



## **Open Letter for the International Campaign,**

### **Call for Support of the international Campaign: **The Time Has Come: “Freedom for Abdullah Ocalan towards a just peace in Turkey”****

The Kurdish Human Rights Action Group (KHRAG) in South Africa and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) invites you to support our campaign:

### **The Time Has Come: “Freedom for Abdullah Ocalan towards a just peace in Turkey”**

Our key objective is to promote a just peace in Turkey and the region. President Erdogan's authoritarian regime has in the last few years pursued an internal and external policy of expansionism and aggression. These expansionist policies has negatively affected the Kurds in Turkey, and has undermined peace efforts in Middle East, North Africa, Caucasus and Europe.

The freedom of Abdullah Ocalan as the legitimate representative of the Kurdish people is essential to pave the way for peace, in Turkey and the region. We know from our own experience in South Africa that the release of the legitimate and credible leadership is inevitable and a necessary precondition for any peace process.

International criticism of Turkey, for its ongoing abuse of human rights and its expansionist policies has increased. We are well aware that the mobilization of all freedom loving people around the world against the apartheid regime led to the release of Nelson Mandela and the formation of a democratic state in South Africa. Similarly, we believe that the release of Abdullah Ocalan could create the conditions for a peaceful resolution of the conflicts within Turkey and the region.

Our campaign is directed at the UN, of which Turkey is also a member. We believe that a coordinated international solidarity campaign can create the impetus for the UN to act.

The UN has set a precedent by its call for the release Nelson Mandela, in addition the UN played a crucial role in-passing the so-called Nelson Mandela Rules, which set the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules). These precedents set the basis for the treatment of political prisoners, and also confirms that the release of authentic and credible leaders are crucial in any peace process.

Please sign our attached letter and send it to the  
UN Secretary-General United Nations, UN Headquarters, S-3800, New York, NY 10017.  
USA: [sgcentral@un.org](mailto:sgcentral@un.org) and email a copy to us at [sakhrag@gmail.com](mailto:sakhrag@gmail.com)