

26 October 1994

Further information on UA 287/94 (EUR 44/74/94, 1 August 1994) - "Disappearance"  
/ Arbitrary Detention

TURKEY "Disappeared": Zeki Ercan Diril, aged 17 )  
\_lyas Edip Diril, aged 15 ) brothers

Arbitrarily detained: Simoni Diril  
Kamal Diril  
Leyla Diril (f)  
and nine children

\_shak Diril  
Yusuf Diril  
Sero Diril  
Semira Diril (f)  
and five children

Epro Diril  
Meryam Diril (f)  
Zeki Diril  
and eight children

Nasih Diril  
Kitan Diril  
and six children

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Restrictions have been eased on the four Diril families who were forcibly evicted from Kovankaya village (local name: Mehri) and then held in Ceviza\_aç after their village was burned down on 4 June 1994. The villagers are now allowed to move in and out of the area.

However, Zeki Ercan Diril and \_lyas Edip Diril remain "disappeared". They were taken into custody by security forces in Uzungeçit on 19 May.

Kovankaya, an Assyro-Chaldean Catholic village, had been burned to the ground by the security forces in 1990. The villagers had fled to Istanbul, but some had returned in 1992 and rebuilt their homes.

Zeki Ercan Diril and \_lyas Edip Diril had spent approximately six months working in Istanbul before setting out on 15 May to return to Kovankaya. They arrived at Uzungeçit, some distance from Kovankaya, where they halted because the road to the village was mined. They had been given a sum of money by a Catholic charity in Istanbul to help with their fares and to give to their extended family in the village. They left the money with the Kurdish owner of the house in which they were staying in Uzungeçit before setting out for Kovankaya. According to an account given by two inhabitants of the village (whose names are withheld for their own safety) who came to meet them, the Diril brothers were detained by local village guards and handed over to gendarmes from Uludere, the nearest large town. Soldiers reportedly later confiscated the money from the Kurdish man.

Hurmuz Diril, an elder of Kovankaya village who went to Beytü\_\_ebab to complain

about the eviction and to make inquiries about the "disappearance" of the two young men, was arrested and held in Beyt \_ebab prison on charges of assisting the PKK. His trial was to begin at Diyarbak\_r State Security Court on 15 October.

The four families mentioned above, and one other family in Ceviza\_aç, are the last remaining representatives of the Assyro-Chaldean Catholic community which numbered more than 5,000 before the armed conflict began in southeast Turkey in 1984. All the others have migrated to Istanbul or to Europe.

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

- expressing grave concern about the "disappearance" of Zeki Ercan Diril and \_lyas Edip Diril following their detention on 19 May 1994 by security forces in Uzungeçit, Hakkari province;
- urging that a prompt, impartial and thorough investigation be conducted into their "disappearance";
- asking to be informed of its findings.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie:

Orgeneral Ayd\_n\_lter  
Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl\_\_\_\_  
Bakanl\_klar  
Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Jandarma Genel Komutani, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: +90 312 418 0476**

**Salutation: Dear General**

2) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Azimet K yl \_lu  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Ba\_bakanl\_k  
06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) Emergency Legislation Governor:

Mr  nal Erkan  
Ola\_an st  Hal Valisi  
Diyarbak\_r, Turkey

**Telegrams: Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey**

**Telexes: 72110 OHVT TR**

**72084 DYVA TR "please forward to the Governor"**

**72090 JASY TR**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Prof M mtaz Soysal  
D\_i\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
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 5 December 1994.