
EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 211/93 Death threats

25 June 1993

**TURKEY: Haf_z UZUN, local representative of the People's Labour Party
(HEP) and of the Human Rights Association _HD in Lice**

Late on the night of 23 June, the house of Haf_z Uzun, local representative of the Turkish Human Rights Association (_HD) and the People's Labour Party (HEP) in Lice, was raided by Special Team members (units of the security forces, heavily armed and trained for close combat, nominally operating under the authority of the police) and soldiers who swore at Haf_z Uzun and threatened in front of his wife and children to kill him.

On the following morning, 24 June, while on his way to a nearby cafe, he was surrounded again by Special Team members and soldiers who once more threatened to kill him unless he left the town.

Haf_z Uzun, aged 46, was only recently released from Diyarbak_r Prison where he had been awaiting trial. He had been detained on 12 March while taking a group of German visitors to a house which had allegedly been set on fire by the security forces. A written testimony received by Amnesty International reports that Haf_z Uzun was first held at Lice Gendarmerie Headquarters, where a captain threatened to kill him. There was a witness to this threat. Moreover, threats were made against his wife and children. The family was unable to learn his whereabouts. Ten days later his family were told by members of the security forces that they had actually killed Haf_z Uzun and dumped his body near Diyarbak_r.

Two days after his detention on 12 March, Haf_z Uzun was taken to Diyarbak_r where he continued to be held incommunicado in police custody until 9 April when he was arrested by Diyarbakir State Security Court and sent to prison.

Allegedly, during his 28 days in detention Haf_z Uzun was severely tortured at the Police College in Diyarbak_r. Torture methods to which he was subjected included being stripped naked, soaked with ice-cold water, made to run on the spot, having his arms bound to a pole, while an electric cable was attached to his penis and another to his waist. Suddenly his feet were hoisted off the ground and at just that moment he was given electric shocks. This torture was repeated on four more occasions.

A trial was opened against Haf_z Uzun and another defendant on charges of supporting the illegal Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). Haf_z Uzun was conditionally released after the first hearing on 9 June while the trial continues.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority estimated at 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, more than 6,000 lives have been lost on both sides and among the civilian population in the context of the fight for an independent

Kurdish state. In mid-March 1993 the PKK declared a unilateral ceasefire and its intention to end the fighting and to enter the democratic process as a political party. Operations by the security forces against the PKK continued. The ceasefire was broken when, on 24 May, guerrillas of the PKK ambushed a convoy of soldiers, reportedly travelling unarmed and in civilian clothes. They killed 33 soldiers and two civilians, and the security forces responded with large-scale military operations covering the entire region. A state of emergency continues to be in force in 10 provinces in the region and the Emergency Legislation Governor in Diyarbakir has extraordinary powers over three additional provinces.

Although HEP operates as a legal party, the party is perceived by the security forces as being a front party for the PKK. For this reason, HEP offices are frequently raided, and HEP members are constantly being detained and allegedly tortured. Amnesty International has received many detailed accounts of torture inflicted on members of HEP - and one HEP official died in police custody as a result of torture in April 1992.

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HEP members are also frequently charged with membership of the PKK or with supporting the PKK and may spend weeks or months remanded in custody. Such trials are often largely based on evidence alleged to have been extracted under torture with little or no corroborative evidence.

However, the gravest risk which faces HEP officials and members is that of political killing either at the hands of the security forces, or by Hizbullah (an Islamic fundamentalist group which appears to have close links with the security forces). According to the party's own records, more than 40 HEP members have been killed in the wave of political killings in the southeast.

Officials and members of the Human Rights Association have also been victims of political killings.

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Haf_z Uzun in view of recent death threats made by members of the security forces in Lice;
- noting the fact that there have been hundreds of political killings in the Kurdish provinces, often in circumstances suggesting that security forces were involved, and that no serious investigations appear to have been carried out into these unsolved murders;
- recommending that an independent commission be established to investigate such allegations according to the United Nations Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions;
- urging that all necessary steps be taken to prevent such further killings;
- urging also that a full and impartial investigation be carried out into allegations that Haf_z Uzun was tortured during his 28 days spent in police custody in Lice and Diyarbak_r, and requesting to be informed of the investigation's methods and findings.

APPEALS TO:

1) Prime Minister:

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Mrs Tansu Çiller

Ba_bakanl_k, 06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey

Telex: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr

42099 basb tr

42875 bbk tr

Faxes: +90 4 417 04 76 PRIME MINISTER

+90 4 230 88 96 (attn: Prime Minister)

2) Chief of Staff of the Gendarmerie: **Salutation: Dear General**

Ogeneral Ayd_n_lter

Jandarma Kuvvetleri Komutanl____
Bakanl_klar, 6100 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Jandarma Genel Komutani, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 4 418 0476

3) President Süleyman Demirel: **Salutation: Your Excellency**
Office of the President
Devlet Ba_kanl____, 06100 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: President Demirel, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 42303 kosk tr

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
Faxes: + 90 4 420 5394

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country. The World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of Turkey in Austria during June at the following address:

Turkish Embassy:
The Ambassador
Botschaft der Türkei
Prinz-Eugen-Strasse 40, 1040 Wien, Austria
Faxes: + 43 1 505 36 60

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 August 1993.