

# Imprisoned Hunger Strikers

*See the person behind numbers*



Raise Your Voice for Leyla Initiative

April 2019

To whom it may concern,

Leyla Güven is a woman, a mother, a parliamentarian and a co-president of a congress. She went on hunger strike on 8 November 2018 stating that legal rights of Abdullah Öcalan, who is imprisoned in İmralı Prison, deriving from present legislation are not implemented which in turn forms a basis to attacks that amount to massacres against peoples, beliefs and women. She has underlined that if laws are implemented, the attacks will be reduced, there will be a ray of hope and a possibility that peace is put back on the agenda. As the government authorities did not initiate any democratic practices to this end, up to seven thousand political prisoners in prisons went on hunger strikes in groups with two week intervals. All demand that state abides by the provisions of existing laws and regulations in all prisons.

To this day, all prisoners and their families made calls, sent letters to and asked for appointments from the President, Ministry of Justice of Republic of Turkey, Chairperson of the Parliament, European Committee of Prevention of Torture (CPT), Council of Europe, Members of the European Parliament and parliamentarians of various states, human rights bodies and organisations (9000 e-mails have been sent to this end by 'Raise Your Voice for Leyla Initiative'). Nevertheless, none, except for a few individuals and civil movements, have addressed those that are gradually losing their lives and the public and responded. Similarly, rights violations faced by those on hunger strike have been sent to all relevant authorities. As opposed to this, an independent monitoring have not yet taken place.

Those on hunger strike in prisons are subjected to solitary confinement, those on hunger strike for a long time are not allowed to have people to accompany them, there are efforts to impede their communication with the outside world through imposing disciplinary punishments such not allowing them to receive visits from family members, to make phone calls, to send and receive mails.

They are subjected to physical and psychological violence. Reports of the Human Rights Association indicate that their blood pressure and weight are not regularly measured, they are not provided with adequate amount of salt, sugar, carbon, lemon, fruit juice and those in their possession are confiscated, and prices of such goods in prison markets are doubled. Those, who have spent decades in prisons struggling against rights violations are at risk of irreversible damage. It is noted that we have experienced difficulties in accessing information about the prisoners due to oppression in the prisons and on the families of prisoners.

Right when we were preparing this document, dead bodies of four young persons came out of prisons who sacrificed their lives for protesting the current situation. On 17th of March Zülküf Gezen (male, 33 years old) in Tekirdağ No. 2 F Type Prison, on 23th of March Ayten Behçet (female, 24 years old) in Gebze Women's Closed Prison, on 24th of March Zehra Sağlam (female, 23 years old) in Oltu T Type Closed Prison, on 25 March Medya Çınar (female, 24 years old) in Merdin Prison ended their own lives. The situation is moving beyond worrying to a disaster.

We believe that it is our humanitarian duty to present to you this document including short bios of prisoners who are on hunger strike and their last messages, and remind about humane conscientious, moral and legal responsibilities so that national and international dynamics are put into action with a view not to remain silent to and to put an end to this tragedy.

Raise your voice for Leyla Initiative.

## **Leyla Güven**

Leyla Güven was born in 1964 in the Yapalı district of Konya. She became active in political life with taking part in the executive body of the Konya branch of HADEP (People's Democratic Party) in 1994. In 2004, she was elected Mayor of Küçükdikili, Adana. In 2009, she was elected Mayor of Viranşehir, Urfa. She was arrested when she was a member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and she was imprisoned for five years. In 7 June 2015 she was elected as MP for Riha (Urfa). In January 2018 she was arrested and subsequently detained on the basis of her speech during which she criticised the attack by the AKP/MHP government on Afrin. In the parliamentary elections of the 24th of June 2018, she was elected an MP for Colamêrg (Hakkari) by obtaining 71% of city's votes. She went on indefinite, non-alternating hunger strike in 8 November 2018. After 79 days in hunger strike, she was released pending trial. She continued to be on hunger strike outside the prison. Civilian health professionals documented that her health has moved beyond the critical stage. Leyla Güven is an activist of Free Women's Movement (TJA), co-chair of the Democratic Society Congress (DTK) and People's Democratic Party (HDP) MP.

## **Raise Your Voice for Leyla Initiative**

A form was held on the 2nd of March 2019, stating that "we defend life; we show solidarity with Leyla", subsequent to more than five thousand political prisoners going on indefinite hunger strikes in 117 prisons on 1st of March. Women rights defenders, activists, representatives of civil society organisations, Peace Mothers, Saturday Mothers, Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, lawyers, journalists and members of parliament that came together through the form on the 115th day of the hunger strike of Leyla Güven set up the initiative.

# Short Bios and Last Messages

**Azime Işık:** has been imprisoned for 20 years. She is imprisoned in Şakran Women's Prison. She has been on hunger strike since 15 February 2019. In her message, she said *"İmralı isolation is not imposed only on Mr. Öcalan, it has been spread to the whole society"*.



**Ayten Gülsüm:** was born in Batman's Sason district in 1979. She was sentenced to 36 years in prison. She is imprisoned for 20 years. She went on hunger strike on 26 January 2019. In her last message she said *"isolation is imposed on the leadership and the whole society. We are trying to have our voice heard through our bodies. It is up to you to raise our voice"*.



**Berivan Bitmen** is imprisoned in Kayseri Women's Prison. She went on hunger strike on 5 January 2019. In her message, she said *"Isolation imposed on İmralı shall end, people shall not lose their lives"*.



**Besê Özer** is from Lice district of Diyarbakır. She was detained by JİTEM (Gendarmerie Intelligence and Counter-Terrorism) in 1996 and she was imprisoned for life. She has been in prison for 23 years. She went on hunger strike on 26 December 2018. In her last message, Besê Özen said that the action is *“a call to the essence of peoples’ reality, to its freedom. The people should say ‘No’, ‘Stop’, ‘Never’ to the isolation imposed upon on them. Turkish and Kurdish peoples: hear our call”*.



**Dilan Yıldırım** is imprisoned in Tarsus Women’s Prison. She went on hunger strike on 5 January 2019. In her message she said *“Isolation imposed on Mr. Abdullah Öcalan amounts to violation of rights at local and international level”*.



**Dilbirin Turgut** is 29 years old, she is a university student by distance learning. She has been imprisoned for over two years. In the last visit she has received she said that *“I wanted to play a part in the peace to be established in the future, the hardships cannot deter me. It is enough that the isolation is lifted”*.



**Elif Atdemir** is 20 years old and was born in Van. She was arrested at age 17, in Diyarbakır, Sur in the middle of the street during a police attack; was detained while wounded and she was kept for twenty eight days under detention. Her age was shown older and she was criminalised accordingly. She’s been in prison for three years, and is sentenced to ten years. She’s on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. She said *“Leyla Güven’s demands are our demands”*.





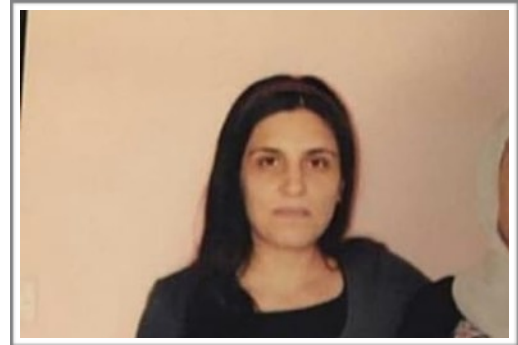
**Esma Başkale** is imprisoned in Bakırköy Women's Prison. She is on hunger strike since 17 December 2018. In her message she said *"we are proceeding to victory through the darkness with our belief and hope; we are ready to pay the price until the isolation is lifted"*.



**Gurbet Ektiren** was arrested in 2015. She went on hunger strike on 15 January 2019 in Bakırköy Women's Closed Prison. She was subsequently released on 8 March 2019, she continues to be on hunger strike at her home. She has lost a lot of weight. In her message she called for those imprisoned, women, youth, the elderly in Diyarbakır, Mardin, Nusaybin and the whole of Kürdistan to take action.



**Gurbet Öztürk** is imprisoned in Antalya L Type Closed Prison. She went on hunger strike on 26 January 2019. In her message she said *"Our demand is legitimate, the isolation imposed on Mr. Abdullah Öcalan and the Kurdish people shall end"*.



**Hatice Kaymak** was taken under custody in Diyarbakır in 2017. She was sentenced to 9 years in prison. She went on hunger strike on 5 January 2019. In her last message she said *"you cannot silence your conscience by remaining silent"*.



**Hacer Xelil Yusuf** was born in Efrîn. She is imprisoned in Gebze M Type Closed Prison. She was arrested in Çelê (Çukurca). During her arrest, she was subjected to worst forms of torture. She has been imprisoned in Turkey for twenty-four years. She went on hunger strike on 16 December 2018. In her last message she said *“If I was born again, I would still oppose isolation. You shall also raise your voice. Isolation shall end”*.



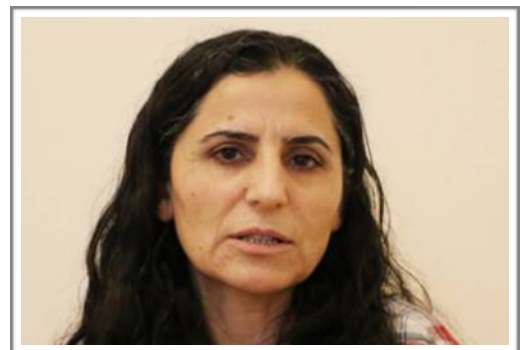
**Hamide Yüksel** is 35 years old. She was prosecuted for being a member to a terrorist organisation. She has been in prison for three years and went on hunger strike on 1 March 2019. She has high blood pressure. Due to her being on hunger strike, she is prevented to benefit from her right to receive visitors. She said on the phone that *“For freedom, this isolation should be lifted... I’m calling out to everyone to raise our voice. We will not stop hunger strikes as long as it takes, until our action is addressed.”*



**Hediye Yayık** has been imprisoned since 2012. She is on hunger strike since 4 February 2019. She is in Gebze Women’s Closed Prison. She said that she laid her body to hunger so that the isolation ends.

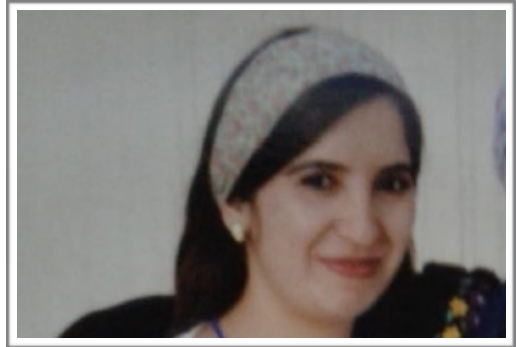


**Kibriye Evren** is a journalist. She was arrested on 9 September 2018. She is imprisoned in Diyarbakır E Type Prison. She went on hunger strike on 16 December 2018.





**Melek Yalçın** is 25 years old. She was imprisoned for nine years and eight months. She has been imprisoned for four years. She is in Gebze Women's Closed Prison. In her message she said *"İmralı isolation shall end, there shall not be any deaths"*.

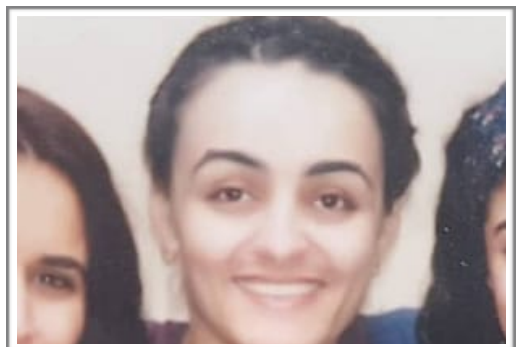


**Menal Temel** is 24 years old from Qoser district of Mêrdên. She is from a family with nine children. She was taken into custody in 2016. She was sentenced to nine years in prison based on the charges of membership to a terrorist organisation. She is imprisoned in Tarsus Prison. She went on hunger strike on 16 December 2018. In



her message she said that *"My biggest dream is to be free in the country. Hope is more important than victory. We shall always preserve our hope Hunger strikes are actions to retake what has been taken from us, raise our voice"*.

**Merge Polat** is imprisoned in Kayseri Women's Prison. She went on hunger strike on 5 January 2019. In her message she said that they went on hunger strike for a free life.



**Mukaddes Çelik** has been imprisoned since 2013. She is on hunger strike since 4 February 2019. She is in in Gebze Women's Closed Prison. In her message she said *"Leyla Güven's deman is ours; isolation shall be lifted"*.



**Necla Atak** is imprisoned in Kocaeli F Type High Security Closed Prison. She is on hunger strike since 16 December 2018. In her message she said "*Life; I shall live freely or I will not regard the life of a slave as life. End to isolation*".



**Nurşen Tekin** went on hunger strike on 5 January 2019. She is imprisoned in Tarsus Women's Closed T Type Prison. In her message she said "*Hunger strikes are a reaction to injustice. Everyone should their voice*".



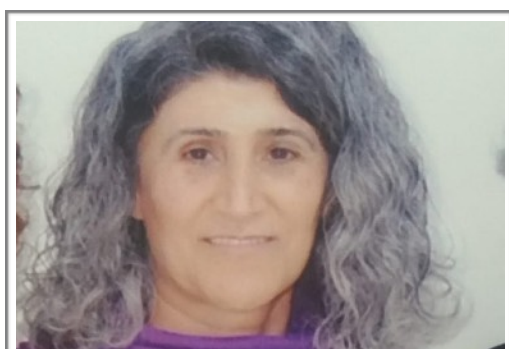
**Özlem Özdemir** has been imprisoned since 2012. She has been on hunger strike since 16 December 2018. She is detained in Gebze Women's Closed Prison. In her message she said "*Isolation should end*".



**Özlem Söyler:** has been imprisoned since 2012. She has been on hunger strike since 16 December 2018. She is detained in Gebze Women's Closed Prison. In her message she said "*Leyla Güven's desmans are our demands*".



**Reyhan Çomak** is 56 years old. She was sentenced to eleven years in prison in 2011 on charges of membership to a terrorist organisation. She is imprisoned for nine years. She is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. In her message she said "*Isolation is a crime against humanity*".



**Rahşan Aydın** is 22 years old, she is from a family with four children. She was born in Diyarbakır/Çermik. She was taken into custody in an alley in Amed, Bağlar during a policy attack, she was subsequently detained in custody for five days. She was sentenced to life. She is on hunger strike since 15 December 2018. In her last message she called out to the international community to end the isolation.



**Rozerin Kalkan** is 22 years old, she is a student. She is imprisoned since 11 August 2016 since, she was sentenced to ten years in prison. She said that she went on hunger strike on 1 March 2019 with a view to support the struggle initiated in the person of Leyla Güven and to raise her voice against isolation. Her last message was *“everyone should see the seriousness of this inhumane isolation and give their support”*.



**Sebahat Tuncel** was born in 5 July 1975. She is from Malatya. She was elected member of parliament for two terms. She was arrested in front of the courthouse in Diyarbakır. She is still imprisoned and she is on hunger strike since 16 January 2019. She said *“our demands are Leyla Güven’s demands”*.



**Selma Irmak** was born in 1971, in Qoser district of Mêrdîn. She was elected member of parliament for two terms. She is on hunger strike since 15 January 2019. In her message she said *“İsolation is imposed on the whole society in the person of Mr. Abdullah. I call upon the whole society to stand against the isolation”*.





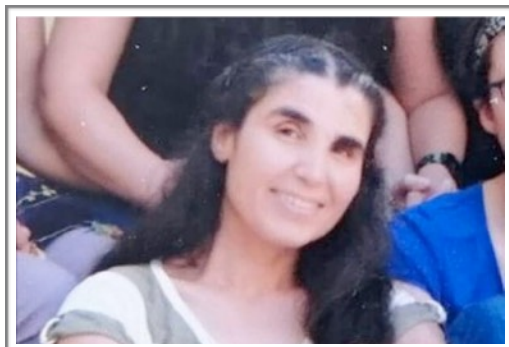
**Sevican Yaşar** is 41 years old. She is the mother of four children. She went on hunger strike at the district office of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). She was arrested on 8 March 2019. In her message she said *“The freedom of Mr. Öcalan is the freedom of the peoples. I believe that, through lifting the isolation on him, peace will be achieved. For this reason I went on hunger strike. I will continue to resist until the isolation is lifted”*.



**Sinem Oğuz** is 26 years old. She was sentenced to twelve years in prison on charges of membership to a terrorist organisation. She has been imprisoned in Kayseri Prison for four years. She suffers from kidney problems and anaemia. She went on hunger strike on 24 January 2019 to protest isolation.



**Şadiye Manap** has been imprisoned for 27 years. She's on hunger strike since 4 February 2019. She is imprisoned in Gebze Women's Closed Prison. Her last message is: *“life may only be sacrifice for valuable purposes”*.



**Şehriban Çoban** is 26 years old. She is imprisoned since 2015 based on accusations of being a member of a terrorist organisation. She is on hunger strike since 15 February 2019 demanding lifting of isolation.



**Sibel Uçar** was arrested in Sur district of Diyarbakır, while wounded and she was sentence to life. She is in prison since 2014. She went on hunger strike on 4 February 2019. She is at Gebze Women's Prison. In her message she said *"For peace and for justice it is necessary that the right of Abdullah Öcalan to receive visitors and to communication is recognised"*.



**Süheyla Taş** is imprisoned in Sincan Women's Closed Prison. She is on hunger strike since 26 December 2018. In her message she said *"I am against isolation for a dignified life"*.



**Zeynep Taşgir** is imprisoned in Gebze Women's Closed Prison. She went on hunger strike on 1 March 2019. In her message she said *"Everyone should raise their voice before lives are lost... Our friends have started to experience problems such as headaches, nausea, light sensitivity, experiencing difficulties when drinking water. There is a lot of pressure on us... Raise your voice to end isolation"*.



**Zana Çoban** is imprisoned since 2015. She went on hunger strike on 1 March 2019. She is at Gebze Women's Closed Prison. In her message she said *"Raise our voice to end isolation at İmralı"*.



**Zülfiye Kişmir** is the Co-mayor of Dicle/Amed a woman, a mother, a revolutionary, a resister. She is imprisoned in Diyarbakır E Type Closed Prison for more than a year. She is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. She is struggling in the prison conditions, longing for her 15 years old son Aliş, who suffers from epilepsy.



**Agit Yıldız** is 22 years old. He was arrested on February 2016, sentenced to 14 years and is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. He says *“I will always resist and will certainly win. Don’t remain silent in the face of death.”*



**Ahmet Kaya** is 23 years old. He was sentenced to prison for fifteen years, he has been imprisoned for five years. He has been on hunger strike since the beginning of March 2019. He is imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison.



**Ahmet Sürme** is 31 years old. He is sentenced to 16 years, been imprisoned for 2 years and is on hunger strike since 26 December 2018. *“As long as the isolation continues, we will continue our hunger strike on this honourable path. Steps to freedom will be taken whenever the isolation is broken.”*



**Aydın Akış** is 32 years old. He is sentenced to thirty-five years and six months in prison and he has been imprisoned for 12 years. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019 at Bolu F Type Prison.

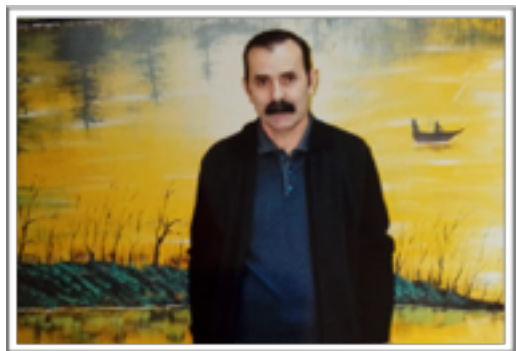




**Azad Aslan** is 25 years old. He is sentenced to seven and a half years in prison and he is imprisoned for five years. He is on hunger strike since the beginning of March 2019 at Van F Type High Security Prison. In his message he stated that the isolation is not only on Mr. Abdullah Öcalan and it been spread to all society.



**Cemil Akış** is 46 years old. He is sentenced to six years and three months, in prison and he has been imprisoned for three years. He is on hunger strike at Patnos L Type Closed Prison since 1 March 2019. In his message, he said that he is determined to continue to be on strike until the isolation is lifted.



**Emrullah Kalkan** is 27 years old and he has been imprisoned for five months in Diyarbakır Prison. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. In his message he said that *“I’m struggling because I’m against injustice and lawfulness. I want everyone to raise their voice for this struggle”*.



**Erdal Polat** is 37 years old. He was sentenced to life and he has been imprisoned for eleven years in İzmir Buca Prison. He’s on hunger strike since 26 December 2019. In his message he said *“I will not give up and continue my strike till the İmrak isolation is lifted; we will definitely win”*.



**Ferhat Tuncer** is 25 years old. He was sentenced to five years in prison and he has been imprisoned for six months. He is on hunger strike since March 2019 in Mersin E Type Prison.



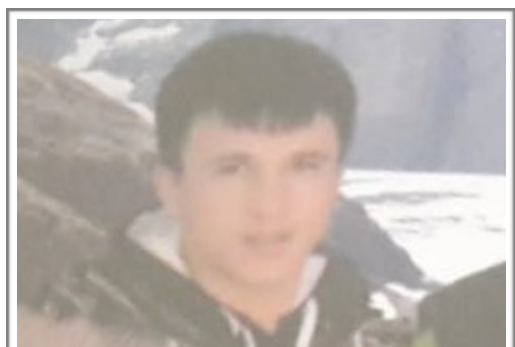
**Faruk Aras** was taken into custody in 2012 and he was sentenced to a total of one hundred and twenty years. He is one of the 44 prisoners who went on hunger strike in Kırıkkale F Type Closed Prison. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. In his message he stated that *“the situation of my 6 friends who have been on strike since 26 December 2018 are very critical: they lost too much weight, they are having trouble in sleeping and scars started to appear on their bodies. Everybody should raise their voices until isolation is lifted”*.



**Fesih Tekin** is born in 1988. He is sentenced to 12 years and has been imprisoned for 8,5 years. He is on hunger strike in Tarsus T Type Prison since 5 January 2019. He says that *“isolation is unlawful and I’m not accepting it”*.



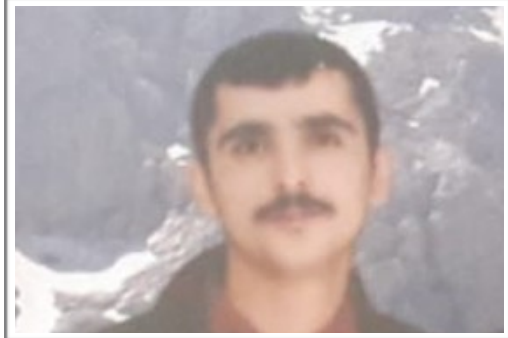
**Fırat Ertunç** is 32 years old with five siblings who are all imprisoned. He is sentenced to seventeen years and he has been imprisoned for 4 years. He has on hunger strike since 5 January 2019. He has visual impairment due to the strike.



**Ali Ertunç** is 27 years old. He was sentenced to 9 years and been imprisoned for 9 months. He is on hunger strike since March 2019.



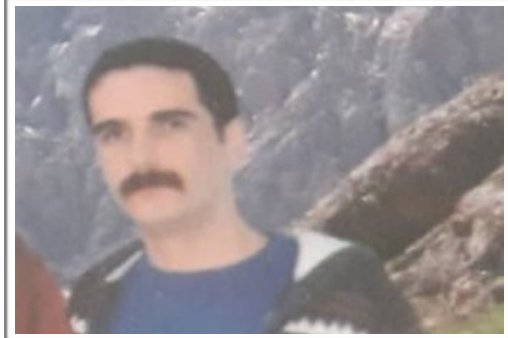
**Murat Ertunç** is 30 years old. He was sentenced to twenty-five years while he was a student and he been imprisoned for ten years. He's on hunger strike since February 2019.



**Recep Ertunç** is 26 years old. He was sentenced to fifteen years prison, he has been imprisoned for seven years. He went on hunger strike on 1 March 2019.



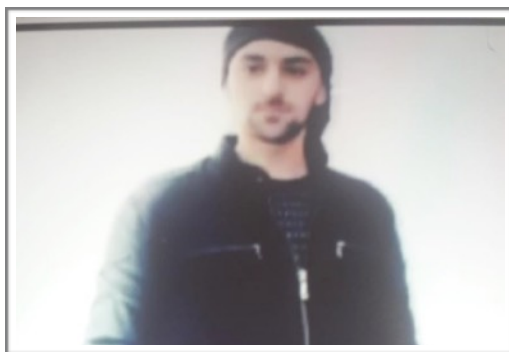
**Ferhat Ertunç** is 21 years old. He was sentenced to twelve years in prison, he has been imprisoned for three years. He is on hunger strike since February 2019.



**Dindar Koç** is 28 years old. He is a lawyer. He is sentenced to three and a half years in prison and he has been imprisoned for two and a half years. He went on hunger strike on 1 March 2019. He is experiencing stomach problems. In his message he said *"we have a promise to our people, we will resist for justice"*.



**İbrahim Tekin** is 23 years old. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison. He went on hunger strike in January 2019 at Van F Type High Security Prison.



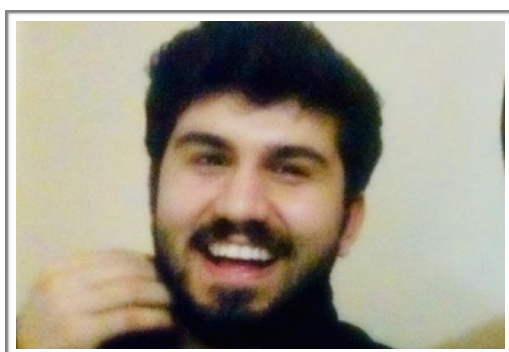
**M. Şirin Kaya** is 26 years old. He was sentenced to twenty-two years in prison and he has been imprisoned for seven years. He is on hunger strike since the beginning of March 2019 at Tokat T Type Prison.



**Mahsum Balgi** was arrested in Adana in 2012, he was sentenced to fortune years and six months in prison. He has been imprisoned for eight years and six months. He went on hunger strike on 1 March 2019 at Diyarbakır No. 1 T Type Closed Prison. In his message he said *“We shall continue the hunger strikes until the isolation is lifted. Be the voice of the prisons”* dedi.



**Mahsum Koyun** is a 24 years old university student. He was studying journalism when he was sentenced to five years and eight months in prison. He has been imprisoned for more than 2 years and he been in hunger strike since 1 March 2019. In his message he said *“we are struggling for our legitimate right and we will continue until we get results”*.





**Mecit Kanat** is 24 years old. He was sentenced to seven years in prison and he has been imprisoned for four months. He is on hunger strike since the beginning of March 2019 at Van F Type High Security Prison. In his last message, he said *“we demand that the laws are implemented”*.



**Murat Gümüş** is 36 years old. He was sentenced to hundred and twenty years and to date, he has been imprisoned more than 11 years. He has been on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. In his last message, he said *“we will not step back until our demands are met. Peoples should not keep silent to this action”*.



**Naci Aslan** is 35 years old. He was sentenced to seven years in prison and he has been imprisoned for five years. He is on hunger strike since the beginning of March 2019 at Van F Type High Security Prison. In his message he said *“we laid our bodies to hunger against injustice”*.



**Nihat Ekmez** is 51 years old and a doctor. He was sentenced to thirty-six years in prison and he has been imprisoned for 23 years. He went on hunger strike on 26 December 2018. He lost 15 kilograms and is struggling with insomnia. He asks for *“the isolation to be lifted so that we can live with honor”*.



The brothers **Nurullah Uğur** is 19 and **Furkan Uğur** is 20 years old. Furkan is kept at Elazığ No.1 Closed Prison and he is sentenced to life. Nurullah is imprisoned at Antep H Type Closed Prison and their father is at Ceyhan Prison. They went on hunger strike since 21 February 2019. They said *“Hear our voices. Be our voices outside.”*



**Hakan Yılmaz** is 22 years old. He was sentenced to eighteen years and has been imprisoned for five years. He's on hunger strike since March 2019 at Van F Type High Security Prison.



**Hakan Abi** is 30 years old. He has been imprisoned for five months pending his trial. He is on hunger strike since February 2019 at Edirne F Type Prison.

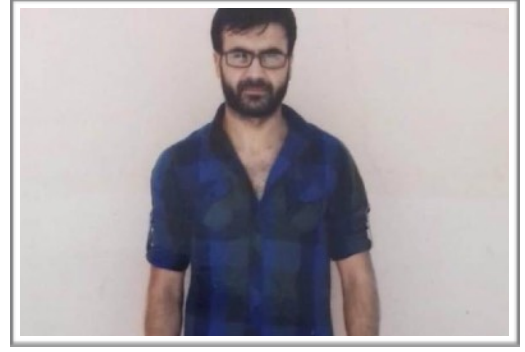


**İsmet Akın** was sentenced to 30 times aggravated life imprisonment. He is on hunger strike since 5 January 2019 at Kırıkkale F Type Closed Prison. He has had several operations while imprisoned and he is not in good health. In his message he called out to the public to give voice to hunger strike protests and he said that *“we will not leave our leadership, the society and Kurdish people to the mercy of fascism”*.

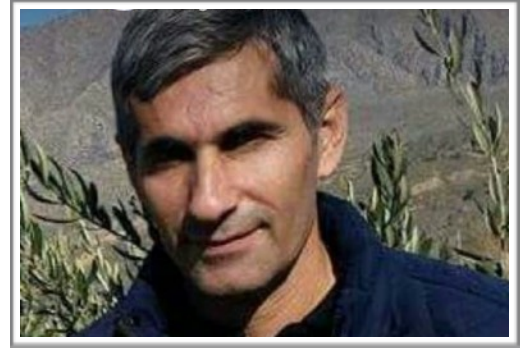




**İsmet Taş** is imprisoned at Tekirdağ No. 2 F Type Closed Prison. He is on hunger strike since 5 January 2019. In his message he said *“We do not want to live anymore with İmralı torture system. Comrade Leyla was the first one to felt this and she did what it required. Today, everybody should be doing whatever they can. If this is to happen, victory is close. Everybody should work not for us, but for the isolation to be lifted on all”*.



**Kasım Temel** is 45 years old. He was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison and he has been imprisoned for four years. He has been on hunger strike since February 2019 at Van F Type High Security Prison.



**Kazım Kıt** was born in 1991 in Dersim. He was imprisoned in 2015. He went on hunger strike on 1 March 2019. In his last conversation with his family, he told them not to visit him, as if they do so his various needs might be restricted.



**Kerem İmrek:** 27 yaşında. Kırıkkale Yüksek Güvenlikli F Tipi Cezaevi'nde. 26 Aralık 2018 tarihinden beri açlık grevinde. Sağlık durumu ile ilgili baş ağrısı, halsizlik ve yorgunluk yaşamakta, 13 kilo kaybetti. Mesajında *“Yapacağımız şey direnişe geçmek ve tecridi kırıp yeni bir yaşamla buluşmaktır”* dedi.



**Menduh Aşkan** is a 35 years old shopkeeper. He is sentenced to four years eight months in prison and he has been imprisoned for 9 months. He started his hunger strike on 2 March 2019. He says that “*isolation is injustice*”.



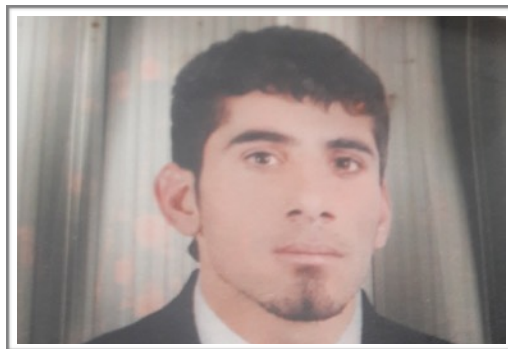
**Mesut Atış** is 29 years old. He was sentenced to twenty years in prison, he has been imprisoned in Kandıra No. 2 F Type Prison for four years. He went on hunger strike on 17 December 2018. He is experiencing health problems such as headaches, eye irritation. In his message he said “*What meaning does it have to live only biologically if there is no honour and freedom. We started this action not to die but to freely live with honour; you should also raise your voice*”.



**Metin Serhat** is 35 years old. He likes to read a lot. He went on hunger strike on 16 December 2018. His family communicated that he has lost 17 kilograms due to hunger strike and he shall continue until his demands are met.



**Murat Karagöz** is 26 years old. He was sentenced to seven years in prison, he has been imprisoned for five years. He is on hunger strike since January 2019. He is imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison.



**Ozan Ege** is 21 years old. He was arrested in 2016. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison. He has been on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. He is imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison.



**Raşıit Teymur:** is 25 years old. He is imprisoned in Elazığ Prison. He was sentenced to 31 years in prison. He has been on hunger strike since 4 February 2019. In his message he said *“My spirits are high because I am resisting. It would be victory, if everyone owns the cause.”*



**Roni Yavuz** is 23 years old. He was sentenced to ten years in prison. He is imprisoned in Şakran No. 4 T Type Closed Prison, he has been on hunger strike since 23 February 2019. In his last message he said *“Even if our bodies pine away we shall resist. Bodies may pine away but our head would be held high. Everyone shall raise our strong voice. No one shall accept this isolation and indifference”.*



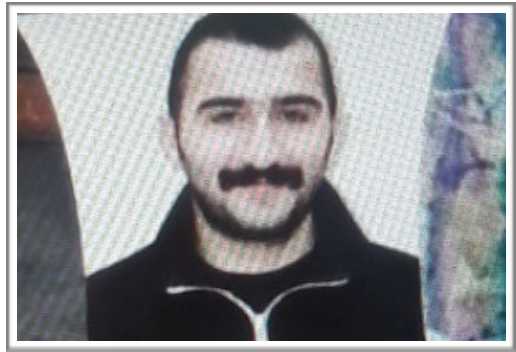
**Ramazan Özlü** is 35 years old He has six siblings. He is on hunger strike since 28 January 2019 in Tekirdağ No. 2 F Type Closed Prison. He said during his family's last visit *“my spirits are high and I will continue the protest until the isolation is lifted”.*



**Reber Akdağ** was born in 1996, in Hakkari. He has been imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison for three years. doğumlu. He was sentenced to seven years and six months in prison. He has been on hunger strike since 28 February 2019. In his message he said “*Leyla Güven is right*”.



**Serhat Tuncer** is 24 years old. He was sentenced to twenty-six years and six months to prison. He has been imprisoned for five years. He has been on hunger strike since March 2019. He is imprisoned in Antalya Prison.



**Sinan Kaya** is 42 years old. His trial is still pending. He is on hunger strike since 15 March 2019. He is imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison.



**Selahattin Yaşar** is imprisoned in Antep H Type Closed Prison. He was taken into custody in 2014. He was sentenced to thirteen years of imprisonment on charges of “membership to a terrorist organisation” and “aiding and abetting a terrorist organisation” the same year. In his message he said “*I could not remain silent to the isolation, you shall not either*”.

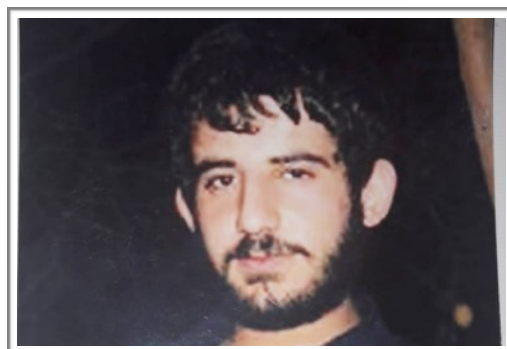




**Sadettin Yaşar:** is imprisoned in Kandıra Noç 2 F Type Prison. He has been imprisoned since 17 December 2018. He has been experiencing health problems such as sleeping disorders, eye irritation, blurry vision, muscle and joint pain. In his last message he said *“Isolation policies are imposed on the whole population through Abdullah Öcalan. For this reason I call the Kurdish people and the democratic community to raise their voice”*.



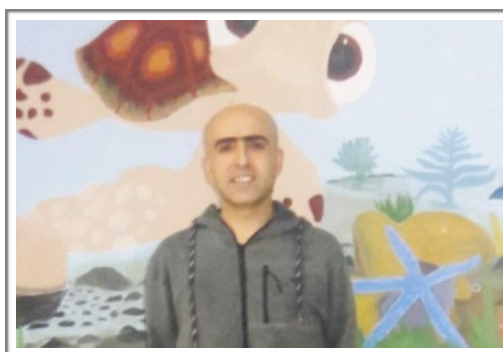
**Serhat Güzel** is 25 years old, he is a construction engineering university drop out. He has been imprisoned for four years. He is on trial for life sentence. He went on hunger strike on 26 December 2018. He said *“Leyla Güven is right, isolation shall be lifted”*.



**Sinan Çelik** is 28 years old. He grew up in Lice. He is a university student. He was sentenced to 11 times aggravated life imprisonment. He is imprisoned for five years and he is on hunger strike since 26 December 2018. In his last communication he said that *“he has friends that are in very bad shape; nevertheless they are determined to continue the hunger strike until the end”*.



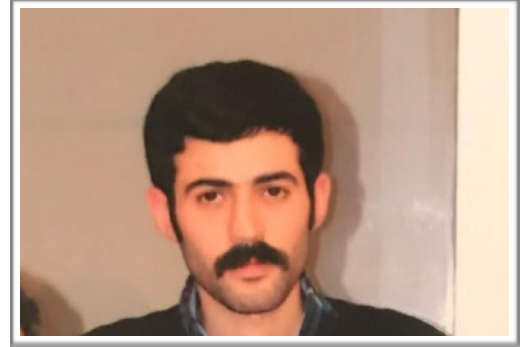
**Turan Günana** is 38 years old. He was sentenced to life. He is in prison for fortune years. He is on hunger strike since 17 December 2018 in Kandıra No. 2 No F Type Closed Prison. He experiences sleeping disorders, eye irritation, low vision, weakness. In his last message he said *“our resistance is the first move towards destroying the brutal power, the first spark of the free days”*.



**Veysi Ölçen** is 26 years old. He is a student. He has been imprisoned since 2014. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. In his last message he said that he is sure that the resistance will be crowned with victory and whatever may happen, until their demands are met, he shall continue to resist.



**Yorgun Bektaşoğlu** is 27 years old. He was sentenced to nine years in prison and he was imprisoned for seven years. He is on hunger strike since 5 January 2019. In his message he said *“I have high hopes that gains will be acquired in the end of this resistance”*.



**Zahit Tekin** was born in 1990, in Hakkari. He has been imprisoned for 3 years and he was sentenced to seven years and six months in prison. He is on hunger strike since February 2019. He is imprisoned in Van Type High Security Prison. In his message he said that *“isolation means death but we support life; that’s why isolation shall be lifted as soon as possible”*.



**Zerdeşt Oduncu** is 27 years old. He was sentenced to 174 years in prison. He has been imprisoned for eight years. He is imprisoned in Edirne F Type Closed Prison, where he has been staying in solitary confinement for four years. He is on hunger strike since 16 December 2019. His family indicated that his health is deteriorating day by day. In his message he stated that *“if the isolation is not terminated, I shall continue my resistance”*.







**Belgin Kanat** is on hunger strike in Bakırköy prison since 17 December 2018. Her body fell down to 39 kg. In her last message she said *“we never felt ourselves so good. We will live our resistance with the resurrection spirit of Newroz. Isolation will end. The freedom scent of spring is already reaching us.”*

**Berivan Bitmen** is 27 years old. She was sentenced to six years and eight months in prison and has been in prison for 4 years. She has platine in her back and trembles in her arm. Been on hunger strike at Kayseri Bünyan Women’s Closed Prison since 5 January 2019. She fell to 44 kg from 52. Family members say *“our call is not only to the Kurdish but also to the Turkish people. Mothers of guerrilla, mothers of prisoners, mothers of soldiers and the police should not cry any longer. We call out for the demands to be accepted so that no deaths to happen.”*

**Ruşen Bozan** was born in Batman in 1981. She was arrested for being a member of a terrorist organisation in May 2013 and she was subsequently sentenced to twenty three years in prison. She is on hunger strike since January 2019. She is struggling with health problems such as headaches, nausea, bone ache, insomnia and sudden fevers. She said *“From the bottom of my heart I feel that this resistance of ours will diminish oppression and remorselessness... I’m rebelling against this unjustness by laying my body to hunger. We are expecting from our people and from democratic circles to own and be sensitive to this process... We are strengthening our self-respect by resisting.”*

**Saadet Akın:** She is 29 years old with 10 siblings. She mostly likes to listen to music. She sentenced to thirty one years and she has been in prison for four years. She has kidney failure and anaemia. Being exiled for three times, currently she's in Ankara Sincan prison. She on hunger strike since 1 March 2019.

**Zeliha Ustabaş** was born in Artvin's Hopa district in 1991. She's a Hemşin Armenian. In 2015, because she was defending herself in her native language, Homshetsi (Hemşin language), she was sentenced to twelve years on charges of being a terrorist organization. She is in Sincan Women's Closed Prison. In her last letter, she states that *"this action is the right time to raise the hours of rebellion. Streets await us. Yet, this fascist disaster besieging us for decades can only be stopped in the outshores of İmralı."*

**Ali Kaya** is 26 years old; he is sentenced to 17 years in prison and has been imprisoned for 6 years. He's on hunger strike since the end of February 2019 at the Balıkesir Bandırma Prison. He said *"we demand that the laws are implemented"*.

**Cihan Timur** imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison. He went on hunger strike on 16 December 2018. In his message he said that his demand is implementation of current laws without discrimination.

**Egit Tekin:** He is 23 years old and has 3 siblings. He likes to read and make research. His work about youth, being a young person himself, was considered as a crime and he was sentenced to twelve years six months. He has been imprisoned for 4four years and he has been on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. He has stomach and migraine problems. He said that *"my only demand is for the state to abide by the laws and lift the isolation"*.

**Ferhem Akyüz** is 38 years old. He was sentenced to six years and three months in prison and he has been imprisoned for two years. He is on hunger strike since early March 2019 at Van F Type High Security Prison. He said that he is on hunger strike with a view to ensure that isolation imposed on the whole society, in the person of Abdullah Öcalan, is lifted.

**Gökhan Duman** is imprisoned for five years. He is in Rize Kalkandere Prison. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. He told his family that he laid his body down to hunger against injustice.

**Hakan Yılmaz** is 22 years old. He was sentenced to eighteen years in prison and he has been imprisoned for five years. He has been on hunger strike since February 2019 at Van F Type High Security Prison.

**Hamza Doğrul** imprisoned in Silivri No. 5 Prison. He is on hunger strike since 16 December 2018. In his message that he communicated through phone call with his family he said *“Those in power are weak. It is because of their fear that they are oppressing Kurds so flagrantly. We do not fear anyone. It is indispensable that we lift isolation imposed rigorously on the whole society, through the person of Abdullah Öcalan. Lifting of isolation shall bring about peace. Otherwise, no one shall expect peace”*.

**Hasan Umut Özer:** He’s been imprisoned for eight years and he is at Karabük T Type Prison. He went on hunger strike on 5 January 2019. He said that the health situation of his friends Seyfettin Kurt, Murat Kozat and Ali Haydar Elyakut is bad, that these three hunger strikers are having visual sight and stomach problems as well as headaches; that they are having visual sight problems, cannot see anything and can only recognise a person from his/her voice. He asks that the isolation should end as soon as possible.

**Hüseyin Aşkan** is 26 years old. He was sentenced to eighteen years in prison, he has been imprisoned for seven years. He is on hunger strike since February 2019’. He is in Patnos L Type Prison. He said he is on hunger strike for a more just life.

**Hüseyin Duman** is on hunger strike since 18 January 2019 at Burhaniye T Type Closed Prison. He is 42 years old and he has been imprisoned for twenty five years, since he was 18. His last message is *“our action will continue as long as the isolation continues”*. He calls out to the Ministry of Justice by saying *“end this isolation as soon as possible. Our biggest demand is that the prisoners regain their health”*.

**Hüsnü Aşkan** is 29 years old. He was sentenced to 18 years in prison, he is imprisoned for seven years. He is on hunger strike since February 2019. He is

imprisoned in Tokat T Type Prison. He said that lifting of isolation means the state implements its own laws.

**Hüsnü Turgut**: is imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison. He is on hunger strike since January 2019. In his message he called out to all to *“be the voice of those who laid their bodies down to hunger”*.

**İbrahim Yönden** is imprisoned in Rize Kalkandere prison since January 2019. His family said *“People should no longer die, this blood shed shall stop, our cries shall end. People shall not die between four walls”*.

**İhsan Sinmiş** is 55 years old and he was sentenced to seven years and six months in prison. He went on hunger strike on 1 March 2019 at the Silivri Prison where he was imprisoned, and he is continuing the strike at his house following his release. In his message he said *“Those who say they are humans, should not accept this oppression”*. He continues to state that *“everything depends on one visit to Öcalan, his one statement and instruction. If one visit is made, Turkey, Syria, Iraq, that is to say the whole Middle East will be relieved”*.

**İlhan Dayan** is 25 years old. He was sentenced to prison for sixteen years, he is imprisoned for seven years. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019, in Erzurum Otlu Prison. In his last message he said that their duman is righteous.

**İslam Akdoğan** is imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. His mother said *“everyone should rise up, it is enough already. Their demands are humane and demands should be met”*.

**İsmail Koç** is imprisoned in Rize Kalkandere Prison. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. In his message he said *“we have to resist the oppression of state”*.

**Kadir Akdoğan** is imprisoned in Erzurum Oltu Prison. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. In his last message he said that he believes that his demands are righteous and people should raise their voice.

**Kemal Adıyaman** was sentenced to 12 years in prison, he has been imprisoned for seven years. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. He is



imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison. He said that everyone who sides with democracy, peace, equality and conscience should be responsive to the protest and the demands.

**Kinyas Ataman** is 29 years old. He was sentenced to life. He is on hunger strike since December 2018, in Edirne F Type Prison. In his message he said that isolation amounts to disregarding the law.

**Mahir Tekin:** is 47 years old. He has eight siblings. He likes to paint, read books and write poems. He was sentenced to life, he has been imprisoned since nineteen years. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. He said “*Demands made by Leyla Güven are our demands*”.

**Mahsum Yüksekbağ** is 26 years old. He was a student and a staff of Azadiya Welat newspaper. He is sentenced to twenty-two years in prison and he has been imprisoned for five years. He loves nature, photography, reading and sports. In his last message to his family he said that he is against isolation for a free life, for the next generation’s children; that he is doing alright and they should not be worried about him.

**Metin Tekin:** is 32 years old. He was sentenced to seven years in prison, he has been imprisoned for six months. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019 in Van F Type High Security Prison. In his message he said “*we are on hunger strike because we defend life*” dedi.

**Nuri Çelik** is 47 years old. He was sentenced to thirty-six years in prison. He is imprisoned since thirty years. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. He is imprisoned in Patnos L Type Prison. “*İmralı isolation and isolation imposed on the prisons should be lifted*”.

**Recep Engin** is 19 years old. He was sentenced to fifteen years in prison, he is imprisoned for five years. He is on hunger strike since 1 March 2019. He is imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison. He said that they shall continue the hunger strike until their demands are met.

**Reşat Özdil** has been imprisoned for twenty six years. He is imprisoned in Sincan Prison. He is on hunger strike since January 2019. His family said that his spirits are high, he calls for all Kurdish people, all around the world to gather around the hunger strike resistance and he states that the struggle should be outside as well as it is inside.

**Rıdvan Kılıç** is 29 years old. He is sentenced to 17 years on charges of commanding a terrorist organisation. He is on hunger strike since 7 January 2019 at Bafra T Type Closed Prison. He said that *“Isolation is imposed on Öcalan for 20 years. We silently waited for this isolation to be lifted for 20 years, but we will no longer be waiting and we will continue the hunger strike resistance”*.

**Sami Öztürk, Abdullah Oral ve Bahoz Özer** are on hunger strike in Kırıklar No. 1 Nolu F Type Closed prison since 26 December 2018. The message they sent through their families’: *“We are resisting here. We shall continue to resist until the end. No one can make us take a step back from neither our decisiveness nor our struggle. This struggle shall continue until our demands are met, until the isolation is lifted, raise your voice to stop deaths”*.

**Savaş Özer** has been imprisoned for 4 years at Kırıklar F Type Prison. He’s been on hunger strike resistance since 1 March 2019. His family points out that the isolation is being conducted on everybody and states that *“We are also under isolation. Because they could not do anything else, our children had laid their bodies to hunger”*.

**Sedat Akın** was born in 1995. He was imprisoned for 3 years and 3 months; he was released on bail pending his trial. He went on hunger strike on 7 January 2019 in prison and he has been continuing it at home following his release. In his message he said *“We went on hunger strikes for a better life. I don’t want to say that victory is close by because it should happen immediately. Isolation is imposed on all Kurdish people. People should be silent when others are asleep not when they are dying”*.

**Şemsettin Aykaç** is 33 years old and he has been on hunger strike since January 2019 at Malatya E Type Prison. He states that hunger strikers are being put in separate cells and they are not allowed to have companions. In his last message he asked everyone to own the hunger strikes and do something about it outside to raise the voices of prisoners.

**Sinan Salhan** is imprisoned in Bafra T Type Closed Prison. He is on hunger strike since 8 January 2019. In his letter he communicated the situation of some of his friends who are on hunger strike: *“Mehmet Siddık Özbakış, Rıdvan Kılıç, Kinyas Atıman and Halit Çankaya are on hunger strike since 8 January 2019, Abdullatif Teymur (transferred from Düzce) is on hunger strike since 1 January 2019. These friends experience constant headaches and rapid weight loss (Sinan Salhan has lost 12, Mehmet Siddık Özbakış, Rıdvan Kılıç, Kinyas Atıman and Abdullatif Teymur have lost 11, while Halit Çankaya has lost 10 kilograms). They are experiencing sensitivity to light, noise and smells, sleeplessness, nausea and exhaustion. Nonetheless, we, all our friends, have our spirits high and we are faithful. We shall continue our protest until the isolation is lifted whatever it may cost”*.

**Suat Aşkan** is 44 years old. He was imprisoned for eighteen years in prison, he is imprisoned for seven years. He is on hunger strike since February 2019. Van F Type High Security Prison. He said that opposing isolation means insisting on peace.

**Uğur Yaşar:** is 25 years old. He was sentenced to 6 years and 3 months in prison. He is imprisoned for 3 years and three months. He is on hunger strike since the beginning of March 2019. He is imprisoned in Van F Type High Security Prison. He said that they shall continue their protest until isolation is lifted.

**Vedat Duyuş** is imprisoned in Mardin E Type Closed Prison. She is imprisoned since 5 January 2019. In the letters he sent, he said *“Although we are not in good health, our spirits are high. You know that we love so much that we can die for it”*.

**Welat Duman** is imprisoned in Tekirdağ No. 2 F Type High Security Prison. He is on hunger strike since 28 January 2019. *“Everyone should appeal to their conscience and raise their voice so that lives are not lost at prisons”*.

**Zafer Sağlam** is 28 years old and he is imprisoned at Silivri No.5 L Type Prison. He has been on hunger strike since 26 December 2018. In his message he said *“Leyla Güven’s and our demands are for justice”*.