

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 498/90 (EUR 44/189/90, 11 December 1990) - Fear of Torture

TURKEY:Felemez Elmas

Lokman Elmas  
Süleyman Elmas  
Aziz Batu  
Rehmetullah Batu  
Ekrem Ceylan  
Seyhan Bingöl  
Guri Özel  
Seyithan Özmen  
\_rfan Öztürk

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On 28 December 1990 those named above were unconditionally released. They had been arrested on 10 December 1990 in Akarsu village in Mardin province, following an attack the previous day, said to have been carried out by guerrillas, in which three members of the Elmas family were killed. They were detained at the Mardin Gendarmerie Regimental Headquarters, and were not allowed access to their families during detention.

They have reported that they were tortured while in detention. One of them said: "After being beaten for days, we were suspended by the wrists with our arms tied behind our backs. While we were hanging there they gave us electric shocks. While we were there we were continually insulted with language I cannot repeat. Anyone who ends up in the police station has no way of defending themselves, they do it to everyone there".

They did not make a formal complaint of torture when they appeared in court; when asked why not, the informant said: "There is no point in making a complaint, because everybody knows this torture is going on. Those higher up know about it - so who can we complain to?". Amnesty International will investigate these allegations. Meanwhile, no further action is required on their behalf. Thank you to all who sent appeals.