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The President of the European Court of Human Rights  
Office of the Registrar  
Registry of the European Court of Human Rights  
Council of Europe  
F - 67075 Strasbourg  
Registrar Marialena Tsirli

Bergen 3 September 2024

Dear Ms. Tsirli,

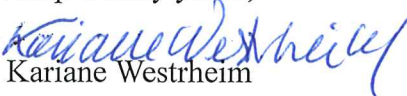
I thank you for the very positive response I received from the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights on the 29th of August, on behalf of the President of the European Court of Human Rights.

May I be allowed in this correspondence to include Ms Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize laureate 1997, so that she is informed of the positive response to the letter. Ms Williams authored the letter to the President of the ECHR and contacted the 68 other Nobel laureates who signed it. In the letter Ms Williams and the Nobel Prize laureates express their concern regarding the conditions of detention of Mr. Abdullah Öcalan. Similar letters have been sent to the Council of Europe's Committee of Torture and Inhuman or degrading Treatment (CPT), Council of Ministers (CoM), which are the Council of Europe's most important bodies when it comes to monitoring the commitments made by the Member States to maintain human rights standards. We therefore urgently ask the ECHR to take up the matter with both the CoM and the CPT and encourage them 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. As clearly stated in the Nobel letter it is now 42 months since Mr. Öcalan has had contact with the outside world, to the great sorrow of the Kurdish people, 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 CPT or other responsible bodies in the Council of Europe.

I again thank the president of the European Court of Human Rights for the positive response, and at the same time urge to take an initiative together with the other EU committees so that a delegation to Imrali becomes a reality soon.

Respectfully yours,

  
Kariane Westrheim

Professor emerita,  
University of Bergen  
The Rafto Foundation for Human Rights