

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/180/96

29 November 1996

Further information on EXTRA 166/96 (EUR 44/168/96, 29 October 1996) - Fear of "disappearance" / Fear of torture

TURKEYFatma Turunç (f), mother of three
Kanber Turunç, husband of Fatma, aged 40+

On 4 November 1996 Fatma Turunç was taken to court, together with other people detained in Gaziantep between 25 and 28 October, and formally arrested. She is now held in prison in Elbistan, awaiting trial.

Kanber Turunç's family remained without information of his fate for more than 40 days after his detention in Gaziantep, in spite of two applications for information to the public prosecutor and the police headquarters in Gaziantep. Reportedly the family then turned to the Human Rights Association for assistance which on 17 November could inform them that Kanber Turunç was being held at Diyarbak_r E-Type Prison. On 21 November, his father travelled to Diyarbak_r and when he inquired at the prison, officials there acknowledged that his son was being held. The father has since been able to see Kanber Turunç who is awaiting trial apparently on charges of support for the PKK. His father said:

"My son was "disappeared" for 45 days. The authorities in Gaziantep wouldn't acknowledge his detention. He had been taken straight to Diyarbak_r where he was kept alone in a cell. When I visited him in prison he told me that he had been tortured. They gave him electric shocks and hosed him with pressurized cold water.

It was frightening not to know where our son was. Thank you for your support."

No further action is required at this stage. Many thanks to all participants who sent appeals on Fatma and Kanber Turunç's behalf.