

INFORMATIONS DOSSIER

**KURDISH PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF
KURDISH PEOPLE'S LEADER ABDULLAH OCALAN**

**WHY IS THE COMMITTEE FOR
PREVENTION OF TORTURE (CPT) NOT
FULFILLING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES?**



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WHY AREN'T EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS TAKING ACTION AS THE KURDISH PEOPLE'S LEADER MR ABDULLAH OCALAN'S LIFE IS IN DANGER?

The sit-in action in the city of Strasbourg for the Kurdish people's leader Abdullah Ocalan is continuing. The indefinite sit-in action was started by the Kurds in front of the CPT when several Turkish media outlets ran stories on whether Mr Ocalan was alive or not. The action, demanding that a delegation from



the CPT visit Abdullah Ocalan in the prison island of Imrali, is in its 18th day. Hundreds of Kurds and their friends say that they will continue their action until they receive reliable information regarding Mr. Ocalan's wellbeing. The protesters say that they have no information about Mr Ocalan's health and that if anything were to happen to him, the Council of Europe and the CPT would be held responsible. There are other actions including hunger strikes, sit-ins, and meetings held in other locations.

Below is the most recent statement from the KCDK-E, representing Kurds, the peoples of Turkey, Assyrians and Yazidis:

"We know very well that the Council of Europe and the CPT can take steps to allay our concerns. Despite the fact that we have had no news from our leader Abdullah Ocalan for two years, the CPT has chosen to remain silent, their insensitivity is completely irresponsible behaviour. This is an unethical stance and is one that turns a blind eye to torture. Although the CPT is supposedly 'the Committee for the Prevention of Torture', its silence on the isolation of Abdullah Ocalan is a reflection of the prejudice against the Kurdish people by European states and their administrative brain: the Council of Europe. Yet one should not look at the personality, ethnicity or gender of anyone being subjected to torture. No matter who it is, if someone is being subjected to torture one must stand in solidarity with the victim. This is the mission and responsibility of the CPT".

Why is the CPT not fulfilling its responsibilities?

On the 15th day of the indefinite sit-in action demanding that the CPT visit Abdullah Ocalan in the prison island of Imrali, protesters converged on the European Parliament to declare that they would not compromise on their demands.

The Kurds and their friends are making an urgent call on the CPT:

- Thousands of Kurds and institutions, parties and NGOs from every part of Kurdistan participated in the action and called the CPT to action. Despite the fact that these organizations deem Mr Ocalan the will of the Kurdish people and that they have received no news from him, the CPT is yet to take any action.
- A delegation consisting of MEP Julie Ward, former MEP Francis Wurtz and HDP Representative to the Council of Europe Faik Yagizay met with CPT officials. In the meeting the CPT claimed that they were in an active dialogue with Turkish officials regarding Abdullah Ocalan, but they are yet to take any action.

- Many MEPs, Members of the Council of Europe, French and Alsatian friends of the Kurds visited the action to show their support. Despite many Italian councils and parliamentarians sending letters to the CPT, there is still no response.
- Many Kurdish artists also showed support for the action. These artists also have had no response to their demands.
- Many Kurdish councillors and party representatives are still taking their place in the action, but are yet to hear anything back from the CPT.
- The families of martyrs who lost their lives in the Kurdish freedom struggle and veterans are also at the action. These warriors who defeated ISIS are also yet hear anything back from the CPT.
- To protest the silence of European institutions Welid'e Def from the city of Afrin in the north of Syria attempted to set himself alight in front of the CPT. "The CPT is Erdogan's slave, why don't they go to Imrali Island at once? The CPT can solve this problem," Welid said before trying to set himself alight.

Call from imprisoned MPs

The imprisoned Co-chairs and MPs of the HDP have made calls for a delegation to visit Imrali Island and for international organizations to stand against solitary confinement.



The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) Co-chairs and MPs made a joint statement on the isolation of Abdullah Ocalan. Co-chair Selahattin Demirtas (Edirne Prison) and Co-chair Figen Yuksekdog (Kandira Prison), Idris Baluken (Sincan Prison), Abdullah Zeydan (Edirne Prison) and Ferhat Encu (Kandira Prison) made a joint statement:

"We are witnessing an increasing concern for the wellbeing and security of Mr Abdullah Ocalan. The Severe isolation that was initiated 2.5 years ago on 5 April, 2015 was temporarily overlooked when a member of his family was allowed to visit him on 11 September, 2016. More than a

year has passed since that day and no one has been able to see Mr Ocalan."

The Parliamentarians made these calls:

- *We call upon the CPT and all international institutions to not remain silent in the face of this unlawful practice.*
- *A political delegation must visit Imrali Prison immediately. Without this visit, nothing will allay our concerns, our worries will deepen. Inhumane isolation must end immediately.*

Actions continuing in Turkey and Kurdistan

Peace Mothers in Van start hunger strike for Öcalan

Members of Van Peace Mothers Assembly went on hunger strike demanding to know about Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan's health condition and security.



Peace Mothers in Van have joined the massive hunger strikes to call attention to the isolation imposed on Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan who is held in High Security Prison on İmralı Island. Following a demonstration, members of Van Peace Mothers Assembly started hunger strike in the office of the Democratic Regions Party (DBP) where a banner reading "Isolation will fail, freedom will prevail" was hanged.

Female prisoners go on indefinite hunger strike for Öcalan

Actions to end the isolation in İmralı Prison are expanding. A new group has taken over the hunger strike in İstanbul, the hunger strike in İzmir is on its 12th day, Mersin started a new hunger strike, a strike in Mardin will continue until the 12th of November.

Protests continue for Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan who is held in aggravated isolation by the Turkish state in İmralı Island High Security Prison since April 5, 2015.



Seven female prisoners in Antalya L Type Closed Prison have started indefinite and non-alternate hunger strike on October 26 demanding an end to the aggravated isolation imposed on Kurdish People's Leader Abdullah Öcalan.

Informing about their protest through their lawyers, the female prisoners joining the hunger strike stated that they will continue their protest until a meeting is held with Öcalan as some of the current news and social media posts regarding his health condition and security are causing concerns.

The isolation of the Kurdish leader started on April 5, 2015, about two and a half years ago, lasted until September 11, 2016, when one of his family members was finally allowed to visit him on Imrali as a result of the hunger strike of 50 Kurdish politicians. However, ever since, he is being kept in isolation again, and neither his family nor his lawyers has been allowed to see him, and there has been no change in the aggravated isolation imposed on him.

This inhumane policy, violating all rights of prisoners, is leading to concerns for foremost, but not only, Kurds all around the world.

We demand:

- ***We call on the Committee for Prevention of Torture (CPT) to intervene to ensure that the necessary information needed in this situation is obtained.***
- ***We call on all Kurdish and democratic groups to take action and demand an explanation over Öcalan's health and security situation.***
- ***We call on the international forces which handed Öcalan over to Turkey on 15th February 1999 to intervene in the name of humanity and their collective responsibility in his captivity and later trial which was found to be unfair and he was found to be subjected to psychological torture, under European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR).***