

## Open Letter I, 2017-08-31

To all who accompany me in thought and deed!

A wholehearted thank you to all who support us, especially to my family and friends (and all who support them), to the German government, Ministries, Embassy, Consulate; to my legal team, and to my holistic security team, HIVOS + KURVE Wustrow, to all political campaigns that demand our release!

As I do not have any contact anymore to Ali and the other eight Human Rights Defenders since 4 weeks ago, I am writing this letter on my behalf only.

57 days ago, I got arrested, since 1 August I am in Silivri. Now, I am sharing a 3-person cell with a young Turkish detainee. We have one bedroom, one community room, and our own courtyard of 28m<sup>2</sup>. The prison guards usually treat us in a respectful and friendly way. The food is good and sufficient. We get books through our lawyers and the Embassy /Consulate.

Thus, I can say that externally, and mostly also internally, I am doing fine. However, this is also hard work, our detention is a clear violation of international human rights law, and the extreme limitation on communication is hard: once a week for 1 hour with our great lawyers, every other week 10 minutes by phone with our families.

I can only deal with this by doing a lot of yoga, Tai Chi (thanks to all who taught me), running a marathon in the courtyard (900 laps!!) and reading! In all this, it helps to know that many people are thinking of me and of us. Every evening at 6pm Berlin time, in parallel with our friends in the Gethsemane Church, I am sitting in the courtyard, singing loudly! This is sooo soothing! Even my cellmates already know the songs by now!

Everyday life in prison takes place between the opening of the courtyard at 8am, and the locking of the cells at 8pm: inspection of attendance, searching the cells, doing our laundry, cleaning the cell, playing chess and backgammon (both self-made).

Then, in the evenings, we continue playing games and talking, writing diaries and, of course, progressive muscle relaxation every morning and late evening, so that I don't get cabin fever and that the uncertainty-induced stress does not take over. Other than that, it's only chasing mosquitos that helps!

It's important to me that the political and legal responsibility for our situation isn't placed on Turkey as a country or its people. We experience a lot of solidarity, not only through our Turkish legal team and the interreligious dialogue, which I live daily with my Muslim roommate.

Those who know me know that there is a saying that carries me: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together!

In this spirit, let us walk the nonviolent path of human rights together!

With deep gratitude and strength,  
Yours,

peter

## **Open Letter, 2017-09-07**

To all who support the Istanbul10,

again, thank you very much for the many and manifold actions – I'm touched by them and they give me strength and endurance.

I am diligently training for the Berlin marathon on 24 September and will – if I'm not released beforehand – run the marathon simultaneously in our 4,8 x 7,2 m courtyard. However, it is the many curves that will keep me from reaching the 42km ;-). Whoever joins, even when training, try to wear T-Shirts with messages to us Istanbul10, like „you can do it“ ... this will soothe all of us!

If you are asking yourselves if the small steps, thoughts, and actions are meaningful? ... think of the mosquito: soo small, often alone, and she makes such a big difference through her presence!

What helps me escape here in my thoughts: books by Marge Piercy, Chimamanda Adichie, Khaled Hosseini, Orhan Pamuk!

For those who want to sing with me: Wachet + Betet (Keep watch and pray) / Der Himmel geht über allen auf (heaven rises above us all) / Tall Trees, Warm Fire/ We shall overcome!

Do not stop – wellbeing is resilience -  
Yours, peter.

## **Open Letter III, 2017-09-21**

Özlemek means to yearn!

And it is part of this situation. So it helps to make room for yearning, and also let books carry me into other realities. Thanks be to all authors who enable me to do this. Also, running away helps! :) Though in a circle, but each time at least 15km – including the marathon on Sunday, even though I have to make more turns :( But I will join the others in running on Sunday – I'm allowed to run, but not to vote [in the German federal elections]. In a marathon, every kilometer needs to be run. Likewise, here, every day, every hour, every minute needs to be lived, to be filled with living.

Güvenmek means to trust!

This is what carries me here: Trust. In all who are active for us and think of us, here and in Germany.

So long, thanks to you all.

Yours

peter

## **Open Letter IV, 2017-09-28**

Threefold stamina needed!

As I could not cast my vote [in the German federal elections] last Sunday, I joined all those who were with me and us in thoughts and feet (Thank you) in running for three hours in our courtyard; with more than 1500 rounds after all a half-marathon of 22,5km (with a lot of turns)!

Further stamina is needed for our long detention: After 85 days behind bars, all of us in here need your thoughts and solidarity!

And considering these [German] election results, we need stamina for political and practiced solidarity and open-mindedness.

Thus, we need nonviolent dialogue on all levels!

With many continuously enduring greetings,  
Yours, peter