

Colgate University

CONCERNED SCHOLARS AND WRITERS

November 17, 2017

Mr. Recep Tayip Erdogan
President
Ankara, Turkey

Dear President Erdogan,

We, the undersigned write to you with an urgent request to release Mr. Osman Kavala from prison.

Observers from around the world have underscored that the charges against Mr. Kavala for having conspired against the Turkish government are groundless, and that Mr. Kavala has been the victim of a media smear campaign from extremists during a time of duress in Turkey.

Mr. Kavala is one of the most respected businessmen and public cultural figures in Turkey today. As the founder of the prominent Anadolu Kulture (Anatolian Culture), a non-profit company dedicated to building peaceful bridges between different ethnic groups in Turkey through the arts and cultural exchange. Mr. Kavala has done a great deal to create constructive and peaceful dialogue between ethnic groups in Turkey. His work has opened up vital civic spaces and has contributed greatly to the furthering of democratic values. He has been an advocate of constructive Turkish-EU relations, and has been a board member of important Turkish European NGOs such as Turkey-Poland Business Council, Turkey-Greece Business Council, and Center For Democracy in Southeast Europe.

He is known around the world as a man of great generosity, humility, and civility, and is not only a respected public figure in Turkey, but also held in high esteem in Europe, and North America.

Mr. Kavala's life work embodies a tireless dedication to humane values, tolerance, democracy, peace and rule of law. As friends of the Turkish people, and supporters of Turkish civil society and democracy in Turkey, we urge you to release Mr. Kavala.

Sincerely, (55 names follow)

Taner Akçam, Kalousdian Mugar Professor, Clark University

K. Anthony Appiah, Professor of Philosophy and Law, New York University

Peter Balakian, Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor, Colgate University

Janet Benshoof, President, Global Justice Center, NYC

Sven Birkerts, Writer, Bennington Writers Seminar

Peter Brooks, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Scholar, Princeton University

James Carroll, Writer

Israel Charny, Executive director, Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem.

Junot Díaz, Professor of English, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Deborah Dwork, Rose Professor of Holocaust History Clark University

Kai Erikson, Professor of Sociology Emeritus, Yale University

Daniel Feierstein, Director, Center for Genocide Studies, University of Buenos Aires

Carolyn Forché, University Professor, Georgetown University

Donna-Lee Frieze, Research Fellow, Deakin University,

Alice Fulton, Ann S. Bowers Professor of English, Cornell University

David Gewanter, Professor of English, Georgetown University

Todd Gitlin, Professor of Journalism and Sociology, Columbia University

Joy Harjo, John C Hodges Chair, Professor of English, University of Tennessee

Judith Herman, Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School

Susannah Heschel, Eli Black Professor of Jewish Studies, Dartmouth College

Marianne Hirsch, William Peterfield Trent Professor of Comparative Literature,
Columbia University

Professor Tessa Hofmann, Chair, Working Group Recognition Against Genocide, Berlin

Major Jackson, Richard A. Dennis Green & Gold Professor of English, University of
Vermont

Ben Kiernan, A. Whitney Griswold Professor of History, Yale University

Pamela Kingsbury, Director Writers Series, University of Northern Alabama

Robert Jay Lifton, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

Deborah Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies, Emory University

Shara Macallum, Liberal Arts Professor of English, Penn State University

Armen T Marsoobian, Professor of Philosophy, University of Southern Connecticut

Richard A. Meckel, Professor of History and American Studies, Brown University

Askold Melnyczuk, Professor of English, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Robert Melson, Professor of Political Science Emeritus Purdue University

Christopher Merrill, Director, International Writing Program, University of Iowa

Angela Miller, Professor of Art and Art History, Washington University in St. Louis

Dirk Moses, Professor of Modern History, University of Sydney

Adam Muller, Director, Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Manitoba

Jay Parini, Axinn Professor of English, Middlebury College

Jane Pinchin, Bartlett Professor Emerita, Colgate University

Robert Pinsky, Professor of English, Boston University

John Poch, Professor of English, Texas Tech University

Leo P. Ribuffo, Society of the Cincinnati George Washington Distinguished Professor of History, George Washington University

Michael A. Riff, Director, Gross Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies, Ramapo College

David Romtvedt, Professor of English Emeritus, University of Wyoming

Nancy L. Rosenblum: Senator Joseph Clark Research Professor of Ethics in Politics and Government, Harvard University

Tom Sleight, Distinguished Professor, Hunter College/CUNY

Bruce Smith, Professor of English, Syracuse University

Roger W. Smith, Professor of Government Emeritus, College of William and Mary

Dr. Gregory H. Stanton, Founding Chairman, Genocide Watch

Charles B. Strozier, Professor, Director Center on Terrorism, John Jay College/CUNY

Gordon Tapper, Chair, Professor of English, Laguardia Community College

Colin Tatz, Visiting Professor, Politics and International Relations, Australian National University

Henry C. Theriault, President, International Association of Genocide Scholars

Natasha Trethewey, Board of Trustees Professor of English, Northwestern University

Andrew Woolford, Professor of Sociology, University of Manitoba

Ragip Zarakolu, Director Belge Publishing, PEN Freedom to Publish Award

Contact: Peter Balakian, Colgate University, Department of English,
Hamilton, New York, 13346, 315-529-4841 pbalakian@colgate.edu