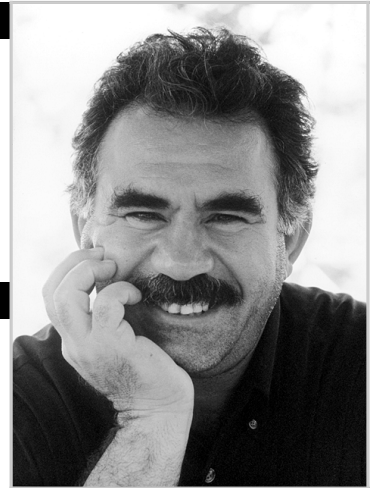


Freedom for Abdullah Ocalan

Who is Abdullah Ocalan?

Millions of Kurds regard Abdullah Ocalan as their political representative. About 3.5 million Kurds have testified this in a signature campaign in 2006. He is the most important exponent of their struggle for cultural rights and democracy and has become a symbol for the freedom of the Kurds. Ocalan opposes separatism and secessionism and stands for a democratic Middle East with all the peoples having equal rights which he has put forward as his perspective for a solution.



Tireless peace efforts

Since 1993, Ocalan has been trying to create conditions that are suitable for a peaceful solution of the conflict. Even after his illegal abduction and imprisonment in 1999, he has remained a consistent advocate of a peaceful, political solution. From 2006 to 2011 he has led talks with the Turkish government about a political solution of the conflict. In 2009 he presented a "Road Map for Peace".

Incommunicado

Since 1999 the inhuman isolation of Ocalan on Imrali has been subject to criticism by the Council of Europe's anti-torture committee (CPT). For 11 years Ocalan has been the only prisoner on the island—watched over by more than 1,000 soldiers and hidden from the outside world. Meanwhile he is one of six inmates in isolation. The collapse of the talks in July marked the beginning of a renewed complete isolation of the prison island. All visits from lawyers or family are prevented. On top of this, in November the complete defense team of Ocalan has been arrested. The arrest of 33 lawyers constitutes the biggest attack on jurists in the history of Turkey. The conditions in Imrali remain worse than in any other prison in Turkey. The Erdogan government bears full responsibility for all this.

Erdogan has chosen war

While the Kurdish side insistingly presents proposals for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, the Erdogan government answers with war on all fronts. After the elections in June it made unmistakably clear that it has no interest in a peaceful solution of the conflict. The electoral success of the Kurdish party BDP was answered with mass detentions and air raids, all talks were broken off. Overnight Erdogan forgot all peace promises, changed the military leadership and headed for war.

War and state terror in Kurdistan

Since August, Turkish war planes and artillery are bombing targets in South Kurdistan (Iraq) almost daily. Mostly civilians have been slaughtered by these bombs. Until now seven civilian victims are documented, among them five children and a pregnant woman. Also in North Kurdistan (Turkey) soldiers fire with live ammunition on demonstrators. A city council member of Van has been murdered in this way. About 4,500 Kurdish politicians are in Turkish prisons. For his part, Ocalan developed a "roadmap for peace" which contains concrete proposals for a peaceful solution. This has to be followed to the next logical step: serious negotiations for a political solution to the conflict. For this, first of all the bombings and mass detentions have to be stopped.

Why are we here?

We want peace and a democratic solution in Kurdistan and Turkey. We believe that Abdullah Ocalan with his ideas for a democratic autonomy in a democratic republic is the guarantor of such a solution. The inhumane isolation torture against him must be stopped; he must at last be recognized as a partner for a political solution.

Therefore:

- Free all lawyers of Abdullah Ocalan! Torture and isolation must be stopped, Imrali prison must be closed down!
- Immediate stop of all bomb attacks, military operations and mass arrests!
- Immediate start to negotiations for a political solution to the conflict!
- Dialogue, not violence: Freedom for Abdullah Ocalan—Peace in Kurdistan!



Peace in Kurdistan

International Initiative "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan – Peace in Kurdistan"

PO Box 100511, D-50445 Cologne, info@freedom-for-ocalan.com, www.freedom-for-ocalan.com