

A PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER AND GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY

We are an international network of artists who came together through Salzburg Global Seminar's program "Conflict Transformation through Culture: Peace-Building and the Arts" in 2014.

We the undersigned appeal to the President, Prime Minister and Grand National Assembly of Turkey to review the case of **Osman Kavala** as a matter of urgency.

We represent organisations and initiatives worldwide that seek to use culture and the creative arts to improve understanding between different societies and ways of life, and where possible to help resolve conflicts. We are non-political. We all strive to remain loyal citizens of the countries we live in.

Osman Bey is an outstanding member of our community. He is a man of the highest principle. He is scrupulously honest, rigorously truth-seeking, brilliantly effective in everything he does, devotedly caring and magnificently generous. Osman Bey not only represents the best of what we as an informal group can offer; he is a wonderful ambassador for Turkish culture and for the values of empathy, passion, justice, tolerance and human dignity that characterise the Turkish way of life.

We collectively know Osman Bey well enough, as a person and through deep knowledge of the details of his life, to be sure beyond any shadow of a doubt that he has had absolutely **no part whatsoever** in activities intended to undermine the Turkish state, its democracy or indeed its President.

Like the rest of us, Osman Bey is a loyal citizen of his country.

We can only imagine that his imprisonment is a mistake. If this is the case, we beg you to look once again at the details of the accusations against him. If this is a deliberate fabrication and falsification of evidence against Osman Bey issuing from an interest group in Turkey or abroad, it is not only an act hostile to an outstanding force for good in our world, but also an act of hostility towards Turkey and everything that is noble in the Turkish way of life.

We wish to campaign for justice for Osman Bey in a manner that is respectful and supportive to Turkey and its democracy.

Anwar Akhtar

British Pakistani writer, journalist, film and theatre producer

Tina Ellen Lee FRSA

Producer and Artistic Director
European Citizen's Prize 2015
Winston Churchill Finzi Fellow

Michael Lessac

theatre, television, and film director and screenwriter
Director and Founder of Global Arts Corps
Artistic Director of Colonnades Theatre Lab, Inc, New York and of
Colonnades Theatre Lab, South Africa
Project Creator & Director of the international theatre piece, *Truth in Translation*.

Andrea López-Portillo

social weaver
M.A. media, peace and conflict studies. United Nations-mandated University
for Peace
M.A. peace, development, security and international conflict transformation
(2018). University of Innsbruck

Christina Maranci

American researcher, writer, translator, historian,
Professor at Tufts University
expert on the history and development of Armenian architecture

Paula McFetridge

Director and Producer, Artistic Director Kabosh
International member of the League of Professional Theatre Women
Belfast Ambassador Award 2014 for her work in using the arts to tackle
difficult social issues
NITB Hero Award for her work in cultural tourism and economic regeneration

Warren Nebe

Educator, Psychotherapist, Theatre Director, Managing Director
Expert specialist in Diversity Management and Training, HIV/Aids, Addictions
and Trauma, and Social Behaviour Change Programmes
Academic focus in Arts Education, Arts Therapies and Arts Activism as Critical
Pedagogy
Director, Drama for Life, University of the Witwatersrand; Managing Director,
Themba - Initiatives for Life

Nigel Osborne MBE FRCM FEIS FRSE

Composer, Educator, Aid Worker
Professor Emeritus, University of Edinburgh, Consultant, Peking University
former Co-Chair GAC for Arts, World Economic Forum
Adviser, Westminster and EU External Action Services
Freedom Prize of the Peace Institute, Sarajevo
Field worker, SAWA for Development and Aid, Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

Clare Shine

Barrister at Law
former Theatre Critic, Financial Times

Thomas de Waal

British journalist and writer on the Caucasus,
best known for his 2003 book *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan
Through Peace and War*.
Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe