

UA 272/95 Fear of "disappearance" / Extrajudicial executions 8 December 1995

TURKEYS Süleyman Soysal, Kurdish villager, aged 55
Hac_Kamil Bilgeç, Kurdish villager, aged 60
Abdullah (family name unknown), aged 40
and two others (names unknown)

Kamil Bekta_, headman of Yeniköy (Xerabre_k) village - killed
Süleyman Acar, villager from Ba_köy, aged 50 - killed
Kerevan Irmez, released political prisoner, aged 35

Fears for the safety of several people from Silopi and neighbouring villages in the province of __rnak close to the border with Iraq, who are reported to have "disappeared" after being detained by security forces, have been greatly heightened by the discovery of three bodies.

On 28 or 29 November 1995, while travelling in his car between his village of Özgen (Kurdish: Salat_n) and nearby Silopi in the province of __rnak, Süleyman Soysal was stopped by the security forces in the village of Ba_köy. Villagers described how one of the security force members took over the wheel and drove off with Süleyman Soysal, who has not been seen since. When his relatives applied to the Central Gendarmerie Command in Silopi, they were reportedly told: "*There are forces among us whom we cannot question and over whom we have no control*". Recently, before his "disappearance", a person in plain clothes attached to the gendarmerie, had reportedly come to Özgen, discussed political developments with Süleyman Soysal, and indirectly threatened him.

At about 3pm on 28 November, Hac_Kamil Bilgeç "disappeared" while on his way home from Silopi market. It is claimed that he was detained by the security forces.

Three other villagers, Abdullah (family name unknown) and two unidentified people, have also "disappeared" after reportedly being detained on 28 or 29 November in or near Silopi.

The bodies of Kamil Bekta_, headman of Yeniköy (Kurdish: Xerabre_k) village, and Süleyman Acar from Ba_köy (Kurdish: T_lkab_n) village, who both reportedly "disappeared" in detention since 28/29 November, were found on 6 December 1995 near Silopi.

On the night of 15 October, police from the Anti-Terror Branch raided the house of Kerevan Irmez in Silopi and detained him. According to eye-witnesses, Kerevan Irmez was taken to Bestin Gendarmerie Headquarters in Silopi. When his relatives applied to Silopi Police Headquarters for confirmation of his detention, they were told that no such person was in detention. A headless corpse showing signs of torture was found at the Kasrik Pass between Cizre and __rnak. It is feared that it may be the body of Kerevan Irmez who had been released from prison in October.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Gross human rights violations are being inflicted on civilians in southeast Turkey in the context of the 11-year-old conflict between Turkish Government forces and the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). Kurdish villagers are bearing the brunt of human rights abuses committed by both government forces and armed members of the PKK. Gendarmes (soldiers carrying out police duties in rural

areas under the authority of the Interior Ministry) have reportedly tortured, "disappeared" and extrajudicially executed villagers in the course of security raids on rural settlements because the villagers were suspected, rightly or wrongly, of giving food or shelter to the PKK.

During 1995 armed PKK members have killed over 70 civilians and prisoners. Most of the victims are Kurdish villagers who participated in the system of government-armed village guards, established to fight the PKK, and their extended families, including women and children.

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

- expressing serious concern for the safety of Süleyman Soysal, Hac_ Kamil Bilgeç, Abdullah [family name not known] and two unidentified other villagers, reportedly detained on 28 and 29 November in or near Silopi and since "disappeared" in police custody;
- expressing horror at the murder of villagers Kamil Bekta_ from Yeniköy and Süleyman Acar from Ba_köy whose bodies were found on 6 December;
- urging that immediate investigations are carried out to establish the whereabouts of the missing villagers and the identity of those responsible for the killing of Kamil Bekta_ and Süleyman Acar, appealing that they be brought to justice;
- asking to be informed of the results of these investigations.

APPEALS TO:

1. Prime Minister:

Mrs Tansu Çiller
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr/42099 basb tr

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476;

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

2. Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbakır State Security Court:

Mr Bekir Selçuk
DGM Ba_savc_s_
Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi
Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Bassavcısı, Diyarbakır, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

3) Interior Minister:

Mr Teoman Ünisan
Ministry of Interior
_çi_leri Bakanl____
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: İçişleri Bakanlığı, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

4) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Adnan Ekmen
Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Adnan Ekmen, Basbakanlik, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476; +90 312 420 5394

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

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 30 January 1996.