

KURDISH HUNGER STRIKES



#EndTheIsolation
#SpeakUpForKurds

 @KurdishHungerStrikes
 @KurdishStrike

KURDISH HUNGER STRIKES

WHO IS LEYLA GUVEN MP?

Elected to the Turkish Parliament for Hakkari on 24 June 2018 while in prison, she has been on hunger strike since 8 November 2018, along with thousands of other political prisoners and activists. She was arrested on 31 January 2018 for her political activities. She also served as Mayor of Küçükdikili (2004-2009) and Viranşehir (2009-2014).

Why are thousands of Kurds on Hunger Strike?

Leyla is demanding an end to the isolation of the Kurdish People's leader Mr. Abdullah Ocalan who has been incarcerated on the Turkish Imrali Island Prison, since 15 February 1999.

For many years Mr. Ocalan has been held in aggravated isolations conditions, which the UN defines as a form of torture. He has not been permitted a visit by his lawyers since July 2011. He was allowed a brief 15 minute visit by his brother on 12 January 2019 the first time since September 2016. This is a grave violation of Ocalan's most basic human rights.

Peace and freedom

Mr. Ocalan was the key negotiator with Turkey during the peace talks between the Turkish government and the Kurdish Freedom Movement. However, the Turkish government ended the peace talks in 2015 despite Mr. Ocalan insisting on implementing the peace process. Leyla began her hunger strike to draw attention to the isolation conditions of Mr. Ocalan and demands his release for peace.

Thousands of political prisoners across prisons in Turkey have also begun indefinite and irreversible hunger strikes. Hunger strikes have also since begun in Erbil, Strasbourg, Paris and various German cities.

In the U.K., Imam Sis from Newport, Wales has been on an indefinite hunger strikes since 17 December 2019, **the longest hunger strike in U.K. history.** Aid worker Nahide Zengin and political activist Mehmet Sait Yilmaz have been on indefinite hunger strikes since 14 March 2019. Nine political prisoners and activists have already lost their lives during the hunger strikes and many all over the world willing to die for the same demand.

Wales is first to show national solidarity

The Welsh Assembly recently passed a motion in the Senedd to support Imam Sis and the Kurdish Hunger Strikers demands and committed the Welsh Government to send a letter to the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (@CoE_CPT) to visit Imrali Island to check on the conditions of the Kurdish leader, Abdullah Öcalan.

URGENT WE NEED YOUR HELP!
SUPPORT THE KURDS! SUPPORT PEACE!

Important Information: Leyla Guven has been on indefinite Hunger Strike since **8 November 2018**, **Erbil** - Nasir Yagiz since **21 November 2018**, Thousands of **Political Prisoners** since **16 December 2018**, **Strasbourg** - 14 activists since **17 December 2018**, **Wales** - Imam Sis since **17 December 2018**, **London** - **Nahide** and **Sait** since **14 March 2019**, **Paris** - **H. Ozkan Ozdemir** since **1 April 2019**

They demand an end to the isolation because:

- The aggravated isolation of Mr. Ocalan demonstrates the escalation of the authoritarianism of Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkish government. The extended State of Emergency and attacks against freedom of expression have become ever more widespread in Turkey, making Turkey the biggest jailer of journalists worldwide.
- Isolation is a violation of Turkey's constitutional laws and international law. It is an obstacle to a democratic solution to the Kurdish Question in Turkey that will lead to well-deserved peace.

Please help us save the lives of our friends!

Please Tweet @Jeremy_Hunt using #EndTheIsolation #SpeakUpForKurds asking him to write to **The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)** to do their job and for **Turkey** to honour its commitments.

For more information please follow www.facebook.com/KurdishHungerStrikes/ and twitter.com/KurdishStrike