



FREEDOM FOR ÖCALAN

**A POLITICAL SOLUTION
TO THE KURDISH QUESTION**



FREEDOM FOR ABDULLAH ÖCALAN

A Political Solution for the Kurdish Question

Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan must be allowed to meet with his lawyers and family and, ultimately, freed under conditions that allow him to play a role in finding a just and democratic political solution to Turkey's decades-old Kurdish conflict.



Campaigning committee - June 2024

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INTRODUCTION

In the eight months since its start, the global campaign 'Freedom for Öcalan, A Political Solution for the Kurdish Question' has brought together people from various backgrounds: unions, social movements, political parties, elected officials, artists, intellectuals, activists, and millions of Kurds and their supporters. The main aim is to end the isolation of Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan by allowing his lawyers and family to visit him, and ultimately secure his freedom. In doing so, the campaign strives to make a just and democratic political solution to Turkey's century-old Kurdish question possible by enabling Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan's participation in a renewed dialogue.

In this file, we aim to offer an understanding of crucial elements of the campaign, Abdullah Öcalan's life and philosophy, and the present situation on Imrali Island Prison. By doing so, we illustrate the importance of Öcalan's release in seeking a political resolution to the Kurdish question and peace in the Middle East.

The CPT has visited the island prison nine times since 1999, with the last visit in September 2022. Despite the Committee's criticisms and recommendations on the harsh imprisonment conditions, the Turkish government has chosen to worsen the situation rather than improve it. There has been no contact or sign of life from Öcalan for the past three years, and the Turkish state has prevented the publication of the CPT reports on their visits to Imrali.

This year, the campaign and supporters sent numerous letters to the CPT, urging a delegation to visit Imrali and for Öcalan to have regular visits from family and lawyers as required by CoE and CPT obligations. While the initial response from the CPT shifted responsibility to Turkish authorities, the demands from various groups across Europe have raised awareness on ending Öcalan's isolation.¹



These developments confirm that the fight for Abdullah Öcalan's freedom is a global struggle that resonates with people worldwide. Öcalan's movement and his followers are leading the Kurdish quest for self-determination and promoting multi-ethnic, multi-religious movements for democracy in the Middle East. His ideas also inspire those advocating for self-determination, women's liberation, and the end of all forms of inequality and exploitation globally. His universal theories offer a blueprint for those seeking solutions to contempo-

1 - <https://ocalanvigil.net/2024/06/05/international-support-grows-for-letter-asking-the-cpt-to-act-for-ocalan/>



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rary crises like rising inequality, climate change, and the ascent of far-right leaders exploiting growing disillusionment with the system.

Looking ahead, it is vital for people worldwide to continue supporting Öcalan by amplifying their voices and strengthening the collective movement. We urge the organization of global days of action for Öcalan. Equally important is for social and political institutions responsible for safeguarding fundamental rights to fulfil their mandate.

The Strasbourg Court has not yet ruled on the 12-year isolation case, raising concerns about impartiality due to the president of the Court receiving an honorary degree from a university close to the Turkish government. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe(PACE) has left the matter solely to the Court and the CPT, neglecting to monitor ongoing violations or the implementation of recommendations for 24 years. The Committee of Ministers is overlooking Turkey's failure to act on the Court's 2014 judgment regarding the aggravated life sentence.

The current conditions of Öcalan's imprisonment violate human rights conventions and anti-torture agreements, as recognized by the CPT, ECHR, UN Human Rights Committee, and other institutions. The Turkish state's actions and non-compliance with ECHR decisions are politically motivated. Urgent action is needed.

We urge the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, CPT, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, UN Human Rights Committee, and relevant institutions to oppose Öcalan's isolation, allow visits from his lawyers and family, and end the current regime.

- An **ad-hoc committee** within PACE should be formed to address the severe violations and isolation of Abdullah Öcalan.

- The CPT should **utilize Council mechanisms** to ensure the implementation of its recommendations and highlight any unaddressed recommendations over the past 24 years.

- The **Legal Affairs Committee** should oversee the implementation of CPT recommendations.

- Measures must be taken to prevent Turkey's violations of the Convention. The Secretary General, **Committee of Ministers**, and President of the Assembly should intervene to prevent the indirect **reintroduction of the death penalty** through the aggravated life sentence.

- Kurdish leader Abduah Öcalan must be allowed to meet his lawyers and family and, ultimately, **freed under conditions that allow him to play a role in finding a just and democratic political solution** to Turkey's decades-old Kurish conflict



ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN: FREEDOM FOR ÖCALAN, A POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR THE KURDISH QUESTION

The international 'Freedom for Öcalan, A Political Solution for the Kurdish Question' campaign unites social movements, political parties, municipalities, unions, activists, intellectuals, and millions of Kurds and their friends worldwide around a shared goal: making a just and democratic political solution to Turkey's century-old Kurdish question possible by enabling Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan's participation in a renewed dialogue.

Abdullah Öcalan is a Kurdish political leader seen by millions of Kurds globally as their political representative. In February 1999, he was abducted in an international intelligence operation and sent to Turkey. He has been in prison ever since, barred from all contact with the outside world for years at a time. He has been subjected to torture and other cruel and degrading treatment.

Despite this, the movement Öcalan built and the people inspired by it are at the forefront of Kurdish struggles for self-determination and multi-ethnic, multi-religious movements for democracy in the Middle East. His theories inspire those fighting for self-determination, women's liberation, and an end to all forms of inequality and exploitation across the globe.

Turkey's unresolved 'Kurdish question'—the conflicts and political instability deriving from the Turkish Republic's violent denial of fundamental civil and political rights to 20 million Kurdish citizens—has cost tens of thousands of lives, displaced millions, and empowered hardliner nationalists, religious fundamentalists, and autocrats worldwide. It is linked to many of the most serious regional and global challenges impacting the lives and well-being of millions—occupation, racism, the oppression of women, religious intolerance, economic exploitation, and the destruction of the environment.

The campaign is international in part because the Kurdish question is an international problem. Kurdistan is divided between four states: Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. It was European powers, including Britain and France, who created these divisions a century ago. Turkey's ability to wage war on Kurds across the Middle East is the result of decades of unconditional support from the United States and other NATO members—and Turkey's new strategy of playing those powers off of other states, like Russia and Iran, to extract anti-Kurdish concessions from all sides.

It is also international because Öcalan's solutions are international. His framework for a political solution to the Kurdish question could end a century of war and oppression in Turkey and neighboring countries. The universal theories that provide the framework for his solutions and be a model for people everywhere seeking alternatives to the great crises of our time—from steepening inequality to climate change to the rise of far-right autocrats taking advantage of growing disillusionment with the system.

When Öcalan is free to participate in a political process to resolve the Kurdish question and to continue to develop his ideas, the result will be more freedom and more peace for all of us. Unfortunately, the authoritarian leadership in Turkey knows this and greatly fears this scenario—and so, with the support of the international community, it has kept Öcalan in isolation for nearly three years in order to maintain its hold on power and prolong its endless wars.

In Öcalan's last conversation with his lawyers, which occurred in 2019, he said that he could solve the Kurdish question in a week if given the chance—and that he had developed his ideas for a political solution to the Kurdish question even further since the Turkish government last abandoned peace talks. As Turkey expands its occupation of Iraqi Kurdistan and North and East Syria and its crackdown on dissent at home and abroad, the Kurdish people and other peoples of Turkey, the communities of the Middle East, and the world need a political solution now more than ever.

We are also more concerned about Öcalan's security and well-being than ever before. Isolation is internationally recognized as a form of torture. For this form of torture to go on for three years is



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extremely dangerous. We do not know anything about Öcalan's fate beyond the fact that he has recently received 'disciplinary measures' to block meetings on false pretenses and has allegedly been sent death threats.

This situation is unsustainable. For this reason, we make the following demand:

Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan must be allowed to meet with his lawyers and family and, ultimately, freed under conditions that allow him to play a role in finding a just and democratic political solution to Turkey's decades-old Kurdish conflict.



WHO IS ABDULLAH ÖCALAN?



Abdullah Öcalan was born to a poor family in 1949 in the village of Amara (Turkish: Ömerli) in the province of Urfa in North Kurdistan (the Kurdish region of Turkey). Upon finishing secondary school, he found employment as a civil servant in the city of Amed (Diyarbakır). He later sat for university examinations and registered as a student in the Istanbul University Law Faculty. In 1971, he transferred to the prestigious Faculty of Political Science at the University of Ankara.

After the 1971 military coup, Öcalan observed the further denial and suppression of Kurdish identity and culture by the Turkish government. Affected by this problem, and moved by the Kurds' impoverished social and economic conditions, he and several friends decided to investigate the Kurdish situation further.

In April 1973, Öcalan brought together a group of six revolutionary university students in order to form an independent Kurdish political organization. This group saw Kurdistan as a colony whose population had been forcibly denied its right to self-determination. The group's primary goal was to change this situation.

The young movement gained momentum and found new followers. But as it did, the Kurdish aristocracy, rival political groups, and Turkish security forces became alarmed and violently attacked its adherents.

On November 27, 1978, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) was founded in a small village near Amed (Diyarbakır). A modern national liberation movement was born, with Abdullah Öcalan clearly emerging as its ideological and political leader.

The Turkish authorities reacted harshly, tolerating none of the new party's peaceful political activity. Detentions and armed clashes followed. In 1979, observing signs of an imminent military coup, Öcalan and other members left Turkey, reorganizing in Syria. His foresight secured the survival of the nascent organization. On September 12, 1980, the Turkish military seized power, resulting in thousands of detentions and widespread torture.

Under the military regime, political struggle for Kurdish rights was impossible. All who tried were jailed, exiled or killed. From abroad, Öcalan continued to lead the PKK's political activities and began preparations for the armed resistance—which began in 1984.



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Öcalan soon realized that armed struggle could not bring an ultimate resolution to the Kurdish question. In the early 1990s, he tried to shift the focus to a political solution that would address the dispossession and denial at the heart of the problem. In 1993, he first voiced the possibility that Kurds could live peaceably as equal citizens of a politically transformed Turkey instead of seeking a separate state. He called a unilateral ceasefire and held indirect talks with President Turgut Özal—but, following Özal's mysterious death on April 17, 1993, a new, bloody chapter was opened for the Kurds.

In 1998, during another unilateral cease-fire declared by Öcalan, Turkey threatened Syria with war over his presence in the country. To prevent conflict, Öcalan went to Europe in order to promote a political solution. But he was pushed out of Europe, too, and finally found himself in Kenya. On February 15, 1999, he was abducted in a clandestine international operation and brought to Turkey.

“I almost want to say freedom is the goal of the universe. I have often asked myself if the universe is not, in fact, in pursuit of freedom.”

— Abdullah Öcalan

More Information:

<https://vigilocalan.com/kurdish-freedom/>



CONDITIONS IN İMRALI PRISON



A whole island prison is totally cut off from the outside world. Established in 1999, for the first 10 years the İmralı Island Prison had a sole prisoner— Abdullah Öcalan. Since 2009 other inmates have been brought to the island prison, and now in total there are four inmates.

Öcalan's rights have been violated from the moment he was captured. While Turkish authorities are directly responsible, international complicity plays an important role in maintaining these rights violations.

Extraordinary renditions conducted without judicial processes, like Öcalan's kidnapping, are themselves contrary to international law.

The right to defense is totally violated, lawyers cannot meet their client on the island prison and have no other means to establish contact. Abdullah Öcalan received only five consultations from his lawyers throughout the eleven-year period since July 27, 2011. These consultations took place from May to August 2019 with the last visit taking place on August 7, 2019.

Abdullah Öcalan received only 5 family visits since 2014.

Öcalan's trial was condemned as unfair by human rights organizations and international courts. In 1999, Amnesty International found that "the trial against Abdullah Öcalan violated both national law and international standards" and called for a complete impartial and independent retrial. A 2005 European Court of Human Rights Decision ruled that his trial was not independent or impartial, that he was not promptly brought before a judge, and that his defense was not given enough time to prepare.

Prolonged isolation and solitary confinement are considered to be forms of torture under international law. They are violations of the U.N. Mandela Principles, devised to protect the rights of prisoners².

In 2007, it was reported that Öcalan had been poisoned in prison. A European laboratory confirmed the presence of toxic chromium and strontium in hair samples³. Kurds around the world protested demanding accountability, but the prison administration faced no consequences.



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In 2008, Öcalan's lawyers reported that Öcalan had been dragged by prison personnel to an adjoining room and forced to the ground by three persons while his cell was ravaged. When he protested against these brutal measures, he was explicitly threatened with death⁴. Once again, there was no accountability.

Between 2013 and 2015, an important round of talks between Abdullah Öcalan and the Turkish state took place in İmralı Island Prison. The "İmralı talks" collapsed after Erdoğan canceled them. Even during that period, no lawyer-client consultations were allowed.

The aggravated life sentence—life sentence without parole—put into law for Öcalan has since been delivered to thousands of people. The sentence equals prison until death. Effectively, the death penalty has been reintroduced in Turkey.

These human rights abuses are an issue of international concern.

Critically ill prisoners, almost all of them Kurdish, are dying in Turkish prisons in significant numbers.

Isolation is now the established normal, normalized through decrees and disciplinary penalties that are not embedded in law. Scores of applications have been made to various courts in Turkey and to the Court in Strasbourg.

The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture is tasked with monitoring prison conditions in Turkey and other European states. The Committee and other European institutions have regularly failed to hold Turkey responsible for its systemic violations of Turkish and international law in regards to Öcalan's case.

The United States openly played a major role in Öcalan's capture, and has helped Turkey cover up widespread human rights abuses in his subsequent trial and imprisonment. Antony Blinken - who served on U.S. President Bill Clinton's National Security Council and is currently Secretary of State to President Joe Biden - said that "the United States was determined to bring Öcalan to justice. We provided all necessary assistance to Turkey. But we wanted him to have democratic rights, like everybody else. The judgment was carried out in an open and fair manner⁵."

More information: <https://vigilocalan.com/category/turkeys-panel-system/>



2 - <https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle/nelson-mandela-rules-protecting-rights-persons-deprived-libertysamples2>.

3 - <https://www.freeocalan.org/articles/english/analysis-of-ocalan-intoxication-results-by-dr-kintz>

4 - <https://www.freeocalan.org/articles/english/ocalan-tortured-prison>

5 - <https://www.hurriyet.com.tr/gundem/aponun-teslim-emri-clintondan-38248135>



A BRIEF SUMMARY OF ABDULLAH ÖCALAN'S LEGAL STATUS

EXECUTION VERDICT

Abdullah Öcalan has been imprisoned on İmralı Island since February 15, 1999, after being abducted in Kenya and forcibly brought to Turkey. He was sentenced to death in a brief trial held in the Island prison. His case was later brought before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), where on May 2, 2005 the Grand Court ruled the Article 6 of the convention regarding a fair trial had been violated, and it established retrial as a remedy. This request was rejected by the Turkish Government, first on the grounds that a re-trial would not be possible under domestic law, and later with the logic that a retrial would not lead to any change. In this way, the Turkish Government claimed that it was fulfilling the judgments of the ECtHR. Unfortunately, the CoE Committee of Ministers, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of ECtHR judgments, did not make any effort to counter this illegal manipulation and closed the file with a political decision, ruling that Turkey had fulfilled their judgment.

AGGRAVATED LIFE SENTENCE

The death penalty imposed on Öcalan was converted into an aggravated life sentence, which was introduced into Turkish law for the first time after the abolition of the death penalty in 2002. With this sentence, a new type of punishment was introduced, which obliged him to remain in severe isolation until his death without the possibility of parole. All subsequently sentenced prisoners were also subject to this mechanism. The isolation and aggravated life sentence against Öcalan was also taken to the ECHR. On March 18, 2014, the Court ruled that both the conditions of isolation and the aggravated life sentence were violations of Article 3 of the ECHR, prohibiting torture. It underlined that every prisoner must have the hope of release. This judgment has been on the agenda of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE after 7 years and continues to be monitored and is expected to be implemented. The Turkish Government, however states that the aggravated life sentence will not be changed as it is regulated by law.

CONTINUOUS EXECUTION

Öcalan was the only civilian on İmralı Island until 2009. Since then, 5 inmates from other prisons were brought to the island. These prisoners were changed over time. As of today, apart from Mr. Öcalan, there are 3 prisoners in İmralı Prison. The ECHR's violation decision on March 18, 2014 on isolation covered the period between 1999 and 2009 and was defined as a violation of the prohibition of torture. After 2009, with the arrival of new prisoners, a new application was made to the ECHR as the isolation continued with the same severity. This application was filed in 2011 on behalf of Öcalan and 5 prisoners. It has been 12 years since this application was made and all the processes related to this application have been exhausted and have reached the decision stage. However, the ECtHR has not yet made a decision on this case and there is no clarity as to when it will make a decision on this application.

NEW CASES

Apart from this ongoing case at the ECtHR, there is another case filed against Greece at the ECtHR in 2019, after the completion of the domestic legal process, upon the refusal to process Öcalan's asylum application while he was in Greece and his illegal delivery to Turkey. This case is also ongoing.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS DO NOT FULFILL THEIR DUTIES

As the isolation deepened and family and lawyer visits were completely banned, an individual application for measures was also submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) in 2021. Taking into account the gravity of the situation, the OHCHR, in a letter dated September 6, 2022, requested the Turkish government to "put an end to the incommunicado detention of the applicants in accordance with Article 92 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure and to allow the applicants immediate



and unrestricted access to a lawyer of their choice." However, the state and government authorities did not comply with the Committee's request for this measure either. On the contrary, the government responded with new arbitrary family and guardian visits, telephone and lawyer bans. This application is still pending.

BAN ON FAMILY AND LAWYER

From the date of Öcalan's abduction to Turkey until today, numerous applications have been filed in Turkish domestic law regarding the conditions of isolation. It is not possible to give the number and breakdown of these here. These legal initiatives are still ongoing. Twice a week, applications are made to the prison administration and the relevant prosecutor's office requesting lawyer visits. However, these applications are not even answered. At the same time, applications are regularly made once a week for family meetings. For example, in 2022 alone, there were 98 requests for a lawyer meeting and 49 applications for a family meeting, which went unanswered.

The application for a family meeting is rejected due to the disciplinary punishment given to Öcalan and his friends for walking and chatting during sports hours. Öcalan and his friends first appeal these disciplinary penalties before the Execution Judge, but all applications are rejected. The appeals against these decisions are also rejected by the High Criminal Court without exception. Similarly, bans on lawyer visits every 6 months have become automatic. Lawyers are not informed about the disciplinary penalty that prevents family visit requests. Lawyers only learn about it in practice after the appeal period expires. Lawyers are also excluded from other legal processes.

In total, it is possible to say the following about the domestic legal process. To date, not a single positive decision or result has been obtained in thousands of applications and files related to Öcalan in the domestic legal process, from the prison administration to the prosecutor's office to the Constitutional Court. Without exception, all requests and applications have been rejected. Especially since 2021, the judiciary has not only rejected the requests, but has also turned into a part of the isolation mechanism by conducting this process without the knowledge of the lawyers and preventing their initiatives. Therefore, we cannot talk about a functioning domestic legal process in Turkey for Öcalan and his friends.

TURKEY DOES NOT APPLY DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

By not implementing the judgments of the ECtHR and the UNHRC, domestic legal mechanisms in Turkey also break the influence of international legal mechanisms and render them dysfunctional. Unfortunately, the Turkish judicial system is not implementing and rendering dysfunctional hundreds of international judicial decisions, such as the Kavala and Demirtaş decisions, based on the conclusions drawn from the Öcalan case. The island of İmralı functions as a laboratory for the Turkish judicial and political process where all kinds of lawlessness are tested. The conclusions drawn here are used against everyone, especially dissidents living in Turkey.

PERPETUAL TORTURE

Based on the facts stated above, we can say that Turkish domestic law is closed to Öcalan, and that it is even a means of concealing or providing legal cover for the isolation and torture practices. In this case, it is possible to interpret Öcalan's legal situation in the light of the ECtHR Decisions as follows: Since 1999, Öcalan has been held for 25 years in an unfair trial, i.e. without an acceptable legal basis and under conditions considered as torture, and it is a requirement of international law and justice that he be released and free as a matter of his right to hope.



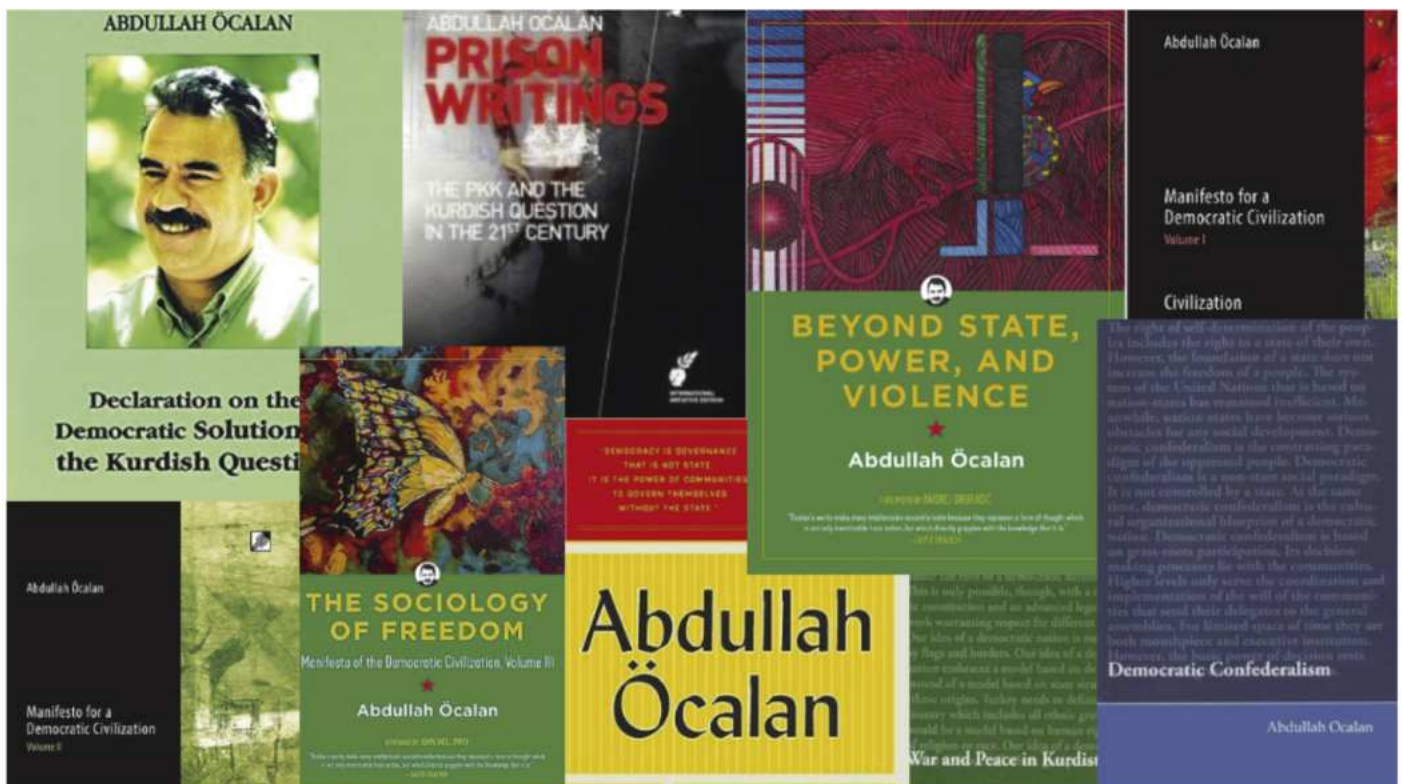
WHY DO ÖCALAN'S THEORIES MATTER?

Despite these restrictions and violations of his rights, Abdullah Öcalan has used his time in prison to proactively seek comprehensive solutions to problems in Turkey and the region. Since his arrest, he has written nine books⁶, one protocol, and one 'Road Map'⁷.

In his writings, Öcalan proposed new political theories for the Kurdish movement that have redefined and revolutionized the concept of self-determination. A new nation-state, he argued, could not resolve the problems caused by the imposition of nation-states on a multi-ethnic and multi-religious region by foreign powers a century ago. By fighting for a nation-state, the Kurdish movement could inadvertently replicate the structures of power and oppression that states used.

Instead, he argued, Kurds and neighboring peoples should build bottom-up democracies based on the equality of all ethnicities, religions and languages, the liberation of women, cooperative economies, and protection of the environment. They could do this wherever they live, making borders irrelevant.

These theories inspired the multi-ethnic, multi-religious People's Protection Units (YPG), Women's Defense Units (YPJ), and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) that defeated the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) in Syria. They formed the basis for the unique political model of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, which set up autonomous governance despite threats from states and extremist groups on all sides, offering stability and promoting coexistence for women and the various ethnic and religious minorities throughout Syria.



**“If I am to be a freedom fighter, I cannot just ignore this:
Woman’s revolution is a revolution within a revolution.”**

— Abdullah Öcalan



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When Öcalan has been able to communicate these ideas to his supporters and the wider international community, democracy in Turkey and peace in the Middle East appeared as if they would prevail. From 2007 to 2011, his historic “Road Map” formed the basis for the first-ever round of negotiations between the Kurdish movement and the Turkish state.

From 2013 to 2015, he served as the lead negotiator in a second historic attempt to resolve Turkey’s Kurdish question at the negotiating table. During this time period, the ceasefire Öcalan called lasted over two years, the people of Iraqi Kurdistan and North and East Syria lived free from Turkish bombs and occupying troops, and unprecedented democratic space in Turkish politics allowed the HDP to win an astounding 13% of the vote.

However, peace and democracy threatened then-Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s grip on power—so he abandoned the talks, condemning Öcalan to isolation, Kurds and progressives in Turkey to dictatorship and Iraqi Kurdistan and North and East Syria to endless war. Today, as Turkey threatens all Kurdish gains abroad and cracks down on dissent at home, Öcalan has been barred from contact with the outside world for almost three years.

Authoritarian, nationalist, and religious fundamentalist regimes and the foreign powers that support them fear the spread of Öcalan’s theories because they can challenge oppressive ideologies and could bring long-term peace and coexistence to the Middle East. To prevent this from happening, they have maintained his isolation and escalated attacks on Kurds and progressive and democratic forces everywhere.

The pro-democracy political and civil society movements resisting nationalist-Islamist autocracy in Turkey, led by the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP), based its vision of pluralism, democracy, and women’s liberation and its decision to unite the Kurdish struggle with the struggles of other oppressed groups in Turkey on Öcalan’s ideas.

The slogan “jin, jîyan, azadî” —“woman, life, freedom”—which has become the rallying cry of the women-led protest movement challenging Iran’s anti-women and anti-Kurdish regime comes from Öcalan’s ideas and writings.

Öcalan’s ideas also offered a unique framework for a political solution to the Kurdish question in Turkey—one that met and even surpassed international standards of democracy, human rights and the rule of law and could be implemented within existing borders without the use of force.

“The right of self-determination of the peoples includes the right to a state of their own. However, the foundation of a state does not increase the freedom of a people.”

— Abdullah Öcalan

More information: <https://vigilocalan.com/category/philosophy/>



WHAT IS ÖCALAN'S ROLE IN KURDISH EFFORTS FOR PEACE?



The Kurdish movement has repeatedly taken unilateral steps to bring its armed struggle to an end and find a just, democratic political solution to the Kurdish question at the negotiation table.

They view armed resistance as a tactic of last resort, in line with international principles regarding the right to self-determination and the means by which it can be achieved. Courts have recognized the PKK as a legitimate party to a non-international armed conflict⁷.

Abdullah Öcalan has initiated numerous peace efforts himself and has created the political framework that makes peace possible. For more than 30 years, he has been struggling to transform the armed conflict in Kurdistan into a political one. By constantly advocating for a peaceful solution he has become the most important voice for peace in the Kurdish liberation movement. This has been implicitly recognized by the Turkish state, which sees him the “key figure” for a solution process.

Starting in the late 1980s, Öcalan stated in interviews with Turkish journalists that he would prefer a peaceful settlement with the Turkish state to an endless war. He declared the PKK's first unilateral ceasefire in 1993, knowing it was not a popular decision.

This was the first of nine ceasefires declared by the PKK—the most recent of which was declared in 2023. The government of Turkey adhered to just one: the 2013 ceasefire, which paved the way for ongoing talks between Öcalan and the state. It has never moved to implement a ceasefire without previous steps by the Kurdish side.

Despite his near total isolation in a maximum-security island prison in violation of Turkish and international law, Öcalan has outlined an overarching theoretical framework for a political solution that reconciles Turkey's territorial integrity with the Kurdish right to self-determination through democratization and social change, in line with principles of human rights and good governance found in the international treaties signed by Turkey and its allies.



7 - http://www.freedom-for-ocalan.com/english/download/Abdullah_Ocalan_-_The_Road_Map_-_Summary.pdf

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In doing this, he has criticized his own earlier convictions on the role of violence and initiated a wider discussion in the Kurdish movement and Kurdish society about how to finally end the vicious circle of violence that has left its mark on the history of Kurdistan, the Middle East, and the world.

Kurdish political and military actors inspired by Öcalan's ideas have tested these theories on the ground, where they have proven successful in challenging the issues at the root of endless wars across the Middle East: occupation and authoritarianism, nationalism, religious fundamentalism, the oppression of women, ecological crises, and other problems. They addressed their own shortcomings and adapted to new circumstances.

No Turkish leader has ever made a comparably comprehensive proposal, nor have any reforms based on the experiences of 40 years of conflict been fully implemented in Turkey.

Two rounds of dialogue between Turkey and the Kurdish movement have taken place. While neither of these rounds of dialogue led to a successful solution, they proved that both sides could adhere to ceasefires and engage in discussion. From 2009 until mid-2011, secret negotiations, later known as the Oslo Process, were held between Öcalan, a government-appointed delegation representing the Turkish state, and senior Kurdish political figures.

The subject was a political solution to the Kurdish question. Based on the “Road Map to Negotiations,” which Öcalan authored in 2009 and which won admiration even from his Turkish interlocutors, the parties agreed on three protocols and contained a phased plan for an end of the conflict and a political solution to the Kurdish issue. The Turkish government, however, chose not to implement the plan, and war returned to Kurdistan.

Kurdish society has taken mass action to make peace—and Öcalan's participation in talks—possible. In September 2012, in an attempt to return to dialogue, more than 700 Kurdish prisoners across Turkey began a hunger strike. They were supported by countless ordinary Kurds and human rights activists in Turkey, in Europe, and around the world. They demanded the right to use the Kurdish language, an end to Öcalan's isolation, and the resumption of negotiations.

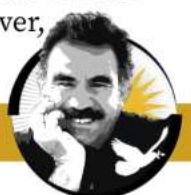
On the sixty- eighth day of the hunger strike, in November, Öcalan called for it to end—and it did. Despite total isolation, Öcalan maintained authority over the Kurdish community in and outside of Turkey, making him an inevitable participant in and leader of any possible future negotiations. The talks with the state delegation resumed, and on January 3, 2013, the very first BDP delegation was able to visit Öcalan at Imrali.

In March 2013, Öcalan called a ceasefire that lasted over two years. Arguably, this ceasefire allowed for the most significant democratic opening in a century of Turkish history and gave the Kurdish movement the space it needed to respond militarily to the rise of ISIS in Syria and Iraq, saving countless lives in the Middle East and around the world.

These rounds of talks showed the importance of Öcalan as lead negotiator and the role of his ideas in finding solutions all sides could discuss and act on. His free and active participation in negotiations thus remains an important demand of Kurds and their allies around the world today.

Erdogan's government had entered the talks hoping that their ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) would win greater Kurdish support. This did not happen: Kurds took advantage of the democratic opening provided by peace to vote for pro-Kurdish parties. Since the government of Turkey's abandonment of talks in 2015, the Kurdish movement has repeatedly called for international support for a new dialogue. Erdogan, by contrast, has campaigned on war.

In 2019, when Öcalan was last allowed to communicate with his lawyers, he stated that he could resolve Turkey's Kurdish question within a week and expressed his wishes that Turkey's conflict with the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria be resolved peacefully. The Turkish state, however,



FREEDOM FOR ÖCALAN! A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KURDISH QUESTION!

put an end to these meetings—and launched a new military operation against Syrian Kurds two months later.

The PKK has declared one unilateral ceasefire since the resumption of conflict. In February 2023, following the deadly earthquake in Syria and Turkey, the group declared an end to military action in Turkey for humanitarian reasons, with the stated aim of allowing all resources to be focused on rescue and recovery efforts.

It was extended through May 2023 in order to allow Turkey's elections to take place in an environment of peace. However, Turkish leaders failed to respond, maintaining Öcalan's isolation, bombing Iraq and Syria, and running their election campaign on fear and militarism. War continues today.



More Information: <https://vigilocalan.com/peace/>



FREEDOM FOR ÖCALAN CAMPAIGN: ACTIONS

The importance of Öcalan's participation in peace talks and the value of his theories to global struggles for freedom and democracy has inspired massive worldwide solidarity.

Kurds and their friends across Kurdistan, the Middle East and the world have engaged in mass campaigns intended to secure Öcalan's freedom and allow him to participate fully in finding a just and democratic political solution to the Kurdish question. These have involved a diversity of tactics and actors. Our campaign will unite and build on these comprehensive efforts.

FREEDOM FOR ÖCALAN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE

Following Öcalan's capture in 1999, the international 'Freedom for Öcalan - Peace in Kurdistan' initiative was established. The International Initiative regards itself as a multi-national peace initiative working for a peaceful and democratic solution for the Kurdish question that will see Kurds, Turks and all peoples of Mesopotamia living peacefully together. The International Initiative is committed to play its part in peace through intense lobbying and public relations work. Regular publishing and a balanced policy towards the public are a central part of its work.

For 25 years, Öcalan's lawyers have faced persecution, threats, and imprisonment themselves for demanding that Turkey implement its own laws and basic international principles regarding his case. This has resulted in several international legal victories.

The European Court of Human Rights has ruled in Öcalan's favor, finding that Turkey violated his right to liberty and security and to a fair trial, that the presence of a military judge in parts of the proceedings violated the right to an independent tribunal, and that the imposition of the death penalty pursuant to an unfair trial constituted cruel and inhuman treatment.

The Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture has repeatedly warned that Turkey's treatment of Öcalan in prison violates binding international law.

In 2022, 350 lawyers from 22 countries applied to Turkey's Ministry of Justice to visit Öcalan in prison. 750 lawyers from Turkey and more than 1,000 lawyers from Syria applied to represent Öcalan. In early 2023, Delegation Against Isolation visited Turkey representing them.

Every year on February 15, the anniversary of Öcalan's abduction from Kenya in 1999, Kurds all over the world demonstrate in protest.

On October 9, to mark the anniversary of his forced departure from Syria in 1998, demonstrations occur across Turkey and Kurdistan: including Gemlik, the town opposite Imrali Island, and in Kurdish cities in Syria, where Öcalan's ideas inspired the defeat of ISIS and where many Kurds knew him personally.

Every year on April 4, Öcalan's birthday, Kurds travel to Amara, the village where he was born, and celebrate the occasion by planting trees.

SIGNATURE CAMPAIGNS

During a signature campaign conducted in 2005-2006, around 3.5 million people from all parts of Kurdistan signed a statement affirming that they regard Öcalan as their political leader.

In 2023, nearly three million signatures demanding freedom for Öcalan were collected from North and East Syria alone. The signatures were presented to the Council of Europe in August.



50 NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATES CALL TO END THE SOLITARY CONFINEMENT OF ABDULLAH ÖCALAN AND ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN TURKEY

We, the undersigned Nobel Prize Laureates, from diverse disciplines around the world, call on the government of Turkey and the International Community at large, to take immediate action at this critical moment to end the solitary confinement of Abdullah Öcalan and all political prisoners in Turkey.

In so doing we stand in solidarity with the hundreds of hunger strikers who are now pressing this same demand, including the Kurdish parliamentarian Leyla Güven, imprisoned in Diyarbakir, whose life is in imminent danger. We also join our support to the International Appeal for ending the isolation of Abdullah Öcalan and all political prisoners in Turkey, first released on January 12, 2019.

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Argentina. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1980 - **Betty Williams**, Northern Ireland. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1976 - **Desmond Tutu**, South Africa. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1984 - **F. W. De Klerk**, South Africa. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1993 - **Jody Williams**, United States. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1997 - **José Ramos-Horta**, East Timor. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1996 - **Leymah Roberta Gbowee**, Liberia. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2011 - **Mairead Corrigan Maguire**, Northern Ireland. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1976 - **Oscar Arias**, Costa Rica. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1987 - **Shirin Ebadi**, Iran. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2003.

Dudley R. Herschbach, United States. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 1986 - **Elias James Corey**, United States, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 1990 - **Gerhard Ertl**, Germany. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2007 - **Joachim Frank**, Germany I U.S. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2017 - **John C. Polanyi**, Canada. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 1986 - **Kary B. Mullis**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 1993 - **Richard Henderson**, Great Britain. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2017 - **Robert H. Grubbs**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2005 - **Roger D. Kornberg**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2006 - **Thomas R. Cech**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 1989 - **Walter Gilbert**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 1980 - **Yuan T. Lee**, Taiwan. Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 1986. **Edward C. Prescott**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Economics 2004 - **Eric S. Maskin**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Economics 2007 - **Finn E. Kydland**, Norway. Nobel Laureate in Economics 2004 - **Oliver Hart**, Great Britain. Nobel Laureate in Economics 2016. **Alice Munro**, Canada. Nobel Laureate in Literature 2013 - **Elfriede Jelinek**, Austria. Nobel Laureate in Literature 2004 - **J. M. Coetzee**, South Africa. Nobel Laureate in Literature 2003 - **Mario Vargas Llosa**, Peru. Nobel Laureate in Literature 2010 - **Wole Soyinka**, Nigeria. Nobel Laureate in Literature 1986 - **Carol W. Greider**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2009 - **Edmond H. Fischer**, Switzerland I U.S. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 1992 - **Eric R. Kandel**, Austria. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2000 - **Erwin Neher**, Germany. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 1991 - **J. Robin Warren**, Australia. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2005 - **Jack W. Szostak**, Great Britain. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2009 - **Leland H. Hartwell**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2001 - **Louis J. Ignarro**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 1998 - **Sir Richard J. Roberts**, Great Britain. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 1993 - **Sydney Brenner**, South Africa. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2002 - **Thomas C. Sudhof**, Germany. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2013 - **Tim Hunt**, Great Britain. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 2001 - **Torsten N. Wiesel**, Sweden. Nobel Laureate in Medicine 1981 - **Anthony J. Leggett**, Great Britain. Nobel Laureate in Physics 2003 - **Gérard Morou**, France. Nobel Laureate in Physics in 2018 - **Kip Stephen Thorne**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Physics 2017 - **Sheldon Glashow**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Physics 1979 - **Steven Weinberg**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Physics 1979 - **William D. Phillips**, United States. Nobel Laureate in Physics 1997.

Buenos Aires, January 23, 2019



FREEDOM FOR ÖCALAN! A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KURDISH QUESTION!
OFFICIAL NOTARY DOCUMENTS ON 10 MILLION SIGNATURES



PROCES-VERBAL DE CONSTAT

L'AN DEUX MILLE QUINZE

LE 25 MARS

A LA REQUETE DE

The International Initiative « Freedom for Öcalan, Peace in Kurdistan » avec siège social à 1060 BRUXELLES, « Kurdistan National Congres » rue Jean Stas 41

Je soussigné, Célestin PLUGERS, Huissier de Justice, de résidence à 3090 OVERIJSE, Brusselsesteenweg 80

Me suis rendu au siège prénommé où j'ai rencontré une préposée de l'organisation soit Madame OZLEM TANRIKULU,

Elle me montre les signatures réceptionnées en réponse sur la pétition organisée. Au hasard je vérifie.

Le solde du constat de ce jour s'élève à 701.903 pour les villes Kurdes en Turquie et la Russie .

En supplément du constat du 10 février 2015 le total s'élève des lors à :

Constat du 10.02.2015 : 9.548.303

Constat du 25.03.2015 : 701.903

TOTAL : 10.250.206

Je joins la liste me remise en annexe.



HUNGER STRIKES



In 2007, a hunger strike began in Strasbourg, France, to protest Öcalan being poisoned. A wave of protests quickly spread across Kurdistan, Turkey, and Europe.

In a second hunger strike, which began in Strasbourg and Turkey in 2011, more than 700 Kurdish prisoners and many ordinary Kurds all over the world demanded the right to speak their mother tongue and insisted that the Turkish state negotiate with Öcalan.

In 2018 and 2019, a campaign of hunger strikes launched by imprisoned HDP MP Leyla Guven grew to involve hundreds of Kurdish political prisoners and activists in Turkey and beyond demanding an end to Öcalan's isolation. The hunger strikes resulted in Öcalan's first meetings with his lawyers in years in early 2019. The meetings occurred periodically until August 2019. He has not been allowed to meet with his lawyers since then.

In 2023-2024, coordinated hunger strikes were carried out in prisons by hundreds of Kurdish political prisoners in Kurdistan, Turkey and Greece to demand an end to Öcalan's isolation.



TRADE UNION CAMPAIGN



The Freedom for Öcalan UK trade union campaign was launched in 2016 in the UK parliament by UNITE and the GMB, following mass outrage in the union movement at Turkey's support for ISIS and refusal to help the Syrian Kurds defend themselves against the extremist group in Kobané.

Since then it has grown to include 14 major unions and won support from the Trade Union Congress. Unions from other countries across Europe, Latin America, and Africa have also joined the campaign and launched efforts of their own.

In July 2023, a coalition of over 40 unions, local governments, parties and movements, and intellectuals held a press conference in Brussels demanding urgent action to guarantee Öcalan's safety and well-being.



DELEGATIONS

In 2005, an ad-hoc delegation attempted to visit Imrali following a year of visit bans imposed on Öcalan. For the past 10 years, international peace delegations have been organised to assess Öcalan's situation, demand meetings and an end to isolation, and meet with legal experts and human rights organizations working for peace.

HONORARY CITIZENSHIP

Thirteen municipalities have given Öcalan honorary citizenship. Many are in Italy, one of the countries through which Öcalan traveled before his capture.

Leaders in these municipalities have spoken out against Öcalan's isolation, demanded a political solution to the Kurdish question in Turkey, and protested against Turkish attacks on North and East Syria.



“FREEDOM FOR ÖCALAN – A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KURDISH QUESTION” CAMPAIGN

This new campaign was launched on 10 October - the day after the 25th anniversary of Abdullah Öcalan's expulsion from Syria that ended with his abduction by an international plot and imprisonment in Turkey. International supporters carried out 74 actions - one for each year of Öcalan's life - in 31 different countries. (At least that was the plan, but more events kept being added...)

Argentina, Australia (2 locations), Austria 2 locations), Bangladesh, Belgium (European Parliament Brussels and 2 other locations), Brazil, Colombia (2 locations), Cyprus, Denmark, East Timor, Ecuador, England (2 locations), Eswatini, France (Strasbourg 2 and 6 other locations), Germany (11 locations), Greece (2 locations), India, Ireland, Italy (15 locations), Kenya (2 locations), Myanmar, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain/Basque Country/Catalonia (6 locations), Sweden, Switzerland (6 locations), and Wales.

Those taking part included politicians, trade unionists, and activists, many of whom see links between Öcalan and the Kurdish Movement and their own struggles. The first message received came from women of the Bangladesh Garment Workers' Union, and there was strong support from other subjugated nations, such as the Basques. Among the many demonstrations and oral statements, were some more visual messages - a giant image of Öcalan in Munich, a street performance in Berlin, and a mock-up of Öcalan's prison cell in Lubjiana. The French authorities prevented the central event outside the Council of Europe in Strasbourg with a last-minute ban, but the parliamentary speakers gave their speeches inside the Council building instead.

These international actions were followed by over thirty demonstrations in different parts of Kurdistan, and more in the Kurdish diaspora, and by statements of support from Kurdish organisations everywhere. In Kurdistan, supporting groups have ranged from cultural and art organisations in North and East Syria, to Arab youth in Şengal. The call for Öcalan's freedom made in Amed (Diyarbakir) was supported by 172 different organisations.



MASS ACTIONS & EVENTS

Around the world, street stalls were held in many cities, and many marches were organised by Kurdish youth movements.

Demonstrations, press conferences, and panel discussions in support of the campaign have been held across Europe, South America, Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. Thousands of postcards have been sent to İmralı Island prison.

MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION IN COLOGNE, GERMANY

On the 17th of February, tens of thousands of people from across Europe gathered in Cologne for a demonstration to mark the 25th anniversary of the handing over of Abdullah Öcalan to Turkey on 15 February 1999.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, BOOK DAYS AND DIALOGUES WITH ÖCALAN

Conferences on Öcalan's theories have been held in different countries in Europe, Latin America, Kurdistan, and the wider Middle East, attracting attention from political parties, social movements, academics, activists, and others seeking to understand his ideas and the ways in which the Kurdish movement implements them in practice and build international solidarity.

Alongside many smaller meetings, and further statements from groups and individuals, there have been discussions and support statements at the International Women's Forum in Düsseldorf; at the World Youth Conference in Paris - attended by representatives of over sixty organisations; at the Dialogue Forum in Raqqa - attended by 250 women; and at the international Art and Freedom Conference organised in Basel by the Academy for Democratic Modernity. There has been a conference at the University of Rome, and a press conference at the Italian parliament, and Öcalan's situation was raised in the Parliament of New South Wales. Spain's Aragon Parliament hosted discussion on Kurdish rights, Öcalan's isolation in May of 2024. Support from artists has included an installation in Paris with a prison cell for each year of Öcalan's incarceration.

In 2023 alone, international conferences were held in Hamburg, Germany and Bogota, Colombia. These conferences saw hundreds of participants despite active censorship and repression.

The Global Öcalan Books Day, were held between 7 and 14 December 2023 and ignited a series of events worldwide, including readings, discussions, and seminars across Europe, Latin America, the USA, and the Middle East. The Ocalanbooks.com website facilitates access to Öcalan's writings in 16 languages, fostering international engagement throughout the week.



Dialogues with Öcalan

15 - 22 June 2024

A conference was held in the European Parliament in April 2024 titled 'Political Prisoners: Isolation, ill-treatment and torture' conference, which addressed the detention conditions of political prisoners in Turkey and Europe, focusing specifically on conditions in Imrali.

In June 2024, events across Europe titled 'Dialogue with Öcalan – you can't imprison ideas!' have been organized, with the goal to address the ongoing isolation of Öcalan and foster public discourse around his concepts and writings.



FREEDOM FOR ÖCALAN! A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KURDISH QUESTION!

LETTERS TO THE CPT

In the spring of 2024, dozens of letters from European civil society, politicians, activist and unions were sent to the CPT, demanding that Öcalan's lawyers and family be allowed to visit him. This initiative was paired also with demonstrations and press conference held outside of the CPT, and was successful in both eliciting a response from the CPT, and in brining international attention to the struggle for the freedom of Abdullah Öcalan.

Dr. Alan Mitchell

President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)
E-Mail: cptdoc@coe.int

Dear Dr. Mitchell,

We, the concerned members of an international network comprised from various NGOs, trade unions, political parties, and European Parliament members, are writing to you following our EP conference with an urgent appeal that requires your immediate consideration. We are joined by throngs of supporters who have peacefully gathered around the headquarters of the CPT and CoE for five days of protest in the hope of gaining your attention.

For the past 36 months, Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan, who is seen by millions of Kurds as their rightful political representative, has been held in an extreme form of incommunicado detention by the Turkish state on the prison island of Imrali. During this illegal and inhumane isolation, Mr. Öcalan has been "disappeared" and dropped into a void of "non-existence," while being denied all contact with the outside world, including his lawyers and family. Throughout this period, Turkey has attempted to transform Imrali island into a "floating coffin". Mr. Öcalan, who is now 75 years old, has been subjected to cruel torture through isolation for 25 years and over the last three years, no information has been provided concerning his health. At this point, even his whereabouts cannot be confirmed, and his physical condition is a highly sensitive issue for millions of Kurds who see him as embodying their national voice.

This is we are summoning you, the CPT, to act. As the CPT, you are entitled to visit all places of detention of states which are party to the Convention, including Turkey. This affords you the ability to send your team of experts to Imrali, where the Turkish government must grant you unrestricted access to visit where Mr. Öcalan is being held captive and allow you to interview him in private so he can communicate with you freely.

What we are asking is simply that the members of the CPT act in accordance with Article 3 of the Statute of the CoE, which states that "Every member of the Council of Europe must accept the principles of the rule of law and the enjoyment by all persons within its jurisdiction of human rights and fundamental freedoms." Mr. Öcalan is a citizen of a CoE member state that has been denying him his human rights for two and half decades, and for the last three years, has been depriving him of his legal rights to meet with his lawyers and speak with his family.

All we ask, with complete sincerity, is that you please immediately send a delegation to visit Imrali Island to speak with Mr. Öcalan and check on his well-being. Following that, we would greatly appreciate if you could attempt to compel Turkey to allow him to receive a visit from his family and lawyers, so that they are in compliance with CoE and CPT obligations. This would help address an urgent human rights issue and concern for millions of Kurds and could also renew the spirit of reconciliation, which are needed to find a peaceful solution to the Kurdish issue in Turkey.

With gratitude for your time and hope that you receive this as a heartfelt plea,

The Internationalist Solidarity Network behind the
'Freedom for Öcalan: A Political Solution to the Kurdish Question' Campaign

Members of the Network

- Aksha Bhargya, Founder of 1 Billion Rising, India
- Agilan Wandanajah, Erlam Tamil People's Council, Germany
- Alfonso Di Stefano, Solidarity with Kurds, Catania, Italy
- Anna Bruna Camposampiero, Head of Foreign Relations for the PRC, Italy
- André Metayer, Amisins kurdas de Bretagne, France
- Antonino De Cristofano, Executive of CORBAS School Trade Union, Italy
- Arne Zapornic, Activist-ADM, Slovenia
- Beatriz Cardona I Pons, Representative of the Trade Union in Valencia, Spain
- Benny Olof Gustafsson, Member of Södertörn Solidarity Committee with Kurdistan, Left Party, Sweden
- Beth Hartmann, Member of the Solidarity with Kurdistan Initiative, Norway
- Bill Bowring, Professor, Barrister, Birkbeck College, University of London, UK
- Daniel Leick, Associate Professor of Political and Social Philosophy, University of Amsterdam, Germany
- Dursun Dagdeviren, EUTOC board member, KURD-AKAD, Germany
- Dilek Begit, Group leader for the Civica Bologna Coalition in the Bologna City Council, Italy
- Dismenico Macipari, Ya Bana, Italy
- Eduardo Lucas Camacho, Representative of the IAC Alternative Trade Union, Catalonia
- Efstathios Efthymiou, Lawyer, Cyprus
- Eleonora Bonaccorti, Chair of Fondi di Pace Association, Italy
- Eleonora De Maio, Former Municipal Councilor of Naples, Italy
- Elisabeth Decrey, Former President of the Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, Switzerland
- Emily Marion Clancy, Vice Mayor of the Municipality of Bologna, Italy
- Emmanuel Roemer, Member of the 'Parliament on Cannabis' Organization, Colombia
- Erik Hagelöf, Activist and political scientist, Germany
- Esterina Vitano, Researcher at University in Sella, Italy
- Eva Buppho Ewensdottir Brath, Member of Södertörn Solidarity Committee with Kurdistan, Left Party, Sweden
- Federico Vismanti, Academician, Freedom Committee for Öcalan, Italy
- Fernando Coll Sol, Representative of the CSC Trade Union in Catalonia
- Florentia Gaurde, France
- Felipe Martinez, Sociology and writer, Colombia
- Gerhard Keller, Wahlrechtskampfer e.V., Germany
- Gian Luigi Deiana, Antonio Gramsci Association, Giffenza, Italy
- Guendelino Piattoini, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (MRAIP), Switzerland
- Giulio Picozzi, Left-green alliance consultant for the senate group, Italy
- Giovanni Piazza, Lecturer at the Political Science Faculty of the University of Catania, Italy
- Nicole Rhein, Activist für den Frieden, Germany
- Gregor Gysi, Lawyer, MP Die Linke, Germany
- Isabel Martínez-Rico Valdivia, Theatrical Actress, Gakita, Spain
- Sylvie Jan, Chair of France-Kurdistan Association, France
- Jessica Merli, Secretary of FLC CGIL of Milan, Trade Union of Schools, Italy
- Jesper Brandt, Professor Emeritus, Department of Science and Environment, Denmark
- Jona Sophie Kahl, Linksjugend, Germany
- Jose Vicente Mero, PhD Candidate in Anthropology, University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Julia Iglesias Lopez, Plataforma Kurdistan, Basque Country
- Julie Ward, Former MEP, UK
- Kaja Hilbert, International Leader of Socialist Youth, Norway
- Katrine Wirthwein, Chair of EUTOC, University of Bergen, Norway
- Katrin Niederwieser, Journalist, Austria
- Cosmeo Viales, Collaborative of RRAM, Spain
- Marc Clases Ramirez, ABRAN Youth Organization in the Catalonia
- Maria M. Gomez Llano, Plataforma Kurdistan, Basque Country
- Martin Dülzer, Writer, Germany
- Maximiliano De Croca, Secretary of FLC CGIL of Lombardia, Italy
- Manuel Roemer, Colombia
- Medhild Eiss, Senior Lecturer, Doctor of Political Sciences
- Minut Ullrich Ugurtas, Representative of the ELA Trade Union, Basque Country
- Nicola Salvatore Andrea Gius, CORBAS School Trade Union Suedgna, Italy
- Naomi Ferrini, Gallia Baran Platform, Spain
- Nihal Al Kadi, Human Rights Activist, Netherlands
- Ogmundur Jonasson, Former Minister of Justice, Iceland
- Oliver Landolf Böhm, Kurdistan Committee Representative in International Forum Copenhagen, Denmark
- Oriola Casagrande, Journalist, Basque Country
- Paolo Peroni, Former Minister of Social Affairs, Italy
- Pascal Ange Torm, Co-chair of the Solidarity with Kurdistan Committee, France
- Pedro Lobos Diaz, Representative of OSTA Trade Union, Aragón
- Renato Stramita, Secretary CUB Trade Basic Union, Italy
- Renee Femande Germaine Le Mignot, Co-chair of MRAIP, France
- Rezan Sanca lawyer, Aum Law Office, Turkey
- Roberto Mapelli, Ass. Punto Rosso Italian editor of Öcalan's book, Italy
- Rolf Gossner, Lawyer, publicist, parliamentary advisor, and civil rights activist, Germany
- Rosa Mounassal, Editor of L'Harmattan, France
- Rosalia Picozzi, CORBAS School Trade Union Suedgna, Italy
- Rudolf Büchel, Die Linke Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- Sabine Stübbeck, Die Linke Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- Sarah Glynn, Archivist, Academic, Activist, UK
- Simon Oual, political scientist, journalist, Germany
- Simon Dubbin, Director of International and Research for UNITE! the Union, UK
- Stephania Herodotos, Activist, UK
- Stephen Krüger, Barrister, Criminal Defender and Public Law Practitioner, UK
- Susanne Kitzler, Wahlrechtskampfer e.V., Germany
- Thomas Schmidt, Lawyer, ELDDH
- Thomas Philipp, Liverpool John Moores University, UK
- Thomas Redwood, Co-Director of The Kurdish Centre for Studies, USA
- Tord Kjerfve, Member of the Red Party, Norway
- Triana Sakrakis, Lawyer, Cyprus
- Valentín Brugué Saló, Representative of the IC Confederation of Trade Unions in Austria
- Vicent Jose Belandis, Representative LAB, Trade Union in Basque Country
- Walter Bauer, President of the Party of the European Left
- Xosé L. Rivera Jacinto, Representative of CIG - Galician Confederation of Trade Unions



De: CPT Doc <CPTDoc@coe.int>

Fecha: 15 de mayo de 2024, 12:34:46 CEST

Asunto: Carta al Presidente del CPT* con las firmas de MPs españoles

Thank you for your message of 14 May 2024 about the conditions of detention of Mr Abdullah Öcalan at Imrali F-type Prison.

Please allow me to assure you that the CPT follows closely the situation of Mr Öcalan and the other persons held in Imrali Prison. As you are aware, the Committee has visited this prison on a number of occasions, most recently in September 2022. In addition, the situation of those detained on Imrali continues to be an integral part of the Committee's ongoing dialogue with the Turkish authorities (see, for example, the [news flash](#) on the CPT's most recent visit to [Türkiye](#) in February 2024).

Thank you again for your message. The CPT will continue to monitor the situation in respect of Mr Öcalan and indeed each of those held in Imrali.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Mitchell
President
CPT

Sent: mardi 14 mai 2024 10:40

To: CPT Doc <CPTDoc@coe.int>

Cc: CHETWYND Hugh <Hugh.CHETWYND@coe.int>; ALIYEV Elvin <Elvin.ALIYEV@coe.int>

Subject: Carta al Presidente del CPT* con las firmas de MPs españoles

Their answers are always the same. Keeping silence while torture and violations continue.



FREEDOM FOR ÖCALAN! A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE KURDISH QUESTION!

VIGIL FOR ÖCALAN



On June 25, 2012, Kurds began holding a daily vigil in front of the Council of Europe building in Strasbourg. They are calling for Öcalan to be freed and are determined to continue the vigil until this goal is achieved. This vigil remains ongoing at present.

More Information: <https://vigilocalan.com/resistance/>





FREEDOM FOR
ÖCALAN
A POLITICAL SOLUTION
TO THE KURDISH QUESTION



Freedom For Ücalan, A Political Solution to the Kurdish question

#FreeÜcalan4PoliticalSolution