

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL IN DEFENSE OF KURDISH CULTURE IN TURKEY

Like every human community, the Kurdish people have the right to preserve their cultural heritage and to freely express their identity. The Kurds' ancient culture is part of the world's cultural patrimony. The product of centuries of history, the work of generations, it deserves, like all other cultures, respect and protection. That is why the undersigned, guided by the principles proclaimed in the United Nation's Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on human rights, opposed to all forms of intolerance and discrimination, concerned with justice and democracy, urge the Turkish authorities to abolish all constitutional and legal bans on the use of the Kurdish language and, more generally, on all cultural expressions of the millions of Kurdish citizens of Turkey.

FIRST SIGNATORIES

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* US Senators also urge the governmental authorities in Iran, Iraq and Syria to abolish all the restrictions on the use of the Kurdish language and, more generally, to lift all prohibitions on cultural expression of their Kurdish citizens.

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WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS

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