

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/89/95

EXTRA 101/95

Fear of "disappearance" / Torture

7 September 1995

TURKEYGülbahar Nifak, née Al_c_ (f), aged 19, married with one child
Lezgin Al_c_ , aged 20, her brother

Amnesty International is extremely concerned for the safety of Gülbahar Nifak and her brother Lezgin Al_c_ , detained by police in the early hours of 4 September 1995. Reports indicating that Gülbahar Nifak has already been tortured have further heightened concern for the two young people, whose detention has so far not been acknowledged by the authorities.

At about 3am on 4 September, police raided the Al_c_ family house in Diyarbak_r and detained 19-year-old Gülbahar Nifak and Lezgin Al_c_ , aged 20. The following day, 5 September, a group of about seven police officers brought Gülbahar back to the house. The police searched the house, claiming that there were weapons there and insisting that the family disclose where they were. The family denied that there were any weapons in the house. The police then confiscated tape cassettes, photograph albums and some poetry manuscripts.

The police asked Gülbahar some questions and began to beat her. They told her to kiss her two-year-old son, saying, "You may not see him again" and then took her away. According to her relatives, Gülbahar was in a very poor physical state and had apparently been tortured.

On 6 September Gülbahar and Lezgin's father applied for confirmation of the detention of his son and daughter to the prosecutor's office at the State Security Court in Diyarbak_r, where the detention of political detainees have to be registered. His application was rejected. At the Diyarbak_r Police Headquarters he was told that they would be able to give him an answer in a week's time.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Gülbahar and Lezgin Al_c_'s sister Nalan Al_c_ was detained in mid-March 1994 and after two days in police custody was committed to Diyarbak_r Closed Prison on charges of membership of an illegal organization. She was held in prison until October 1994 when she was released while her trial continued. She absconded, though her trial continues.

Police pressure on the Al_c_ family has become worse during the past three months. About three months ago at around 2am, four plainclothes police officers came to the father's house and asked for Nalan. They took three of the children present in the house to Nalan's elder sister. One of them then admitted having seen Nalan Al_c_ the previous Sunday. The police threatened Nalan Al_c_'s father, telling him that he was to get Nalan to deliver herself into custody, otherwise they would take his son Lezgin.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Gülbahar Nifak and her brother Lezgin Al_c_ , held in unacknowledged detention in Diyarbak_r since 4 September 1995;
- calling for them not be subjected to any form of torture or ill-treatment;
- noting with deep concern reports that Gülbahar Nifak was in a very poor physical state and had apparently been tortured when she was brought back by the police to her father's house on 5 September, and that she was threatened by police;

- urging that immediate steps be taken to establish the two detainees' current whereabouts, that their detention be duly registered and their families informed;
- requesting to be informed of any charges brought against them.

APPEALS TO

1) Diyarbakır Chief of Police:

Mr R_dvan Güler

Diyarbakır Emniyet Müdürlüğü

Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: Emniyet Mudurlugu, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Chief Prosecutor at Diyarbakır State Security Court:

Mr Bekir Selçuk

DGM Ba_savc_s_

Devlet Güvenlik Mahkemesi

Diyarbakır, Turkey

Telegrams: DGM Bassavcisi, Diyarbakir, Turkey

Salutation: Dear Sir

3) State Minister with responsibility for women and children:

Mrs Aysel Baykal

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: State Minister Aysel Baykal, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 [Mrs Aysel Baykal]

Salutation: Dear Minister

4) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Algan Hacalo_lu

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba_bakanl_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: State Minister Algan Hacalo_lu, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 417 0476 (Mr Algan Hacalo_lu)

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:

Mr Sabri Yavuz

nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

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 12 October 1995.