

PUBLIC

AI Index: EUR 44/070/2001

2 October 2001

Further information on UA 81/01 (EUR 44/020/2001, 2 April 2001) and follow-up (EUR 44/069/2001, 20 September 2001) - Fear of torture and ill-treatment

TURKEY Mehmet Dilsiz (m), (Çizre head of HADEP)

Mehmet Dilsiz, head of the Çizre branch of HADEP (People's Democracy Party), a legal pro-Kurdish political party, has been detained by members of the security forces in southeast Turkey and may be at risk of torture and ill-treatment.

He was detained during a search of his house in Çizre, Şirnak province, by plain-clothes police officers and soldiers on 2 October. He has reportedly been taken to Şirnak Provincial Gendarmerie Headquarters for questioning.

Mehmet Dilsiz has been harassed and threatened by the security forces since he tried to set up a branch of HADEP in Çizre in September 2000. He has been taken into custody several times and warned to give up his party work. On 6 November 2000, when he was about to be appointed the head of HADEP in Çizre, he was arrested by gendarmes, remanded to prison, but released on appeal. The provincial gendarmerie commander later told him face to face that he would kill him if he did not give up his HADEP activities.

Two other HADEP representatives, Serdar Tan_ and Ebubekir Deniz, "disappeared" on 25 January. They were last seen at the Gendarmerie headquarters in Silopi, another district of Şirnak province. Three days later Mehmet Dilsiz reportedly received a phone call saying he would meet the same fate and "be sent to hell". When he asked who was calling, he was told: "I am the Death Angel of Serdar and Ebubekir".

Mehmet Dilsiz and seven other members of HADEP in Çizre, were detained in early April 2001 after narcotics were found in his cotton fields. He was detained despite the fact that the gendarmerie had banned him from visiting or cultivating his fields. He alleges that the narcotics were placed there by members of the security forces. He was finally released from prison on 12 June.

In another worrying development, a grenade was detonated at the offices of HADEP in Çizre on 20 September 2001.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Mehmet Dilsiz;
- urging that he should not be tortured or ill-treated;
- reminding the government of its obligations as a state party to the European Convention on Human Rights, which states in Article 3: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."
- calling on the authorities immediately release him or to be informed of the charges brought against him;
- calling on the authorities to allow him immediate access to lawyers of his own choice, his family, and to any medical assistance he may need;
- asking for steps to be taken to alleviate the pressure on the local HADEP organization in Şirnak province;

APPEALS TO:

Şirnak Gendarmerie Headquarters

Jandarma Komutan_

Şirnak Jandarma Komutanl__

Şirnak, Turkey

Fax: +90 486 216 6517

Telegrams: Şirnak Jandarma Komutanligi, Şirnak, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Commander

Governor of _irnak
Mr. Hüseyin Ba_kale
_irnak Valisi
_irnak Valili_i
_irnak, Turkey

Fax: + 90 8456 1188
Telegrams: Sirnak Valiligi, Sirnak, Turkey
Salutations: Dear Governor

Minister of the Interior

Mr Rü_tü Kaz_m Yücelen
Ministry of Interior
_çi_leri Bakanl__
06644 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Fax: + 90 312 418 17 95
Salutation: Dear Minister

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 13 November 2001.