

EUTCC Press release
16 March 2021
For immediate release

EUTCC Statement on Abdullah Öcalan

On 14 March allegations were shared on social media regarding the life of Kurdish political leader Abdullah Öcalan. Asrin Law Office released a written statement demanding to create communication channels that will end the state of isolation in İmralı that constitutes maltreatment and applied to the Bursa Chief Public Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Justice for urgent visit. There has been no response yet. The last visit of attorneys was in August 2017, the first and last phone call in April 2020. His family is also denied visits. Speaking about the allegations on social media Öcalan's brother Mehmet Öcalan said they were not able to see him for a year now and added: "We are concerned. The government is responsible."

In its last report, published in 2020, the CPT again referred to Öcalan's solitary confinement and in addition criticised that all prisoners in İmralı continued to be denied visits by their lawyers and family members.

In its final resolutions, the EUTCC annual conferences in the European Parliament have called upon the EU member states, European institutions, especially the Council of Europe and the CPT, and the United Nations to take diplomatic, political and legal measures to compel Turkey to comply with international law concerning the ongoing isolation of Abdullah Öcalan as a basis for democratic processes in Turkey and a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question.

The EUTCC urges the Turkish government to enable regularly visits by his attorneys and family. Furthermore, the EUTCC demands Mr. Öcalan's immediate release and a return to dialogue for a political solution to the Kurdish question which is essential to achieve peace, democracy, and freedom not only in Turkey, but in the entire Middle East.

On behalf of the EUTCC board

Kariane Westrheim, Chairperson
Dersim Dağdeviren, board member



EU Turkey Civic Commission

CONTACT:

Prof. Kariane Westrheim
Mobil: 004797642088

kariane.westrheim@gmail.com
brusselsconferencep@gmail.com

CHAIR

- KARIANE WESTRHEIM, Professor at University of Bergen, Norway

SECRETARY GENERAL

- MICHAEL GUNTER, Professor at Tennessee Technological University, US

BOARD MEMBERS

- DERSIM DAGDEVIREN, KURD-AKAD, Germany
- DR. JOOST JONGERDEN, Wageningen University, Netherlands
- DR. THOMAS JEFFREY MILEY, Department of Sociology, Cambridge University, UK
- ESTELLA SCHMID, Peace in Kurdistan Campaign, UK

PATRONS

- ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS DESMOND TUTU, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, South Africa
- SHIRIN EBADI, Human Rights Lawyer Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Iran
- BIANCA JAGGER, Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador, Chair of the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation, UK
- NOAM CHOMSKY, Laureate Professor of Linguistics, University of Arizona Departement of Linguistic, US
- LEYLA ZANA, European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, Rafto Prize Laureate, Turkey
- BARONESS HELENA KENNEDY QC, House of Lords, UK
- CHRISTINE BLOWER, National Education Union (NEU), International Secretary, UK
- MARY DAVIS, Visiting Professor of Labour History, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK
- SIMON DUBBINS, UNITE International Director, UK
- JAMES KELMAN, Writer, UK
- JONATHAN STEELE, Veteran foreign correspondent and author, UK
- DOUG NICHOLLS, General Secretary, General Federation of Trade Unions, UK

