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### **News Flash**

## **Turkey: Acquittal of Nadir Mater is a step forward**

*Amnesty International today welcomed the acquittal of the Turkish prisoner of conscience Nadire Mater, in the final trial hearing against her.*

*"This is a step forward for freedom of expression in Turkey," the human rights organization said, "However, such a trial should never have been brought against her in the first place."*

*Nadire Mater was charged with insulting and vilifying the Turkish military in her book Mehmedin Kitabi - Mehmet's Book ("Mehmet" stands for the Turkish soldiers). She allegedly insulted the army by referring to their deliberate intimidation of civilians in her book. Her criticism included human rights violations, war crimes and extreme brutality against Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants, brutality of senior soldiers against conscripts, allegations of drug abuse or smuggling and the existence of Islamists in the army.*

*Amnesty International continues to urge the Turkish authorities to review the Turkish law and the constitution in order to lift any restrictions on the civil society to peacefully exercise its right to freedom of expression and opinion.*

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