

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 27/99 (EUR 44/19/99, 25 February 1999) and follow-up (EUR 44/21/99, 26 February 1999) - Death threats / Fear for safety

TURKEY Osman Baydemir, President of the Diyarbakır Human Rights Association (HRA) branch (closed down)

Eren Kızgın (f), President of the Istanbul HRA branch _aban Dayanan, member of Istanbul HRA branch

Gülşay Kazak (f), member of Istanbul HRA branch

Kadriye Doğan (f), member of Istanbul HRA branch

Doğan Genç, member of Istanbul HRA branch

Günay Kızılcık (f), member of Ankara HRA branch

and all branches of the Turkish Human Rights Association

Osman Baydemir was released on 27 February 1999 after giving a statement to the public prosecutor. Amnesty International has no details at present of the charges against him.

He was arrested on 26 February as he was making his way to a press conference being given by the 15 lawyers, of whom he is one, who are acting as defence counsel for Abdullah Öcalan, leader of the illegal Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK). His arrest was apparently in connection with a statement he had made some weeks earlier.

As the threats against the Turkish Human Rights Association (HRA) appear to have eased, no further action is required by the Urgent Action network at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.