

**EXTERNAL**

**AI Index: EUR 44/129/95**

**EXTRA 138/95**

**Fear of torture / Fear of "disappearance" 10 November 1995**

**TURKEY**

**Abdulgazi I\_ik, aged 56**

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Abdulgazi I\_ik has not been seen since 28 October 1995, when plainclothes police officers came to his sister's home in the \_ehitlik district of Diyarbak\_r, grabbed him in front of the house, and took him away. Despite his son's inquiries to the authorities, Abdulgazi I\_ik's detention remains unacknowledged. Amnesty International fears that he is being interrogated under torture and that he is at risk of "disappearance".

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

People suspected of offences under the Anti-Terror Law can be held in police custody without access to family, friends or legal counsel for up to 30 days in the 10 provinces under State of Emergency in the southeast and for 15 days in the rest of Turkey. When not being interrogated, detainees are held in cramped, airless and insanitary conditions. With no access to the outside world they are at the mercy of their interrogators. Torture methods include being stripped naked and blindfolded, hosing with pressurized ice-cold water, hanging by the arms or wrists bound behind the victim's back, electric shocks, beating the soles of the feet, death threats and sexual assault.

Procedures laid down in the Turkish Criminal Procedure Code for the prompt and proper registration of detainees, and for notification of their families, are almost universally ignored. Lack of prompt registration and notification is extremely distressing for the families of detainees, and creates the conditions in which "disappearances" and torture can occur.

Any person suspected of supporting the PKK or any other illegal armed organization is at serious risk of torture, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution. In 1994 there were more than 55 confirmed "disappearances", and more than 400 people were killed in unclarified circumstances. At least 20 cases of "disappearance" in police custody have been reported in 1995 so far, two of them in Istanbul (see UA 82/95, EUR 44/46/95 and updates of 21 April and 19 May 1995).

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

- expressing grave concern for the safety of Abdulgazi I\_ik, detained in the \_ehitlik district of Diyarbak\_r on 28 October, and held since in unacknowledged detention;
- urging that his whereabouts be established without delay and his family be informed accordingly;
- appealing that he not be subjected to torture or any other form of ill-treatment.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) Interior Minister  
Mr Teoman Ünisan  
Ministry of Interior  
\_çi\_leri Bakanl\_\_\_\_  
06644 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 418 1795**

**Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

2) Deputy Prime Minister

Mr Deniz Baykal

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba\_bakanl\_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr**

**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476**

**Telegrams: Deputy Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey**

**Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister**

3) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:

Mr Adnan Ekmen

Office of the Prime Minister

Ba\_bakanl\_k

06573 Ankara, Turkey

**Faxes: +90 312 417 0476**

**Telegrams: Adnan Ekmen, Prime Minister's Office, Ankara, Turkey**

**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 15 December 1995.