

Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers
Council of Europe

Dear Ms Corinne Schuhler Guirao,

I thank you for the very positive response I received today, 27 August, from Ambassador Andrius Krivas, on behalf of Mr Gabrielius Landsbergis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and President of the Committee of Ministers. May I be allowed in this correspondence to include Ms Jody Williams, Nobel Prize laureate 1997, so that she is informed of the promising response from the Council of Europe - Committee of Ministers. Ms Williams authored the letter to you and contacted the 68 other Nobel laureates who signed it.

We are grateful to be informed that the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers will ensure that the Committee remains in a position to fully monitor compliance with the commitments made by the Member States. This is very good news, but unfortunately our experience is that Turkey pays little attention to such calls, so that in practice no changes take place. Therefore, we would like to encourage the Committee of Ministers to take the initiative to send a delegation to Imrali prison island to investigate the situation and state of health of the life prisoner Mr. Abdullah Öcalan. It is now 42 months since he has had contact with the outside world, to the great sorrow of his family and increasing concern from his lawyers, who are denied access despite repeated applications for this. Since Turkey is a member state, we assume that pressure can be put on Turkey to grant a visit from the Council of Europe - Committee of Ministers.

We thank Ambassador Krivas again for the friendly and informative letter and wish the Committee of Ministers the best of luck in their important work.

Respectfully yours,

Kariane Westrheim