

To the Attention of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the UN Human Rights Committee:

We, the undersigned Nobel Laureates, express our support for Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan's call for peace, and our ongoing concern about the conditions under which he has been held during his 26 years of imprisonment. In a time of intensifying conflict around the world, Mr. Öcalan's call for peace and democracy in Turkey stands as a beacon of hope for the peoples of the region.

As European and international entities charged with promoting and protecting human rights and preventing torture, Mr. Öcalan's decades of imprisonment are not new to you. The Nobel Laureates also have written to you on several occasions about Mr. Öcalan's imprisonment and that of other political prisoners in Turkey.

We write again due to significant developments in the Turkish-Kurdish peace process and the case of Mr. Öcalan. On the 27th of February 2025, Mr. Öcalan put forward a call for "peace and a democratic society", calling for a ceasefire, the laying down of arms, the convening of a congress to discuss the dissolution of the PKK, and democratic political solution to the Kurdish question. In his call, he stresses the importance of strengthening fraternity between the peoples of Turkey, and his commitment to facilitating the peace process. Mr. Öcalan's call follows in spirit of fraternity and peace as Alfred Nobel emphasized so strongly. As Nobel Laureates, we recognize and support this initiative. In the context of resumed peace negotiations, and as the legitimate political representative and leader of the Kurdish people, Mr. Öcalan must be free and allowed to participate fully in the peace process he initiated, and thus to communicate freely with his lawyers, his party, and all actors in this process.

The concern of the Nobel Laureates who have signed this open letter arises from the apparent lack of meaningful efforts made by the European entities addressed here as well as the UN Human Rights Committee on his behalf. While Mr. Öcalan rights are guaranteed under the Turkish constitution and domestic legislation, under statutes and regulations of the European Union, and through international law, none of that seems to matter.

We call upon all these bodies to fulfill their obligations regarding protecting the rights of Abdullah Öcalan. We call on the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers to ensure the implementation of the ECHR 2014 decision against aggravated life sentences, and on the "right to hope."

Mr. Öcalan's call for peace has received widespread international support, from the UN Secretary General, to nearly a dozen national governments, to members of the European Parliament, and civil society organizations around the world. President Erdogan has himself recognized that the only way forward to peace between the Turkish and the Kurdish people is through dialogue and negotiation with Abdullah Öcalan, as was demonstrated with during the Oslo talks (2009-2011) and the Imrali process (2013-2015). We call for Mr. Öcalan's release and for him to be given full and unrestricted opportunity to participate in the peace process.

Sincerely yours,

Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize (1997) - Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2003)

Peter Agre, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2003)

Thomas R. Cech, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1989)

Aaron Ciechanover, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2004)

Elias James Corey, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1990)

Johann Deisenhofer, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1988)

Joachim Frank, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2017)

Alan Heeger, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2000)

Richard Henderson, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2017)

Avram Hershko, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2004)

Roald Hoffmann, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1981)

Brian K. Kobilka, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2012)

Roger D. Kornberg, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2006)

Yuan T. Lee, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1986)

Michael Levitt, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2013)

David W.C. MacMillan, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2021)

Hartmut Michel, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1988)

Paul L. Modrich, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2015)

Craig C. Mello, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2006)

Edvard Moser, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2014)

May-Britt Moser, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2014)

Sir Paul M. Nurse, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2001)

Ardem Patapoutian, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2021)

Stanley B. Prusiner, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1997)

Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2019)

Charles M. Rice, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2020)

Sir Richard J. Roberts, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1993)

Thomas C. Sudhof, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2013)

Jack W. Szostak, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2009)

Harold E. Varmus, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1989)

Drew Weissman, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2023)

Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, Nobel Peace Prize (1996)

Oleksandra Matviichuk, Nobel Peace Prize (2022)

Mairead Corrigan-Maguire, Nobel Peace Prize (1976)

Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize (1980)

William E. Moerner, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2014)	Leymah Roberta Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize (2011)
Richard R. Schrock, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2005)	IPPNW, Nobel Peace Prize (1985)
Arieh Warshel, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2013)	Dmitry Muratov, Nobel Peace Prize (2021)
Sir Gregory P. Winter, Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2018)	Oscar Arias Sanchez, Nobel Peace Prize (1987)
Sir Oliver Hart, Nobel Prize in Economics (2016)	Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize (2014)
Finn E. Kydland, Nobel Prize in Economics (2004)	Lech Walesa, Nobel Peace Prize (1983)
Eric S. Maskin, Nobel Prize in Economics (2007)	Hiroshi Amano, Nobel Prize in Physics (2014)
Edmund S. Phelps, Nobel Prize in Economics (2006)	Barry Clark Barish, Nobel Prize in Physics (2017)
J. M. Coetzee, Nobel Prize in Economics (2003)	J. Georg Bednorz, Nobel Prize in Physics (1987)
Elfriede Jelinek, Nobel Prize in Literature (2004)	Steven Chu, Nobel Prize in Physics (1997)
Herta Muller, Nobel Prize in Literature (2009)	Albert Fert, Nobel Prize in Physics (2007)
Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize in Literature (1986)	Sheldon Glashow, Nobel Prize in Physics (1979)
Harvey J. Alter, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2020)	David J. Gross, Nobel Prize in Physics (2004)
Victor Ambros, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2024)	Gerardus 't Hooft, Nobel Prize in Physics (1999)
David Baltimore, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1975)	Takaaki Kajita, Nobel Prize in Physics (2015)
Mario R. Capecchi, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2007)	Ferenc Krausz, Nobel Prize in Physics (2023)
Peter C. Doherty, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1996)	Anthony J. Leggett, Nobel Prize in Physics (2003)

Andrew Z. Fire, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2006)

John C. Mather, Nobel Prize in Physics (2006)

Carol W. Greider, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2009)

Michel Mayor, Nobel Prize in Physics (2019)

Leland H. Hartwell, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2001)

Konstantin Novoselov, Nobel Prize in Physics (2010)

Jules A. Hoffmann, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2011)

Roger Penrose, Nobel Prize in Physics (2020)

H. Robert Horvitz, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2002)

H. David Politzer, Nobel Prize in Physics (2004)

Sir Michael Houghton, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2020)

Donna Strickland, Nobel Prize in Physics (2018)

Tim Hunt, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2001)

Kip Stephen Thorne, Nobel Prize in Physics (2017)

Louis J. Ignarro, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (1998)

Robert Woodrow Wilson, Nobel Prize in Physics (1978)

Barry J. Marshall, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (2005)

David J. Wineland, Nobel Prize in Physics (2012)