

Dear

We urge you to be the first member of the federal parliament to request the House of Representatives to appeal to the Turkish State for the release of Mr Abdullah Ocalan, co-founder of the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

For many people around the world he is a leader advocating peace, democracy and justice. He is no more a terrorist than Mr Nelson Mandela was. His release is essential to end Turkey's war on Kurds in Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Please see the attachment for some factual information about Ocalan.

Yours faithfully,

Kurdish Lobby Australia

16 October 2020

Nelson MANDELA

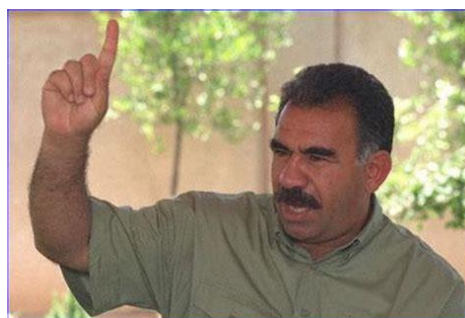
In prison for 27 years



Former British Prime Minister
Margaret Thatcher called Mandela
a communist terrorist!

Abdullah OCALAN

In prison for 22 years and counting



Australia's Attorney General, Christian
Porter, lists Ocalan's Kurdistan Workers
Party (PKK) as a terrorist organisation!



It's time to free OCALAN for peace, freedom, equality & sustainable economy throughout the Middle East!

Abdullah Ocalan is the co-founder of the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, whose ideas have inspired people around the world. Turkey calls him a terrorist. Back in October 1998, Turkey threatened war on Syria to force the Syrian regime to expel Ocalan. Ocalan was subsequently kidnapped and imprisoned on the island of Imrali.

Ocalan's 22 years in prison is just shy of Nelson Mandela's 27 years. Like Mandela, the young Ocalan was a firebrand Marxist whose world view subsequently evolved. For the last 25 years Ocalan has advocated peace, co-existence, human rights, women's rights, an ecology-based economy, and a just society of grass roots democracy: essential ingredients if humankind is to have a viable future.

Years after Ocalan made the philosophical change from fighter to peacemaker, Turkey used relentless pressure on countries to list PKK as a terrorist organisation. By 2005 there was ample evidence of Turkey's policies of terror against Kurds, nevertheless, the Australian Government succumbed to Turkey's pressure and listed PKK as a terrorist organisation based on often unverified evidence supplied by Turkey's National Intelligence Organisation. The reputation of this organisation has since been discredited on multiple counts, including its links with ISIS, and frequent fabrication of 'evidence' against PKK.

Fifteen years have gone by. The PKK remains listed as a terrorist organisation in Australia, the US and most EU countries, but not by the UN, Israel, Switzerland or the world's largest democracy, India. In these 15 years, the Turkish state has proven to be a sponsor of terror, war and lies. PKK has fought ISIS and protected Yezidi Kurds from ISIS. Ocalan has become the source of an enlightened sociology that has inspired Kurds, Arabs & Christians in and outside the Middle East.

One of the greatest sociological contributions Ocalan has made is the idea that there must be a male and female co-chair for every leadership position and that every committee should be at least 40 percent female. Then there is Ocalan's concept of democratic con-federalism based on an equitable political representation of all ethnicities and religions.



The Kurds and their allies in Syria have implemented Ocalan's ideas, but over in Turkey, the plight of Kurds turned bleak in 2015. Until then, Erdogan had supported peace talks with Ocalan. When the Kurd-led political party, HDP, won an unprecedented 80 seats in parliament, Erdogan changed course. He declared war on Kurds on the pretext of eliminating the PKK. Meanwhile, unlike Mandela, Ocalan is kept in complete isolation, even from family and lawyers.

Since 2015, the international community has come to see President Erdogan and his coalition government for what they are: a dangerous mix of authoritarian Ottoman-inspired Islamism and ultra-Nationalism that stops at nothing to politically destroy, invade, occupy and ethnically cleanse the Kurdistan regions of three countries.

To stop Turkey's war crimes, it is time for the international community to declassify the PKK, and to call on Turkey to release Abdullah Ocalan and former HDP leader Selahattin Demirtas, and all imprisoned Kurdish parliamentarians and mayors. Just as Nelson Mandela was released from prison to end the apartheid regime, Ocalan and Demirtas must be released from prison to negotiate the end of Turkey's war on Kurds. It is time to use all possible levers to leave Turkey with no doubt that the best course of action is to accept Kurds' right to self-determination, as defined by the UN Charter. Only then can Turks and Kurds achieve peaceful co-existence.

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