

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

26 August 1994

TURKEY

Abdulgani Da_

Abdulgani Da_ has "disappeared" after being detained by the security forces near the village of Istilil in Mardin province some 45 days ago. This exceeds the maximum period of 30 days for which political detainees can be held incommunicado in provinces under emergency legislation.

On or around 11 July 1994, Abdulgani Da_ and three villagers, two women and another man, all from C_narda_ village, were detained by the security forces after an identity check of passengers travelling in a minibus in the province of Mardin. After their interrogation, the three villagers, _erife Aksoy, Mehdiye (family name not known) and Ahmet (family name not known), were formally arrested and committed to Diyarbak_r Prison.

Since then, nothing has been heard or seen of Abdulgani Da_, and his family, unable to discover his whereabouts, fears for his life.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There has been a striking increase in reports of "disappearances" since the summer of 1993 - particularly in the 10 southeastern provinces where a State of Emergency is in force. Detainees held on suspicion of political offences to be tried in State Security Courts may be held without charge for 15 days. This period may be extended to 30 days in provinces under emergency legislation such as Mardin or Diyarbak_r province.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored in the southeastern provinces and increasingly disregarded in the rest of Turkey. Lack of proper registration and notification is extremely distressing for families, and also creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur. The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) and the UN Committee against Torture (UN CAT), both mechanisms of international human rights instruments to which Turkey is a State Party, have published reports to the effect that torture is widespread and systematic in Turkey.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Abdulgani Da_ who has "disappeared" following his detention by security forces on or around 11 July 1994 near the village of Istilil, province of Mardin, after an identity check on passengers in the minibus in which he was travelling;
- mentioning that three other passengers were detained with him and are now in Diyarbak_r Prison;
- urging that immediate steps are taken to establish Abdulgani Da_'s whereabouts, pointing out that his period of detention has far exceeded that permitted under emergency legislation;
- requesting to be informed of the results of the investigation.

APPEALS TO

1) Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbak_r State Security Court:
DGM Ba_savcisi

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi
Diyarbakır, Turkey
Telegrams: DGM Bassavcısı, Diyarbakır, Turkey
Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Minister of the Interior:
Mr Nahit Mentem
İçişleri Bakanlığı
06644 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 428 4346
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs:
Prof Mümtaz Soysal
Dışişleri Bakanlığı
06100 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: 90 312 287 1886

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 6 October 1994.