

2018-10-04

The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron

Dear Madame President,

At our meeting of the Nordic IPU-delegations in Kiruna, Sweden on 19-21 September 2018, we noted with great concern that earlier this month a Turkish court sentenced opposition politician Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş to four years and eight months in prison.

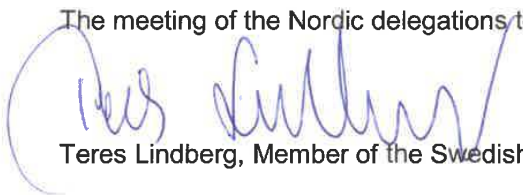
Mr. Selahattin Demirtaş is one of the leaders of the People's Democratic Party (HDP) in Turkey. In June 2018, he was a presidential candidate and, although he had to run his campaign from a prison cell, he received more than four million votes. Including future trials, he faces charges based on disputed allegations that he has "supported terrorism", which could lead to 142 years in prison.

The Nordic delegations to IPU have drawn attention to the persecution of fellow parliamentarians in Turkey on previous occasions. Madame President, we sincerely hope that you will take the opportunity at the coming session in Geneva to draw attention to the situation of Mr. Demirtaş and other Turkish parliamentarians. We also suggest that the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians processes this issue as a matter of urgency.

Thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

The meeting of the Nordic delegations to the IPU



Teres Lindberg, Member of the Swedish IPU-delegation, on behalf of:

Teres Lindberg, Member of the Swedish IPU-delegation

Søren Søndergaard, Member of the Danish IPU-delegation

Jutta Urpilainen, Chair of the Finnish IPU-group

Áslaug Arna Sigurbjörnsdóttir, Chair of the Icelandic IPU-delegation

Ulf Leirstein, Chair of the Norwegian Inter-Parliamentary Group

Cc: The Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians