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TO THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE,

**TO THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND
INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT (CPT)**

We, as the signatories of this document, consider serious isolation of Mr. Abdullah Öcalan the violation of fundamental human rights especially prohibition of torture and right of defence and request you to immediately take steps at the Turkish Government level.

İmralı Island is a special place free from law

Mr. Abdullah Öcalan has been kept in and Island prison, of which name is İmralı and was designed specifically for this purpose, since 15 February 1999 in other words since he was brought to Turkey. İmralı is an island, whose 5 mile has been declared militarily prohibited area, and is closed to any civilian access.

Mr. Öcalan was kept as the sole inmate of the island prison on İmralı from 16 February 1999 to 17 November 2009 that is about 11 years. Then, 5 other inmates from other prisons were transferred to the island. He had chance to meet other inmates up to five hours per week while he was still kept as the sole inmate in his cell. The transfer of new inmates means nothing other than having five people in isolation and torture atmosphere.

As it is stated in the European Court of Human Rights and in the CPT reports Mr. Öcalan has never been allowed to access to the telephone. His right to send letters or other communication means are limited. While he is not allowed to send letters, there is limitation, censorship or confiscation without notification as regards letters sent to him. Although there is legal guarantee of two visits by relatives, this right is either arbitrarily limited or totally ignored.

Visits by lawyers are not allowed for reasons such as “boat breakdown or adverse weather conditions” that limit or make the right meaningless and are contrary to law. All visits by lawyers have been denied on İmralı Island since 27 July 2011. Mr. Öcalan has been denied to receive visits by lawyers since 27 July 2011, by relatives since 6 October 2014 and by political delegation, which was used to go to the island, since 5 April 2015.

Isolation is torture

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) states: “[...] *the situation of indisputable isolation to which the prisoner has been subjected since 16 February 1999* [...]” (<http://www.cpt.coe.int/documents/tur/2008-13-inf-eng.pdf>, p.31). European Court of Human Rights Second Section holds [...] there has been a violation of Article 3 of the Convention (from 16 February 1999 to 17 November 2009) that is about torture and inhuman treatment.

Isolation is part of war policy

This unprecedented isolation together with the violation of fundamental human rights as regards Mr. Öcalan threatens also internal peace and becomes a source of tension in Turkey. This situation seriously harms the possibility of negotiation and peaceful means to solve the problems. Any period that isolation is increased, as it is in nowadays, is the period of high violence on people. This balance has been in use since the beginning. Any period that there is chance to access to Mr. Öcalan or he can express his views is the period of high possibility of peace.

Being against isolation means being against war. It means embracing peace. Being against this serious isolation, cruelty to Abdullah Öcalan, whose freedom is demanded by 10 million 328 thousand people from a wide geography, various language, culture, ethnicity and views, means that one is on the side of all these different identities.

Women and men, who are inspired by Mr. Abdullah Öcalan's views, resisted to the ISIS brutality in Iraq and Rojava and forced it to take steps back in the region. Moreover, Rojava project, which is peace island for the co-existence of all identities in the Middle East or a geography Shia-Sunni polarisation is imposed, is a phenomenon that can never exist without Öcalan. We object to this serious isolation of Mr. Öcalan since this objection means embracing and supporting this plural and democratic life.

According to our law and justice understanding, belief in free, democratic and pluralist society, everyone should act against the torturing Öcalan and play his/her role.

STOP SERIOUS ISOLATION AND TORTURING ABDULLAH ÖCALAN!

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