

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 15/96

Fear for safety / Fear of torture

2 February 1996

TURKEY Mehmet Kambur, headman of Güvenkaya village

Hüseyin Polat

Mustafa Do\_aner

Güzel Polat

Ibrahim Erdo\_an

Hasan Erdo\_an

R\_za Ate\_

Bayram Güngöz

plus an unknown number of villagers from Güvenkaya

Mehmet Ali Do\_an

Ali Karakoç, minibus driver

Nuri Y\_ld\_r\_m, aged 60

Re\_it Ço\_kun, aged 60

Davut Keskin, aged 20

Battal Özkan

\_ükrü Kaya

Hüseyin Akkaya

Mustafa Poyraz

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Scores of villagers from some 12 villages are reported to have been detained during Turkish security force operations against armed opposition groups (apparently DHKP-C and PKK), which began on 25 January 1996, in the triangle between the towns of Zara, Kangal and Divri\_i, in Sivas province. Those named above and an unknown number of others are being held in unacknowledged police custody, where Amnesty International fears they are at risk of torture and "disappearance".

On 25 January Mehmet Kambur, Hüseyin Polat, Mustafa Do\_aner, Güzel Polat, Ibrahim Erdo\_an, R\_za Ate\_, Aziz Do\_aner and Bayram Güngöz were reportedly detained in Güvenkaya village by gendarmes (soldiers carrying out police duties in rural areas under the authority of the Interior Ministry).

On 28 January security forces allegedly detained the remaining male villagers in Güvenkaya village. They stopped the train passing through at around 3pm and took the men to the Gendarmerie Station in Divri\_i. The villagers were taken to Divri\_i State Hospital for examination. Aziz Do\_aner, aged 75, was released because of his poor state of health and reported that the other villagers were taken to Sivas.

Mehmet Ali Do\_an and Ali Karakoç of Dikmeçay village were detained on 25 January.

Nuri Y\_ld\_r\_m, Re\_it Ço\_kun, Davut Keskin, Ali Erdo\_an and another unnamed person were detained in the villages of K\_rlang\_ç and Ye\_ilyurt in the district of Kangal on 27 January. Ali Erdo\_an and the unnamed person were released. The whereabouts of the remaining three detainees are unknown.

On 28 January, Battal Özkan, \_ükrü Kaya and Hüseyin Akkaya were detained in Kürkçü village in the district of Kangal. On 28 January Mustafa Poyraz was detained in Da\_önü village in the same district.

There are reports that some of the detainees may have been taken to Kayseri.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

According to press reports seven armed members of DHKP-C were killed in an armed clash with security forces in the province of Sivas on 30 January 1996, including a leading member of the organization. The illegal armed organization *DHKP-C (Revolutionary People's Liberation Party - Front, formerly called Devrimci Sol)* has accepted responsibility for dozens of political killings, including those of high ranking military and security personnel.

Also, the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party) has been fighting Turkish security forces since 1984 in an intense conflict in which more than 18,000 people have been killed, including civilians. Any person suspected of supporting the PKK or any other illegal armed organization is at serious risk of torture, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution. At least 35 cases of "disappearance" in police custody have been reported in 1995.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of the above mentioned villagers, detained in the province of Sivas between 25 and 28 January 1996 and since held in unacknowledged detention;
- urging that an immediate investigation be carried out to establish their whereabouts and that their families be informed of the outcome;
- appealing that they are not subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment;
- requesting to be informed of the results of the investigation.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

##### 1. Sivas Chief Prosecutor:

Cumhuriyet Ba\_savc\_s\_  
Sivas Savc\_l\_\_\_\_  
Sivas, Turkey

**Telegrams: Cumhuriyet Savcisi, Sivas, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

##### 2. Governor of Sivas province:

Mr Ayd\_n Güçlü  
Sivas Valisi  
Sivas Valili\_i  
Sivas, Turkey

**Telegrams: Valili\_i, Sivas, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

##### 3. Chief Prosecutor at Kayseri State Security Court:

DGM Ba\_savc\_s\_  
DGM Ba\_savc\_l\_\_\_\_

Kayseri, Turkey

**Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Kayseri, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

4. Interior Minister:

Mr Teoman Ünüsan

Ministry of Interior

\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Telegrams: Icisleri Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey**

**Faxes: +90 312 418 1795**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mr Deniz Baykal

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

D\_\_i\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_

06100 Ankara

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 March 1996.