

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 286/94 (EUR 44/66/94, 22 July 1994) and follow-ups (EUR 44/67/94, 26 July; EUR 44/79/94, 10 August; EUR 44/100/94, 19 September)
- Torture/Fear of Torture/Arbitrary Detention

TURKEY Cemil Timur)
 Zeydin Timur) from Evrek village
 _evket Timur)
 Hasan Aykut
 Fehim Yalç_n from _epire village
 Saadi Özlü and his brother
 Osman Özlü from Sergivan village

 Hazal Timur (f)
 Heybet Timur (f)
 Abubekir Kutlu (12)
 Nevzat Timur (11)
 Nezlihan Timur (9)
 _ehbaz Kaya (8)

 Seyhan Timur
 Sedik Aslan
 Yusuf Timur
 Çavu_ Kaya
 Mahmut Kaya

 Salih Kaya
 Adil Kahraman
 Kamil Kutluk

In a standard letter dated 13 October 1994, the State Minister for Human Rights, Azimet Köylüo_lu, has replied to a number of UA participants who sent appeals on the above Urgent Action. In his reply the Minister states:

"...We have made an investigation about this event due to your letter. However we couldn't be able to confirm the existence of the villages and people mentioned in your letter. Furthermore, we haven't found any indications proving the precision of the event..."

However, any serious attempt to investigate the allegations raised by villagers in Hakkari province, would have revealed Mezraa on the relevant maps. The Minister could have found articles and photographs in the Turkish press, reporting in detail the events in the Mezraa/Beytü_ebab area throughout July, August, September, October, and as recently as 2 November. This latest report, in *Özgür Ülke*, shows an example, dated 17 September 1994, of the permit from the gendarmerie commander which villagers are required to obtain each time they need to go outside the Mezraa containment area. The Minister could have found some of the displaced Kurdish families seeking refuge in Adana and Mersin, Van and Hakkari, to testify what had happened to them.

In the case of the more recent destruction of many Kurdish villages by the security forces in Tunceli province, leading to the displacement of thousands of villagers, State Minister Köylüo_lu has publicly acknowledged these events

indicating that he did not accept bland denials by other authorities.

Amnesty International remains concerned at reports that some 300 families from Evrek (Turkish: Gökçe) and surrounding villages are still not being allowed to leave the Mezraa containment area to seek refuge elsewhere. Arbitrarily detained, they are being forced to live in stables and other makeshift accommodation unsuitable for the extreme winter conditions in the area.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: UA participants who have received a reply from the State Minister for Human Rights are asked to write to him once more:

- thanking the Minister for his reply of 13 October 1994;
- acknowledging his recognition of the events in Tunceli province;
- mentioning that Mezraa is located about 20 kilometres north of Beytül_ebab;
- drawing attention to the newspaper reports giving detailed information about the events mentioned in your previous appeal;
- urging once more that an investigation be carried out into the alleged arbitrary detention of some 300 Kurdish families in the Mezraa containment area;
- appealing that the villagers be allowed to leave and to seek refuge in other towns where they would be able to survive the winter.

APPEALS TO:

State Minister for Human Rights
Mr Azimet Köylüo_lu
Office of the Prime Minister
Ba_bakanl_k
06573 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 417 0476
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Prof Mümtaz Soysal
Minister of Foreign Affairs
D__i__ler Bakanl____
06100 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Foreign Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90-312 287 1886

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 31 December 1994.