12)
 Nevzat Timur (11)
 Nezlihan Timur (9)
 _ehbaz Kaya (8)

Seyhan Timur
Sedik Aslan
Yusuf Timur
Çavuş Kaya
Mahmut Kaya

Salih Kaya
Adil Kahraman
Kamil Kutluk

and an estimated 1,500 Kurdish villagers, including women and children

Amnesty International has received information from a villager (name withheld for his safety) who escaped from the containment area around Mezraa (note corrected spelling) in Hakkari province, by walking for seven days through mountain paths at night.

The villager gave the following account of the events leading up to the establishment of the containment area: a detachment of 800 soldiers established a base in Mezraa in April 1994. In the following weeks there were a number of attacks by PKK guerrillas on this base. After an attack on 1 July, soldiers carried out a security raid on the villages of Evrek, Sular and Karapınar, the inhabitants of which had refused to join the corps of village guards established by the government to fight the guerrillas. The soldiers shot the villagers' cattle, and burned their beehives and some houses and barns. On the same day, the inhabitants of the three villages - over 1,000 people - were marched to the town of Mezraa, approximately 10 kilometres away. The male villagers were blindfolded. A number of the men who were of fighting age were separated from the others and interrogated under torture in one of the houses in Mezraa to establish whether or not they had had any part in the attack of 1 July. Among those tortured were Seyhan Timur, Sedik Aslan, Yusuf Timur, Çavuş Kaya and Mahmut Kaya. Çavuş Kaya's legs and feet were cut and bleeding from falaka. Soldiers rubbed salt in the wounds and a major told the other villagers: "You must all become village guards or you will be treated

like Çavu_".

The escaped villager said that identity cards were returned to the villagers about two weeks ago, but that when any attempt to leave the area by road, they are turned back at military checkpoints. There is little food other than flour and little fuel to cook with, and the villagers are living in stables and barns in very insanitary conditions. The villagers practice transhumance and would normally be in high pastures at this time of year, however such migrations are forbidden to them. It appears that they may be being held as a shield against further possible PKK attacks. Men from Evrek are being made to march in front of soldiers making reconnaissance expeditions into the countryside. Among those forced to participate in such expeditions are Salih Kaya, Adil Kahraman and Kamil Kutluk.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern about the reports of torture and continued detention of Kurdish villagers in the containment area at Mezraa, Hakkari province;
- urging that the villagers be permitted to leave, unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- stating that the practice of exposing civilians to risk of injury or worse by using them as a human shield against possible attack is in contravention of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which prohibits the taking of hostages.

APPEALS TO:

1) Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Prof. Mümtaz Soysal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
D_i_ler Bakanl____
06100 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90-312 287 3869

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Nahit Ment_e
_çi_leri Bakanl____
Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 428 4346

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights
Mr Azimet Köylüo_lu
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 417 0476

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 21 September 1994.