



SENATOR JORDON STEELE - JOHN
AUSTRALIAN GREENS
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

To: Bekir Bozdağ
Ministry of Justice
Republic of Türkiye

Dear Mr Bekir Bozdağ,

My name is Senator Jordon Steele-John, I am a Senator for Western Australia with the Australian Greens. I am our party's spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Peace and Nuclear Disarmament.

On behalf of the Australian Greens, I would like to express our support of the European delegation visiting the Republic of Türkiye.

This delegation, which will include international lawyers, politicians, and intellectuals, will hold meetings with civil society organisations, bar associations and legal organisations, as well as inmates' families and their institutions in Istanbul, Ankara and Diyarbakır. It will visit political parties that have a group in the parliament and parties outside the parliament, and it will also try to arrange a meeting with the Ministry of Justice.

One of the priorities of the delegation is to raise a concern for those detained at İmralı High-Security Prison, including Abdullah Öcalan (detained since 1999) along with Hamili Yıldırım, Ömer Hayri Konar, and Veysi Aktaş (detained since 2015). The delegation's concern includes that the inmates have not been able to exercise their right to communicate with the outside world.

Öcalan is recognised as a leader by millions of Kurds. Kurds want to be able to live in peace and dignity. Öcalan is key to any future negotiations for justice, peace, and democracy in Türkiye, like Mandela was in South Africa.

I look forward to a future of freedom for the Kurdish people. I hope your government can facilitate peace talks between Türkiye and the PKK, allowing both sides to reach a mutually negotiated agreement and achieve peace in the region.

Additionally, the Australian Greens:

- Recognise that Kurds in Türkiye still face discrimination in education, cultural and political life, and are denied the right to express their national culture through language, clothing and folklore.
- Recognise that since 2016, more than 10,000 members including Members of Parliament and Councillors of the Peoples' Democratic Party have been imprisoned, and some 6,000 are held in Turkish prisons.
- Support the delisting of the Kurdish Workers Party as a terrorist organisation.
- Support the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Kurdish people for self-determination.
- Have called on the Australian Government to support the Kurdish self-administered region in North Eastern Syria by calling on Türkiye to cease all military actions in this region, to



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withdraw its forces from Afrin, Serikani and Grisipi and to renounce any plans to invade North Eastern Syria.

I look forward to hearing from the delegation, including reflections on their meetings throughout Türkiye and an update on the welfare of Abdullah Öcalan.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jordon Steele-John'.

Jordon Steele-John
Australian Greens Senator for Western Australia