

PRESS RELEASE: Over 40 Unions, Parties, Experts Demand Action for the Security and Well-Being of Kurdish Political Leader Abdullah Ocalan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event: Emergency Press Briefing

Date and Time: 26th July 2023 – 11:00 AM

Location : Place Luxembourg (European Parliament), 1000 Brussels

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The undersigned trade unions, organisations and individuals support the call for information about the wellbeing and conditions of Kurdish political leader Mr Abdullah Ocalan, and urge people to attend the press conference called by the UK based trade union campaign 'Freedom for Ocalan' in front of the European Parliament at 11am on 26th July 2023.

Mr. Ocalan has been prevented from communicating with the outside world for 28 months. The Government of Turkey prevents him from meeting with his relatives and his legal team in violation of international law. The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) has regularly criticized Turkish authorities for these violations—but has not yet released adequate information on its September 2022 visit to the maximum-security prison on Imrali Island where Mr. Ocalan is held.

The press briefing will highlight the completely inadequate position of European governments, European Union (EU) human rights organizations, and the Council of Europe in this context. Their failure to act makes them complicit in the violation of Mr. Ocalan's rights and the broader negative impacts of his isolation on efforts to find a peaceful resolution to Turkey's Kurdish question. It will also propose concrete actions that Turkey, European governments and institutions, and the international community as a whole can take to address this situation.

Moderator

Sarah Glynn, Author and Representative for Permanent Vigil for Ocalan

Speakers

1. **Simon Dubbins**, Director of International - Unite the Union (UNITE), UK
2. **Baroness Christine Blower**, UK
3. **Antonio Amoroso**, CUB People's Union, Italy
4. **Michela Arricale**, lawyer CRED (Research and Processing Center for Democracy), Italy
5. **Amedeo Ciaccheri**, President of the municipality VIII. in Rome-Italy

6. **Saverio Nonno**, Mayor of Fossalto, Italy
7. **Laura De Bonfils**, ARCI. Italy
8. **Luigi De Magistris**, former mayor of Naples, Italy
9. **Vicente Jose Rekondo**, LAB Representative
10. **Daniel Kopp**, Member of the Secretariat of PI, Belgium
11. **Roza Salih**, Glasgow Councilor, Scotland
12. **Mike Arnott** President of the Scottish Trade Union Congress (TUC), UK

Supporting Organizations and Individuals





Dick Marty

Former Member of the Council of States of Switzerland, state prosecutor and former members of the Council of Europe

Prof. Dr. Franco Cavalli

Former parliamentarian, Social Democratic Party of Switzerland

Dr. Beppe Savary-Borioli

Öcalan Freedom Initiative Secretary

Michael Mansfield

KC barrister and Head of Nexus, the Chambers of Michael Mansfield, UK

Prof. Bill Bowring

Birkbeck College, University of London and International Secretary of Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, UK

Lord Navnit Dholakia

Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers, UK

Daniel Kopp

Member of the Secretariat, Progressive international, Brussels

Rt Hon the Lord Dholakia OBE DL

Co-Deputy Leader, Liberal Democrats, House of Lords, UK

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb

Green Party Leader House of Lords, UK

Roza Salih

SNP Glasgow Councillor, Scotland, UK

James Kelman,

Scottish novelist, short story writer, playwright and essayist, UK

Mike Arnott

President of the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC), UK

Stephen Smellie	Member of UNISON's NEC, UNISON deputy convenor of Scotland, UK
Lindsey German	Convenor, Stop the War Coalition, UK
Fabio Tarantino	Mayor of Martano (Lecce), Italy
Prof. Felix Padel	Author and Research Associate in the Centre for World Environment History at the University of Sussex, UK
Luigi De Magistris	Former mayor of Naples, Italy
Saverio Nonno	Mayor of Fossalto, Italy
Amedeo Ciaccheri	President of the Municipality VIII. in Rome-Italy
Paul Scholey	Consultant, Employment Rights, Morrish Solicitors LLP, UK
Gawain Little	General Secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU), UK
Chris Stephens MP	SNP Glasgow Southwest. UK
Maurizio Acerbo	General Secretary of the PRC, Italy
Dr. Derek Wall	Goldsmith, University of London, UK
Nicolas Walders	The Green Party Switzerland. Member of the Council of States of Switzerland
Stéfanie Prezioso	Together Left Party Switzerland, Member of the Council of States of Switzerland, and historian
Carlo Sommaruga	Social Democratic Party of Switzerland, Member of the Council of States of Switzerland