



# ELDH European Association of Lawyers for Democracy & World Human Rights

EJDM Europäische Vereinigung von Juristinnen & Juristen für Demokratie und Menschenrechte in der Welt

EJDH Asociación Europea de los Juristas por la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos en el Mundo

EJDH Association Européenne des Juristes pour la Démocratie & les Droits de l'Homme

EGDU Associazione Europea delle Giuriste e dei Giuristi per la Democrazia e i diritti dell'Uomo nel Mondo

WITH LAWYERS  
IN 23 COUNTRIES

Equality Privacy Social Rights  
No Racism Peace No Torture No War  
Self-Determination of Peoples Civil Rights Democracy  
Human Rights Rights of Migrants

Bologna, Donostia, Düsseldorf, Vienna, 11 July 2025

## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

Date: July 11, 2025

Location: Hasana Cave, Iraqi Kurdistan

## ELDH Supports Symbolic Disarmament and Democratic Transformation Led by the Kurdish Movement

The European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH), represented by its Co-President Urko Aiartza, has participated as part of the international witness group at the symbolic destruction of arms ceremony held today in the Hasana Cave, Iraqi Kurdistan. This initiative, led by the newly formed Group for Peace and Democratic Society, marks a significant step forward in accelerating the democratic transformation process initiated by the Kurdish movement under the guidance of Abdullah Öcalan.

Today's symbolic disarmament is a clear demonstration of the Kurdish movement's unwavering commitment to a peaceful and democratic resolution of the Kurdish-Turkish conflict. It represents a powerful call to leave violence behind and pursue a future grounded in dialogue, justice, and democratic participation.

This process, guided by Abdullah Öcalan, deserves the solidarity and support of all those who believe in the fundamental right of peoples to live in peace. However, meaningful progress toward peace requires reciprocal commitment from all sides. In this regard, the Turkish government must also take concrete, positive steps to support the transformation of the conflict.

For many years, ELDH has condemned the ongoing solitary confinement of Abdullah Öcalan, considering it a violation of international human rights standards. Today, we reiterate that this situation is not only legally indefensible but also politically counterproductive. A lasting and just

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resolution of the Kurdish–Turkish conflict cannot be achieved while the key interlocutor for peace remains isolated and silenced. His freedom is a necessary condition for building a credible path toward reconciliation.

Furthermore, a democratic framework must be established within the Turkish political and legal system to openly address the roots of the conflict. This includes the creation of a parliamentary commission composed of legally elected representatives tasked with engaging in meaningful dialogue and negotiations on all aspects of the conflict.

A peaceful resolution also requires attention to related issues such as political prisoners, disarmament, reintegration, and reconciliation. These complex matters demand the active and cooperative involvement of all parties concerned.

In a global context where human rights and peace are under severe strain, the Kurdish movement's initiative for a peaceful resolution offers a much-needed example of political courage and democratic aspiration. It is a process that those committed to democracy, human rights, and international law must support.

ELDH will continue to accompany and support the efforts of the Kurdish and Turkish peoples in their pursuit of a just and lasting peace.