



Open letter ahead of the upcoming trial of Taner Kılıç and the Istanbul 10

On Wednesday the trial of 11 human rights defenders including Taner Kılıç, and İdil Eser the chair and director of Amnesty International Turkey, will resume in Istanbul.

The 11 face outlandish “terrorism” charges in what can only be described as a politically motivated prosecution aimed at silencing critical voices within the country. If convicted they could face jail terms of up to 15 years. This sends a chilling message not just to people in Turkey but around the world.

With many people unfairly imprisoned as part of the crackdown following the bloody coup attempt in Turkey - including journalists, lawyers and civil society leaders – some may ask why focus on these 11 people? The answer is simple: when human rights defenders are silenced all our rights are put at risk. They are the ones that stand up for us. Now we must stand up for them.

We are proud to add our voices to the global demand to end this gross injustice and to immediately and unconditionally release Taner Kılıç from jail.

The Turkish authorities must know that the eyes of the world will be on Istanbul’s central court for this trial. We will not stay silent. Defending human rights is not a crime.

Signed

- Edward Snowden, human rights defender
- Catherine Deneuve, actor
- Ai Weiwei, artist
- Angélique Kidjo, musician
- Anish Kapoor, artist
- Sting, musician
- Peter Gabriel, musician
- Francois Morel, actor
- Elif Shafak, author
- Bianca Jagger, human rights activist
- Juliet Stevenson, actor
- Indira Varma, actor (Game of Thrones)
- Mogens Lykketoft MP, ex-President of the UN General Assembly
- Nacho Sanchez Amor, OSCE Human Rights Committee Chair
- Mirosław Wyrzykowski, Constitutional judge, Poland

- Dr. Shashi Tharoor MP (former UN Under-Secretary General)
- Ryan Gage, actor
- Pasha Bocarie, actor
- Nazanin Boniadi, actor
- HK, musician
- C 215, artist
- Lucas Belvaux, film maker
- Laurent Gaudé, writer
- El Moustach/Hicham Gaoua, artist
- Said Salhi, Vice president of LADDH (Algeria)
- Salil Shetty, Amnesty International Secretary General
- Ken Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch
- Claude Rolin MP (Belgium)
- Tanita Tikaram, musician
- Mohamed Fahmy, journalist
- Peter Greste, journalist
- Mark Oakley, Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral
- Peter Tatchell, human rights defender
- Natacha Régnier, actor
- Franck Pavloff, writer
- Emily Loizeau, musician
- Romain Goupil, film director
- Nicolas Lambert, comedian
- Clotilde Courau, comedian
- André Dahmer, cartoonist
- Luiz Eduardo Soares, anthropologist and writer
- Sérgio Haddad, professor
- Flávia Oliveira, journalist
- Ricardo Henriques, economist
- Sueli Carneiro, philosopher
- David Lammy MP (UK)
- Caroline Lucas MP (UK)
- Stephen McCabe MP (UK)
- Tom Brake MP (UK)
- Catherine West MP (UK)
- Carol Monaghan MP (UK)
- Joan Ryan MP (UK)
- Christopher Stephens MP (UK)
- Kevin Brennan MP (UK)
- Jim Cunningham MP (UK)
- Rosie Cooper MP (UK)
- Eleanor Smith MP (UK)
- Wes Streeting MP (UK)
- Stephen Doughty MP (UK)

- Daniel Zeichner MP (UK)
- Stephen Kinnock MP (UK)
- Geraint Davies MP (UK)
- Marie Rimmer MP (UK)
- Grahame Morris MP (UK)
- Antoinette Sandbach MP (UK)
- Madeleine Moon MP (UK)
- Tonia Antoniazzi MP (UK)
- Preet Gill MP (UK)
- Phillipa Whitford MP (UK)
- Sarah Wollaston MP (UK)
- Gareth Thomas MP (UK)
- Emma Dent Coad MP (UK)
- Hilary Benn MP MP (UK)
- Tommy Sheppard MP (UK)
- Olivier Py, France
- Paul Rondin, France
- Monika Płatek, President of the Polish Association for Legal Education
- Adam Bodnar, former board of United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture
- Mikołaj Pietrzak, former Chair of the Human Rights Council of the Polish Bar Council
- Krzysztof Śmiszek, co-founder of Polish Society of Anti-Discrimination Law