

Final Resolution EUTCC Conference "Political prisoners in Turkey: Where the path of freedom and peace goes".

Brussels - EU 16 February 2024 - Final resolution

The International Conference on “Political Prisoners in Turkey: Where goes the Path of Freedom and Peace”, discussed the issue of Kurdish political prisoners and especially the issue of not hearing from Mr. Abdullah Öcalan for 3 years, as well as the political solution to the Kurdish question.

Distinguished academics, union representatives, political parties, human rights defenders, lawyers, municipal council members and parliamentarians who attended our conference clearly stated that the torture and illegal situation that Kurdish political prisoners and Mr. Öcalan are subjected to is unacceptable.

All these personalities and representatives of institutions stated their support to the campaign ‘Freedom for Öcalan and a political solution to the Kurdish question’ campaign launched on October 10, 2023.

The participants are increasingly concerned about Mr. Öcalan’s security and well-being. Isolation is internationally recognized as a form of torture. For this form of torture to go on for three years is extremely dangerous. Mr Öcalan is being held in solitary confinement with massive effects on physical and mental health. We do not know anything about Mr Öcalan’s condition beyond the fact that he has recently received ‘disciplinary measures’ to block meetings on false pretenses and has allegedly been sent death threats.

The conference also discussed further steps and reached the following decisions:

1. The isolation on Mr. Öcalan must be lifted immediately and the European Council must intervene to allow him to meet with his family and lawyers.
2. Kurdish leader Mr. 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.
3. In light of the seriousness of the recent threats to Mr. Öcalan’s life, we call on the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the EU and the UN to organize an urgent ad hoc mission to visit Abdullah Öcalan.
4. Initiating more efforts to make the alarming situation known to the public in the international and local press.
5. In order to draw attention to the situation of the political prisoners, the unions consider a general strike for 1 minute at an appropriate time.
6. Initiation of initiatives to put the issue on the agenda of all national parliaments, especially in the EU and the CoE.
7. Suspension of all aid to the Turkish government, which violates its own domestic and international law.
8. Legal and institutional recognition of the Kurdish nation and the right to self-determination.