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German boy home for Christmas

19/12/2007

A GERMAN teenager who is accused of raping a 13-year-old girl from Shaw while they were on holiday in Turkey has been released on bail after eight months behind bars without trial.

Marco Weiss is charged with attacking the girl in the resort of Side in April and his case has provoked a storm of protest in Germany, where there has been a vocal campaign for his release.


The alleged victim was visiting Turkey with her family when the incident was reported, though 17-year-old Weiss has always denied the charges.

He has now returned to Germany but must return to Turkey to face trial on April 1.

The German government had complained about the long period Weiss (pictured) had been held in prison awaiting a hearing and threatened to bring the case to the European Court of Human Rights

The case, which has already been adjourned a number of times, has been followed very closely by the German media, where it has been front-page news for months.

Meanwhile, the local girl's father has complained to the Oldham Advertiser that his family had been harassed by German reporters who had staked out their home.

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