

EXTERNAL

AI Index: EUR 44/79/97

10 November 1997

Further information on EXTRA 92/97 (EUR 44/51/97, 30 June 1997) and follow-ups (EUR 44/72/97, 16 October; EUR 44/73/97, 20 October) - Fear of arrest as prisoner of conscience

TURKEYE ber Ya murdereli, lawyer

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E\_ber Ya\_murdereli was released from Çank\_r\_ Prison on 9 November 1997 on grounds of ill-health, on the orders of the Çank\_r\_ Public Prosecutor, who deferred the sentence for 12 months. This little-used mechanism seems to have been used to evade the strong criticism triggered in Turkey and abroad by E\_ber Ya\_murdereli's arrest. Amnesty International will continue to campaign for his sentence to be finally quashed and for the necessary changes to be enacted to Turkish law to ensure the release of all prisoners of conscience.

E\_ber Ya\_murdereli told Amnesty International: "My imprisonment lasted just 20 days. Now I am out of prison, but the restrictions on freedom of expression continue. In Turkey, speech may still be a crime. So unfortunately, we did not attain our main goal of changing the law. Nevertheless, public opinion made itself felt very strongly indeed. Some European governments even expressed disquiet about my imprisonment and the problems of freedom of expression. Hopefully this experience has contributed in some way to an early solution, so that other prisoners of conscience will be released too. Please send my thanks to your Urgent Action whose support I was aware of, from first to last."

No further action by the UA Network is requested.