

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information (7) on UA 450/94 (EUR 44/157/94, 22 December 1994) and follow-ups (EUR 44/04/95, 6 January 1995; EUR44/12/95, 13 January; EUR 44/27/95, 6 February; EUR 44/38/95, 1 March; EUR 44/39/95, 10 March; EUR 44/52/95, 20 April) - Prisoners of Conscience

TURKEYMahmut _akar, secretary of Diyarbak_r branch of the Turkish Human Rights Association (HRA)

Nimetullah Gündüz, lawyer, board member of Diyarbak_r HRA

Abdullah Ça_er, lawyer, board member of Diyarbak_r HRA

Melike Alp (f), board member of Diyarbak_r HRA

Sinan Tanr_kulu, lawyer, member of Diyarbak_r HRA

F_rat Anl_, lawyer, member of Diyarbak_r HRA

Hanifi _s_k, teacher, member of Diyarbak_r HRA

Servet Ayhan, lawyer, member of Diyarbak_r HRA

* _erif Atmaca, member of Diyarbak_r HRA - see correction below

Amnesty International has received further information concerning the treatment of Sinan Tanr_kulu and F_rat Anl_ after they were taken into custody on 27 February 1995 for interrogation at the Gendarmerie Regimental Headquarters in Diyarbak_r. According to their account of their ten days in incommunicado police custody, both men were tightly blindfolded with filthy rags, day and night, throughout their period in detention. Sinan Tanr_kulu noted that his blindfold covered both his eyes and nose, and made breathing difficult. Both men were obliged to sit and sleep on a cold concrete floor. Sleep was almost impossible due to music being played very loud 24 hours a day. They were only allowed to visit the toilet twice a day for a very brief time - while a gendarme counted to 20 outside the cubicle. They were also only fed once every 24 hours with stale bread, and were only able to drink water while on the way to the toilet. Both men were reportedly frequently beaten, cursed and pushed around. Sinan Tanr_kulu noted that the beatings were particularly severe because they were lawyers who had acted for the defence in cases against alleged members of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) - the gendarmerie accused them of "defending terrorists".

Sinan Tanr_kulu reported that during interrogation he was sprayed with high pressure cold water and that his testicles were squeezed. He was threatened with further tortures, such as hanging by the arms and electric shocks if he did not sign incriminating statements.

When the two were brought to court on 9 March 1995 the judge refused to hear any testimony from them. They were immediately removed from the court and only informed later that they had been formally charged. Their next appearance in court is scheduled for 1 May 1995.

Sinan Tanr_kulu, F_rat Anl_, Hanifi I_k and Servet Ayhan, will appear in court on 1 May for the first hearing of their trial where they are indicted with six others for alleged membership of the PKK. Amnesty International believes that these four have been targeted because of their work as defenders of human rights.

* CORRECTION TO UPDATE OF 20 APRIL (EUR 44/52/95) *

Please note that Serif Atmaca is not being held in detention but was released on 9 March. We apologise for this error.

THANK TO THE NETWORK

The lawyer Mahmut _akar, who was released on 17 April, has expressed gratitude for the actions taken by Amnesty International members and members of the Urgent Action Network, including demonstrations in Norway and the USA, which he had heard about. He said that international attention, including the attendance of an Amnesty International delegate at the first hearing of his trial, had contributed to his release and that of the other three members of Diyarbak_r HRA board released the same day.

Melike Alp received many letters from Urgent Action network members in Diyarbak_r Central Closed Prison. Letters to the three males in Diyarbak_r E-Type Prison did not arrive, however, and may have been intercepted.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- appealing for the immediate and unconditional release of Sinan Tanr_kulu, F_rat Anl_, Hanifi I__k and Servet Ayhan, currently held at Diyarbak_r E-type prison, who are considered by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience, detained because of their work for the Turkish Human Rights Association.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Justice

Mr Mehmet Mo_ultay

Adalet Bakanl____

06659 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 434 4066

Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Erdal _nönü

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

D__i_leri Bakanl____

06100 Ankara

Faxes: +90 312 287 1886

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

State Minister with Responsibility for Human Rights

Mr Algan Hacalo_lu

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

You may also send copies of your appeals, and best wishes to the prisoners: **Sinan Tanr_kulu, F_rat Anl_, Hanifi I__k and Servet Ayhan: Diyarbak_r E-tipi Cezaevi, Diyarbak_r, Turkey.** Note that previous letters to Mahmut _akar and others did not reach the recipients - you may nevertheless consider the gesture

worthwhile. Otherwise write to the prisoners via: **_nsan Haklar_ Derne_i, Inonu Cad, Ory_1 Tabipler Sitesi 6/23-24, Diyarbak_r, Turkey.**

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 June 1995.