

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/82/94  
Distrib: PG/SC

Date: 17 August 1994

*MEDICAL CONCERN*

Dr Recai Aydin

**TURKEY**

Recai Aydin is a 28-year-old general practitioner. On the evening of Friday, 8 July 1994, he left work at the Çınar Health Centre for the 40-minute drive to his home in the town of Diyarbakir, but failed to arrive. The next day, his car was discovered on the road to Silvan, 61 kilometres from Diyarbakir. There were no traces of blood in the car, and nothing to indicate the fate that had befallen him.

Recai Aydin moved to Diyarbakir, in southeast Turkey, from Izmir five years ago. His family reports that he is not a member of any organization that could make him a target for "disappearance". However, he is a relative of Vedat Aydin, former president of the People's Labour Party in Diyarbakir, who was murdered in July 1991 in circumstances suggestive of extrajudicial execution.

It is now over a month since Recai Aydin went missing and his family have had no further news of him. They have applied to the Diyarbakir prosecutor for information, but the authorities deny knowledge of his whereabouts.

**Southeast Turkey: Human rights violations in the Emergency Zone**

The Turkish Government has been locked in armed conflict with the guerrillas of the Turkish Workers' Party (PKK) in southeast Turkey for 10 years. The Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller, has vowed to carry on "total war" against separatism. Ten provinces in the southeast are governed under a State of Emergency. Although human rights violations, particularly torture in police custody, are widespread throughout Turkey, the Emergency Zone has become the scene of an escalating pattern of the most grave human rights violations, perpetrated both by government forces and by opposition groups. In 1993 political killings numbered over 450 and there were more than 30 "disappearances". The rate of "disappearances" has been even higher in the first six months of 1994.

Although many political killings have been carried out by the PKK and other opposition groups, other killings have occurred in circumstances that indicate that the victims were extrajudicially executed by government forces. Victims have included journalists, lawyers, human rights activists and members of the pro-Kurdish parliamentary Democracy Party (DEP), as well as suspected PKK members and people who are relatives of known PKK guerrillas. The pattern of killings suggests that they are intended to intimidate the local community and prevent the expression of separatist ideas and resistance to government policies. In most cases the killers have not been apprehended or identified.

In addition to Recai Aydin, at least 9 health professionals have "disappeared" or been extrajudicially executed in the Emergency Zone since 1992. In February 1993 Amnesty International issued an urgent medical action on behalf of Dr Hasan Kaya, a medical practitioner who "disappeared" in the company of Metin Can, chairman of the Human Rights Association in the town of Elazig (AI Index: EUR 44/13/93). The bodies of both men were later found near Tunceli, 120 kilometres from Elazig, bearing signs of torture and bullet wounds to the head. Health professionals in southeast Turkey live under the constant threat of harassment, intimidation, arrest and even imprisonment for providing medical treatment to individuals whom the government claims are PKK guerrillas. The authorities frequently interfere in forensic examinations and autopsies to ensure impunity for themselves following torture and deaths in custody.

### **Conclusion**

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of Recai Aydin. There is an escalating pattern of "disappearances" and extrajudicial killings perpetrated by both government forces and opposition groups in southeast Turkey. Amnesty International is calling on the Turkish authorities to establish Recai Aydin's whereabouts immediately, to ensure his safety, and to bring those responsible to justice if he has been the victim of unlawful action.

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/82/94

Distrib: PG/SC

To: Medical professionals  
From: Medical Office / Research Department - EUR  
Date: 17 August 1994

### *MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION*

Dr Rıza Aydin

TURKEY

Keywords

Theme: disappearance

#### **Summary**

Amnesty International is gravely concerned for the safety of Dr Rıza Aydin, a general practitioner who went missing on 8 July 1994 while driving between Çinar and Diyarbakir in southeast Turkey. There is an escalating pattern of "disappearances" and political killings in southeast Turkey, where the government is caught up in an armed conflict with the Kurdish Workers' Party in which both sides appear to be guilty of grave human rights violations.

#### **Recommended Actions**

Letters from medical professionals, preferably written in English or your own language, should be sent to the addresses below:

- expressing concern for the safety of Dr Rıza Aydin, who went missing between Çinar and Diyarbakir on 8 July 1994
- calling on the Turkish authorities to establish the whereabouts of Rıza Aydin immediately and to ensure his safety
- calling for those responsible to be brought to justice if Rıza Aydin has been the victim of any unlawful action

**Addresses:**

Mrs Tansu Çiller  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Başbakanlık  
06573 Ankara  
Turkey

*Your Excellency*

Mehmet Mogultay  
Ministry of Justice  
Adalat Bakanligi  
06659 Ankara  
Turkey

*Your Excellency*

**Copies to:**

The diplomatic representative of Turkey accredited to your country