Minister of Justice of the Republic of Turkey

Mr Abdülhamit Gül

Adalet Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara

Turkey

Dear Minister,

I wish to express my deep concern about the arbitrary detention of publisher, philanthropist, businessman and civil-rights defender **Mehmet Osman Kavala**.

Osman Kavala has been working for peace and democracy all his life and has played a key role in a lot of initiatives promoting peace and democracy in Turkey. He has helped to found one of Turkey´s most important publishing houses and has also spent much time working for the charitable foundation Anadolu Kültür. He is a founder of International Peace and Reconciliation Initiative.

Osman Kavala was first detained on 18 February 2017 and charged with alleged involvement in the Gezi Park protests. On 18 February 2020 he was acquitted of those charges. A few hours later he was returned to prison and he was charged of threats to “constitutional order”. The judicial proceedings against Osman Kavala are a travesty of justice. There is no substance whatsoever for the allegations. It is clear that he is being penalised for his legitimate support for human rights and democracy.

Osman Kavala has now spent more than three years behind bars in Silivri Prison, without a fair and decent trial.

I strongly object to Osman Kavala’s arrest and his continued detention. The charges against him must be dropped and I call for his immediate and unconditional release.

Yours sincerely,