



KON-KURD

Konfederasyona Komeleyên Kurd li Ewrûpa
Confederatie van Koerdische Verenigingen in Europa
Confédération des Associations Kurdes en Europe
Confederation of Kurdish Associations in Europe

Result of the signature campaign

“I, from Kurdistan, recognize Mr. Abdullah OCALAN
as a political representative in Kurdistan”

With this document KON-KURD, the confederation of Kurdish associations in Europe, presents the result of its campaign. The campaign began on July 14th, 2005 with the phrase “I, from Kurdistan, recognize Mr. Abdullah OCALAN as a political representative in Kurdistan.” and the collection of signatures was finalised on May 1st, 2006.

Objective of the Campaign

The campaign was initiated to support Abdullah Ocalan, who has been under attack, by the Kurdish people who see him as a leader and a symbol. It is at the same time a demand for a political solution to the Kurdish question. Like other peoples, the Kurdish people have undertaken the struggle for freedom, independence and national rights several times. Each and every time this resulted in massacres and losses. Nevertheless this struggle for freedom, peace, democracy and national rights is continuing.

Mr. Ocalan does not only strive for the Kurdish people. At the same time he proposes an alternative social system, one that is modern and democratic, instead of the backward, anti-democratic, reactionary mentalities and administrations of the Middle East. The essence of his political struggle consists of women's freedom, democratic-ecological society and its philosophy of life as well as different religions and cultures living together forming a richness. This philosophy and ideas of Ocalan have been the guidelines for the Kurdish people's struggle for the past 30 years.

Nevertheless Abdullah Ocalan has been handed over to Turkey as a result of an international plot in which several states violated their own domestic and international jurisdiction. The Kurdish people regards this plot as an illegal and immoral assault directly against herself and will never accept it.

On July 14th, 2005 our confederation initiated a signature campaign in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Russia, Europe and all other places that the Kurds live under the title “I, from Kurdistan, recognize Mr. Abdullah OCALAN as a political representative in Kurdistan.”. The campaign has been conducted under extremely difficult circumstances and was prohibited and hindered almost everywhere that it was conducted.

Realisation of the Campaign

The campaign that was initiated by KON-KURD has been supported by several institutions in respective countries. In Turkey a group of volunteer activists supported the campaign under the name “Referendum Initiative Committee”. They organized committees in all provinces and districts where the campaign was conducted.

In Iraq a committee of intellectuals and writers at the universities of Duhok and from Silemaniye and Baghdad shouldered the task. Later PÇDK, TEVDA, the Party for Reconstruction (Hizbil

Binaa), the Allan newspaper, the Tigris cultural centre, the New Youth Union Iraq, the central committee of Feyli and the New Student's Union joined the campaign. Support also came from the governorship of Mosul, the rectorate of the University Mosul and the governorship of Kirkuk.

In Syria and Iran the campaign has been conducted as a people's initiative, in Europe it was conducted through the federations and associations that are members of KON-KURD. The age to participate in the signature campaign was restricted to those who are 16 years of age or older.

Number of collected signatures:

Turkey	2.042.902
Iraq	537.335
Iran	332.899
Syria	156.341
Europe	140.356
Russia	33.794
Total	3.243.627

Repression and Attacks against Campaign Activists

Turkey

80 of the volunteers that ran the campaign in Turkey have been detained. Meanwhile many of them have been sentenced from one up to seven years of imprisonment. The security forces confiscated more than 700.000 signatures.

Iran and Syria

In Syria the state's security forces confiscated about 170,000 signatures and in Iran 180,000 signatures were confiscated. In both countries many of the volunteers have been arrested, sentenced or threatened, in order to dissuade them from working for the campaign.

Iraq

In Kurdistan the campaign was confronted with obstructions such as repression, arrests and detainment by the security forces. Approximately 20.000 signatures have been confiscated.

Institutions that we will present the signatures to

On May 18th 2006, about one third of the collected signatures had reached the organisation committee. These were presented to the office of the General Secretary of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe during a rally. All signatures have been officially counted under the surveillance of a notary and the result notarised. The signatures are being kept in our archives.

The signatures and demands of the signatories have been presented to the European Council, since it does not only consist of the EU member states, Turkey along with many other states are members of it. The main areas of interest of the Council of Europe include human rights and democracy. Nevertheless, an

organ of the Council of Europe, the European Court for Human Rights, has found that Mr Abdullah Ocalan's trial in Turkey has not been impartial or independent and now the execution of this judgement is before the Committee of Ministers.

But the demands of the signatories are not restricted to the Council of Europe. The signatures will also be presented to the European Union, the European Parliament, the EU member states and the respective committees of the United Nations.

Furthermore, it is planned to present the signature to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. All those that the signatures are presented to are asked to respect the therein expressed political will of the Kurdish people and to take responsibility for the solution of the Kurdish question. Every bit of effort in that direction will bring closer the lasting peace that the people in the region are longing for.

Ocalan's ideas and concepts do not only cover the legitimate national and democratic rights of the Kurdish people, but also universal legal norms, human rights and basic freedoms. The signatures once again prove that everybody who cares about the problems in the Middle East has to re-evaluate their attitude towards Ocalan. The Kurds and the population of Kurdistan have once more declared that they want a peaceful solution with Ocalan.

Conclusion

With our campaign we, as KON-KURD, wish to contribute to the possibility of a political solution between the Turkish and the Kurdish side. We want to point out that Abdullah Ocalan, who is not being recognised in the political arena as a partner, represents the political will of the Kurds and is a leader of the people. With our campaign we have underlined the need for an independent and impartial trial to facilitate a solution to the Kurdish question. We would also like to draw attention to the fact that the Kurdish people, like every other people in the world, has the right to live freely under its own name, with its own identity, language and culture in its country and has the right to organize.

Therefore our campaign, as well as being a campaign for democracy, human rights, law and justice, is at the same time a striking indicator of how the Kurdish people regard Mr. Abdullah Ocalan. We think that our 10 month-campaign has brought out remarkable results and we present it to you for your information.

Brussels, World Peace Day 2006 (September 1st)