

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 197/94 (EUR 44/40/94, 20 May 1994) - Prisoner of Conscience / Medical Concern

TURKEY Mehdi Zana, 54, former mayor of Diyarbakır

Mehdi Zana remains in Ankara Central Closed Prison from where he sent the following message to Amnesty International:

"I have been meaning to write to you for a long time, but events have not given me an opportunity. I am receiving letters from all over the world from Amnesty members... I can see that you have been working very hard, so many, many thanks to you individually and to all the other friends."

"I'm staying here with the Kurdish parliamentarians, our cell is awful, there are six of us in a 12 metre square room. The exercise ground is 3 by 8 metres. We can only walk about in a line, and just think if the other two members of parliament come... "

"On the 25 June 1994 a raid was organized on the political wing of the prison... The raid was carried out by the special forces from outside the prison. All the furniture and anything printed they tore up and threw out, and they took away all written texts. As you will understand, everyone was in a state. At any hour, every night, anything can happen."

Amnesty International considers Mehdi Zana to be a prisoner of conscience and continues to call for his immediate and unconditional release. For the time being, however, no further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested. Thank you to all who sent appeals on behalf of Mehdi Zana.