

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 337/94 (EUR 44/95/94, 14 September 1994) - Fear of Torture/"Disappearance"

TURKEY Mehmet Balamir, newspaper distributor for *Özgür Ülke*
Kadriye Özcanl_, (f), office manager of *Özgür Ülke* in D'bak_r

new names: Gürsel _ahin, 23 }
Nezahat Özen, (f) } correspondents for *Özgür Ülke*
Metin Da_ }

On 20 September 1994 at around 3pm, the Diyarbak_r office of the pro-Kurdish newspaper *Özgür Ülke* was raided once again by members of the police, the gendarmerie and the Special Team - the third such raid within a month and a half. This time the correspondents Gürsel _ahin, Nezahat Özen and Metin Da_ were detained. They are said to be held incommunicado at the Gendarmerie Regimental Headquarters in Diyarbak_r and it is feared that they are being subjected to torture.

Gürsel _ahin had been detained in Adana earlier this year while working for *Özgür Gündem*, the predecessor of *Özgür Ülke*. Nezahat Özen (note correct spelling of name) was detained in Mardin in July 1993 while seven months pregnant and was severely tortured (see EXTRA 68/93, EUR 44/69/93, 21 July 1993, and article in *UA NEWS*, February/April 1994). She had to be transferred to hospital and was then committed to prison awaiting trial. She was released shortly before giving birth, but her trial continued. Nezahat Özen has since been working again as a journalist, previously for *Özgür Gündem*, now for *Özgür Ülke*. Metin Da_ was twice detained in Diyarbak_r while working for *Özgür Gündem*: the first time on 9 December 1993, released on 4 January 1994; the second time on 12 January 1994, released on 13 July while the trial continued. All three were severely tortured while in custody.

Mehmet Balamir, who had previously been detained in Istanbul on 10 December 1993 (see EXTRA 105/93, EUR 44/120/93, 13 December 1993), and Kadriye Özcanl_, both detained on 5 September 1994, remain in incommunicado detention and are believed to be under torture, presumably at the Gendarmerie Regimental Headquarters in Diyarbak_r. The prosecutor gave permission for Kadriye Özcanl_ to be held for 30 days.

Currently, 18 of *Özgür Ülke*'s journalists and chief editors are in prison and on trial; of the 147 issues of the daily published so far, 143 have been confiscated.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Gürsel _ahin, Nezahat Özen and Metin Da_, detained on 20 September and held incommunicado, presumably at Diyarbak_r Gendarmerie Regimental Headquarters;
- seeking assurances that they are not being subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- seeking confirmation of their detention and whereabouts;
- urging that the detainees are given access to their lawyers and families;
- seeking information as to the charges brought against them.

APPEALS TO:1) Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbakır State Security Court:

DGM Başsavcısı

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Başsavcısı, Diyarbakır, Turkey**Salutation: Dear Sir**2) Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie:

Orgeneral Aydın Altın

Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanlığı

Bakanlıklar

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Jandarma Genel Komutanı, Ankara, Turkey**Faxes: +90 312 418 0476****Salutation: Dear General**3) Minister of the Interior:

Mr Nahit Mehmet

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 November 1994.