

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 44/93 "Disappearance"/Fear of Extrajudicial Killing 23 February 1993

TURKEY Metin Can, chairman of Human Rights Association (HRA) in Elaz__,
lawyer
Dr Hasan Kaya, medical doctor

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Metin Can, chairman of the Human Rights Association (HRA) in Elaz__ and Dr Hasan Kaya, a medical doctor who have "disappeared" in Elaz__ and are feared to have been killed.

On the evening of 21 February 1993, Metin Can received a telephone call calling him away from his home. He and his friend, the medical doctor Hasan Kaya, left the house planning to be back two hours later. They did not return. On 22 February an unknown person telephoned the home of Metin Can and said: "We killed Metin and Hasan. Our condolences!". Metin Can's car was found in the Yaz_konak district of Elaz__ the same day.

On 23 February a relative of Metin Can was telephoned at the lawyer's home. The caller claimed to be Dr Mehmet Savun Baran, according to newspapers, a local guerrilla leader, who reportedly said "We will release Metin. He should not go to Europe [Metin Can had been planning to travel to Europe the following weekend to take part in a conference]. From now on he will be close to our struggle". No mention was made of Dr Hasan Kaya. His family believe the phone call may have been a deliberate attempt to create confusion about his "disappearance". Metin Can's family have received no confirmation that he is being held by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Turkish Human Rights Association has been subject to constant official harassment, particularly in the mainly Kurdish provinces which are under emergency legislation. In the summer of 1991 there was a succession of bomb attacks on branches and members of the HRA. Vedat Ayd_n, a board member of the Diyarbak_r branch of the HRA was abducted and later killed in circumstances which remain mysterious but suggest possible involvement of the security forces. During celebrations of Nevruz (the Kurdish new year festival) in March 1992 security forces fired on the offices of the HRA in __rnak, and Yavuz Binbay, president of the Human Rights Association in Van nearly died after having been beaten by police.

Attacks against members of the HRA have been on the increase in recent months. On 18 February Kemal K_l_ç, a board member of the _anl_urfa branch of the HRA and a journalist, was attacked by four assailants who attempted to bind his mouth and hands. When he resisted the attackers shot him twice in the head before escaping.

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority estimated to number some 10 million people living mainly in southeastern Turkey. Since August 1984, when guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) started armed attacks against the security forces, an alarming number of reports of ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces. In the past 12 months there have been a number of reports of "disappearance" as well as 360 political killings in the region without any serious efforts by the authorities to investigate the crimes. More than 5,000 lives have so far been lost on both sides and among the civilian population in the context of the continuing fighting. Emergency legislation is in force in 10 provinces in the region including Elaz__.

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

- expressing deep concern about the reported "disappearance" of the lawyer Metin Can and Dr Hasan Kaya, and requesting that all efforts should be made to establish their whereabouts;
- urging that all measures be taken to ensure the safety of officials of the Turkish Human Rights Association (HRA).

APPEALS TO

1) Minister of the Interior:

Mr _smet Sezgin

_çi_leri Bakanl____

06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR

Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

Salutation: Dear Minister

2) Minister of Human Rights:

Mr Mehmet Kahraman

Devlet Bakan_

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Inan Haklari Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 419 15 35

Salutation: Dear Minister

3) Governor of Elaz__ Province:

Mr Do_an Ünlüsoy

Elaz__ Valili_i

Elaz__, Turkey

Telegrams: Elazig Valiligi, Elazig, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Governor

4) Chief of Elaz__ Police:

Mr Tuncay Kalabak

Elaz__ Emniyet Müdürlü_ü

Elaz__, Turkey

Telegrams: Elazig Muduru, Elazig, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission
Mr Sabri Yavuz
nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
TBMM
Ankara, Turkey

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 April 1993.