

EXTERNAL

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"DISAPPEARANCE" AND FEAR OF EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION

**Dr Hasan Kaya and Metin Can
TURKEY**

Amnesty International is seriously concerned for the safety of Metin Can, a lawyer and chairman of the Human Rights Association in Elazig, and Dr Hasan Kaya, a medical doctor, who have "disappeared" in Elazig in the southeast of Turkey and are feared to have been killed.

On the evening of 21 February 1993, Metin Can received a telephone call calling him away from his home. He and Dr Hasan Kaya, a friend, left the house planning to be back two hours later. They did not return. On 22 February an unknown person telephoned Metin Can's home and said: "We killed Metin and Hasan. Our condolences!". Metin Can's car was found in the Yazikonak district of Elazig the same day.

On 23 February a relative of Metin Can received a telephone call purporting to be from a local PKK guerrilla leader. The caller is reported to have said: "We will release Metin. He should not go to Europe [Metin Can had been planning to travel to Europe the following weekend to take part in a conference]. From now on he will be close to our struggle". No mention was made of Dr Hasan Kaya. His family believe the phone call may have been a deliberate attempt to create confusion about his "disappearance". Metin Can's family have received no confirmation that he is being held by the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

Background

The Turkish Human Rights Association has been subject to constant official harassment, particularly in the mainly Kurdish provinces which are under emergency legislation. In the summer of 1991 there was a succession of bomb attacks on branches and members of the HRA. Vedat Aydin, a board member of the Diyarbakir branch of the HRA was abducted and later killed in circumstances which remain mysterious but suggest possible involvement of the security forces. During celebrations of Nevruz (the Kurdish New Year festival) in March 1992 security forces fired on the offices of the HRA in Sirnak, and Yavuz Binbay, president of the Human Rights Association in Van, nearly died after having been beaten by police.

Attacks against members of the HRA have been on the increase in recent months. On 18 February Kemal Kiliç, a board member of the Sanliurfa branch of the HRA and a journalist, was attacked by four assailants who attempted to bind his mouth and hands. When he resisted the attackers shot him twice in the head before escaping.

Turkey has a Kurdish ethnic minority estimated to number some 10 million people living mainly in southeastern Turkey. Since August 1984, when guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) started armed attacks against the security forces, an alarming number of reports of

ill-treatment of detainees by the security forces have come from the eastern and southeastern provinces. In the past 12 months there have been a number of reports of "disappearance" as well as 360 political killings in the region without any serious efforts by the authorities to investigate the crimes. More than 5,000 lives have so far been lost on both sides and among the civilian population in the context of the continuing fighting. Emergency legislation is in force in 10 provinces in the region including Elazig.

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To: Medical professionals
From: Medical Office / Research Department - Europe
Date: 25 February 1993

MEDICAL LETTER WRITING ACTION

**Dr Hasan Kaya and Metin Can
TURKEY**

Keywords

Theme: "Disappearance"/ Fear of extrajudicial execution

Profession/association: Doctor/ Lawyer

Summary

Please see the information attached on the "disappearance" of Dr Hasan Kaya and Metin Can in the southeast of Turkey. Metin Can is chairman of the Human Rights Association in Elazig.

Recommended Actions

Letters are requested from medical professionals to the addresses below:

- expressing deep concern about the reported "disappearance" of the lawyer Metin Can and Dr Hasan Kaya, and requesting that all efforts should be made to establish their whereabouts
- urging that all measures be taken to ensure the safety of officials of the Turkish Human Rights Association (HRA)
- seeking information on what investigation into the two disappearances has thus far taken place

Addresses

1) Minister of the Interior:
Mr Ismet Sezgin
Içisleri Bakanligi
06644 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 46369 IC SL TR
Faxes: + 90 4 418 1795

2) Minister of Human Rights:

Mr Mehmet Kahraman

Devlet Bakani

Ankara, Turkey

Telegrams: Insan Haklari Bakanligi, Ankara, Turkey

Faxes: + 90 4 419 15 35

3) Governor of Elazig Province:

Mr Dogan Ünlüsoy

Elazig Valiligi

Elazig, Turkey

Telegrams: Elazig Valiligi, Elazig, Turkey

4) Chief of Elazig Police:

Mr Tuncay Kalabak

Elazig Emniyet Müdürlüğü

Elazig, Turkey

Telegrams: Elazig Muduru, Elazig, Turkey

Copies to:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission

Mr Sabri Yavuz

Insan Haklari Arastirma Komisyonu Baskani

TBMM

Ankara, Turkey

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.