20 September 2001

Further information on UA 81/01 (EUR 44/020/2001, 2 April) - Fear of torture and ill-treatment New concerns: Death threats/Fear for safety

TURKEYMehmet Dilsiz (m), (Çizre district head of HADEP) Sait Buldu (m)

A grenade exploded at the local party offices of HADEP (People's Democratic Party), a legal pro-Kurdish political party in south east Turkey on September 20. Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Mehmet Dilsiz, head of the office and Sait Buldu_, the building's landlord as they have reportedly been harassed and threatened by security forces.

In the early hours of this morning, a building rented by HADEP in the town of Çizre, was damaged, though fortunately no one injured. Mehmet Dilsiz, the head of the local branch of HADEP, has repeatedly been detained and threatened in order to get him to desist from engaging in political activities. This bombing is seen as part of the ongoing campaign to discourage HADEP activities within the region.

Sait Buldu_, the building's landlord was reportedly taken to the gendarmerie in Çizre and threatened in order to make him cancel the lease between HADEP representatives and himself. On another occasion he was allegedly forcibly taken by plainclothes gendarmes to the border with Syria and tortured. His head was placed in a nylon bag, he was then beaten and threatened with death unless he did as they ordered.

When Sait Buldu_ refused to cancel the lease, security officials confiscated the keys to the building and changed the locks. He has complained to the Çizre prosecutor but has not yet received a response.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in English or in your own language:

- calling for Turkish authorities to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of Mehmet Dilsiz and Sait Buldu ;

- expressing concern that Mehmet Dilsiz and Sait Buldu_ have been allegedly intimidated by security officials for trying to engage in peaceful political activities;

calling for a full, impartial and public investigation into the grenade attack on the HADEP building in Çizre and allegations of harassment and intimidation;
asking for steps to be taken to alleviate the pressure on the local HADEP organization in Çizre.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of the Interior Mr Rü_tü Kaz_m Yücelen Ministry of Interior __ci_leri Bakanl____ 06644 Ankara, Turkey Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey Fax: + 90 312 418 17 95 Salutation: Dear Minister

Governor of _irnak

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Mr. Hüseyin Ba_kale _irnak Valisi _irnak Valili_i _irnak, Turkey Telegrams: Sirnak Valiligi, Sirnak, Turkey Fax:+ 90 8456 1188 Salutations: Dear Governor

Governor of the Provinces under Emergency Rule Ola_anüstü Hal Valisi Diyarbak_r, Turkey Telegrams:Olaganustu Hal Valisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey Faxes:+ 90 412 224 3572 Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO: State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights Nejat Arseven Office of the Prime Minister, Ba_bakanl_k, 06573 Ankara, Turkey Fax: + 90 312 417 04 76 Salutation: Dear Minister

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 2 November 2001.