



Berlin, 3. Juni 2020

„What did Kavala do?“ – diese Frage beantworteten Shermin Langhoff, Fatih Akin und andere Unterstützer*innen in einer Solidaritätskampagne für den in der Türkei inhaftierten Kulturstifter Osman Kavala.

Unter dem Titel „Artists United for Osman Kavala“ haben namhafte Vertreter*innen aus Kunst, Politik und Zivilgesellschaft eine Initiative gestartet, um internationale Öffentlichkeit zu schaffen für den Fall des inhaftierten Osman Kavala und um seine Weggefährt*innen in der Türkei zu unterstützen.

Unterstützer*innen von „What did Kavala do?“ sind neben Freund*innen und Weggefährt*innen Kavalas, Künstler*innen, Intellektuelle, Aktivist*innen und andere. Unter ihnen sind die Filmemacher Fatih Akin und Atom Egoyan, der Komponist Zülfü Livaneli und die Künstlerin Banu Cennetoğlu, die Schriftstellerin Sibylle Berg und die Schauspielerin Katja Riemann, der Menschenrechtler Peter Steudtner und der Generalsekretär der deutschen Sektion von Amnesty International Markus N. Beeko, die Intendantin des Maxim Gorki Theaters Shermin Langhoff und der Generalsekretär des Goethe-Instituts Johannes Ebert, weitere Freund*innen der Türkei wie der Unternehmer Edzard Reuter, sowie Politiker*innen wie der Berliner Bürgermeister und Senator für Kultur und Europa Klaus Lederer und die Bundestagsabgeordneten Claudia Roth und Cem Özdemir und viele andere.

Unter dem Titel „What did Kavala do?“ werden sie ab heute in täglichen Videobeiträgen auf [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) und [Twitter](#) Osman Kavalas Engagement für Kultur und gesellschaftliche Verständigung zeigen, genauso wie seine Bedeutung für die Zivilgesellschaft in der Türkei – und über ihre Grenzen hinaus.

Die „Artists United for Osman Kavala“ sind eine Initiative des Filmemachers Fatih Akin und der Theatermacherin Shermin Langhoff.

Shermin Langhoff, Intendantin des Maxim Gorki Theaters: *„Diese Zivilcourage, dieser Glaube an die Kunst als Möglichkeit von Begegnung und Dialog, die Möglichkeitsräume, die Osman Kavala für Kunst und utopisches Denken von Frieden, Freiheit und Gleichberechtigung geschaffen hat, motivieren auch uns weiter zu machen. Er ist unser Vorbild. Mit unserer Initiative wollen wir eine internationale Öffentlichkeit für den Fall Kavala sensibilisieren und diese für ihn und sein Engagement gewinnen.“*

Filmmacher Fatih Akin: „Diese Aktion ist eine Verpflichtung zur Freundschaft aller Beteiligten, gewidmet Osman Kavala, einem Menschenfreund in Haft.“

Seit 946 Tagen sitzt der türkische Stifter und Förderer von Kunst und Kultur Osman Kavala im Hochsicherheitstrakt von Silivri in Haft. Dem Gründer der Kulturstiftung Anadolu Kültür wurde vorgeworfen, im Jahr 2013 die Gezi-Protteste mitorganisiert zu haben. Nach mehr als zwei Jahren in Untersuchungshaft war Osman Kavala im Februar dieses Jahres zunächst freigesprochen worden, wurde allerdings nur wenige Stunden später wegen Beteiligung am Putschversuch im Juli 2016 erneut festgenommen. Der Europäische Gerichtshof für Menschenrechte hält die Inhaftierung für unrechtmäßig und fordert Kavalas Freilassung. Am 12. Mai 2020 wurde ein Einspruch Ankaras gegen das Urteil vom Straßburger Gericht abgewiesen.

Eine Biografie Osman Kavalas finden Sie im Anhang, mehr zur Kampagne auf der Website www.artistsunitedforosmankavala.com und auf unseren Social Media Kanälen:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/whatdidkavalado

Twitter: www.twitter.com/whatdidkavalado

Facebook: www.facebook.com/whatdidkavalado

Für Rückfragen stehen wir Ihnen gerne unter berlinforkavala@theater-findet-stadt.de zur Verfügung.

**ARTISTS UNITED FOR
OSMAN KAVALA**

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Berlin, June 3rd, 2020

“What did Kavala do?” – Shermin Langhoff, Fatih Akin and other supporters answer this question in a solidarity campaign for Osman Kavala, a cultural benefactor imprisoned in Turkey.

Under the banner of “Artists United for Osman Kavala”, notable representatives from the arts, politics and civil society have begun an initiative to raise international awareness about Osman Kavala's case and support his allies in Turkey.

In addition to Kavala's friends and collaborators, the supporters of “What did Kavala do?” include artists, intellectuals, activists and more. They include the film-makers Fatih Akin and Atom Egoyan, composer Zülfü Livaneli and artist Banu Cennetoğlu, author Sibylle Berg and actress Katja Riemann, human rights activist Peter Steudtner and the general secretary of the German section of Amnesty International Markus N. Beeko, Maxim Gorki Theatre Artistic Director Shermin Langhoff and Goethe Institute Secretary General Johannes Ebert, other friends of Turkey such as businessman Edzard Reuter, as well as politicians including Berlin Deputy Governing Mayor and Senator for Culture and Europe Klaus Lederer, Members of the Bundestag Claudia Roth and Cem Özdemir, and many more.

Under the title “What did Kavala do?” they will illustrate, in daily video messages on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), Osman Kavala's devotion to culture and social understanding, as well as his significance for civil society in Turkey – and beyond its borders.

“Artists United for Osman Kavala” is an initiative from film-maker Fatih Akin and theatre-maker Shermin Langhoff.

Shermin Langhoff, Maxim Gorki Theatre artistic director: “This moral courage, this belief in art as a possibility for encounters and dialogue, the spaces of opportunity that Osman Kavala created for art and utopian thought about peace, freedom and equality, also motivate us to keep going. He is our role model. Through our initiative we want to raise awareness about Kavala's case on an international level and persuade more people to support his cause.”

Film-maker [Fatih Akin](#): *“This action is a bond of friendship from all participants, dedicated to Osman Kavala, a humanitarian in prison.”*

For the last 946 days, the Turkish benefactor and supporter of art and culture Osman Kavala has been imprisoned in Silivri's high-security wing. Founder of the Anadolu Kültür cultural foundation, he was charged with co-organising the Gezi protests in 2013. After more than two years in pretrial detention, Osman Kavala was initially discharged in February of this year only to be arrested again, just a few hours

later, for participating in the attempted coup in July 2016. The European Court of Human Rights found his imprisonment to be illegal and called for Kavala's release. On May 12th, 2020, Ankara's appeal against the Strasbourg Court's ruling was rejected.

A biography of Osman Kavala is attached, more about the campaign can be found on www.artistsunitedforosmankavala.com and on our social media channels:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/whatdidkavalado

Twitter: www.twitter.com/whatdidkavalado

Facebook: www.facebook.com/whatdidkavalado

Please contact us at berlinforkavala@theater-findet-stadt.de with any questions.

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Berlin, 3 Haziran 2020

„Osman Kavala ne yaptı?“ – bu sorunun cevabını Shermin Langhoff, Fatih Akın ve Silivri’de halen tutuklu bulunan Anadolu Kültür Vakfı’nın kurucusu Osman Kavala ile dayanışma kampanyasına katılan destekçiler veriyor.

„Artists United for Osman Kavala“ başlığı altında sanat, siyaset ve sivil toplum temsilcileri, Osman Kavala ve arkadaşlarının haksız tutukluluk haline dikkat çekmek ve uluslararası kamuoyu oluşturmak için bir kampanya başlattılar.

„What did Osman Kavala do?“ (Osman Kavala ne yaptı?) kampanyasının destekçileri arasında Kavala’nın arkadaşları ve ortak çalışmalar yürütenlerin yanısıra, sanatçılar, aydınlar ve aktivistler var. Sinemacılar, Fatih Akın ve Atom Egoyan, besteci ve yazar Zülfü Livaneli, sanatçı Banu Cennetoğlu, Alman yazar Sibylle Berg, ünlü Alman oyuncu Katja Riemann, gazeteciler Ahmet İnsel ve Akın Atalay, Amnesty International Almanya’nın Genel Sekreteri Markus N. Beeko, Maxim Gorki Tiyatrosu Sanat Direktörü Shermin Langhoff, Goethe Enstitüsü Genel Sekreteri Johannes Ebert, Türkiye dostu iş insanı Edzard Reuter ve Berlin Belediye Başkanı ve Kültür Senatörü Klaus Lederer, Alman Parlamentosu temsilcileri Claudia Roth ve Cem Özdemir gibi siyasetçiler ile çok sayıda insanlar kampanyaya destek verdi.

„What did Kavala do?“ başlığı altında bugün itibariyle günlük kısa videolarla [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) ve [Twitter](#) üzerinden Osman Kavala’nın kültür ve toplumsal uzlaşma adına angajmanını ve hem Türkiye hem sınırlar ötesindeki sivil toplumlara olan önemini anlatacaklar.

„Artists United for Osman Kavala“ inisiyatifi, sinemacı Fatih Akın ve tiyatrocusu Shermin Langhoff tarafından hayata geçirildi.

Shermin Langhoff, Maxim Gorki Tiyatrosu Sanat Direktörü: *“Osman Kavala’nın medeni cesareti, sanatın yakınlaşma ve diyalog aracı olduğuna inancı, sanat ve barış, özgürlük ve eşitliğin ütopyik düşüncelerine açtığı imkân alanları, bizleri de devam etmemiz için motive ediyor. O bizim rol modelimiz. İnisiyatifimiz ile Kavala davasına uluslararası kamuoyu oluşturmak ve kamuoyunu Osman Kavala’nın angajmanına kazandırmak istiyoruz.”*

Sinemacı Fatih Akın: *“Bu kampanya tüm katılımcıların dostluk adına verdiği bir taahüt, Osman Kavala’ya, tutuklu bir filantropa, adanan.”*

Kltr ve sanat destekisi Osman Kavala, 946 gndr Silivri yksek gvenlikli kapalı cezaevinde tutuklu. Anadolu Kltr Vakfı'nın kurucusu ve Ynetim Kurulu Bařkanı, 2013 yılındaki Gezi Direniřini organize etmekle suçlandı. Osman Kavala bu yılın řubat ayında iki yıldan fazla sren gzaltı tutukluđundan sonra bu davadan beraat etmiř, ancak sadece birkaç saat sonra 15 Temmuz darbe giriřimine iliřkin yrtlen soruřturma kapsamında, "casusluk" sulamasıyla yeniden tutuklanmıřtı. Avrupa İnsan Hakları Mahkemesi hak ihlali tespit etmiř, Osman Kavala'nın bir an nce serbest bırakılmasına dair karar vermiřti. Trkiye hkmetinin 12 Mayıs 2020'de sunduđu itiraz ise AİHM tarafından reddedilmiřti.

Kampanya ile ilgili daha fazla detaya www.artistsunitedforosmankavala.com sayfasında ve sosyal medya kanallarımızda ulařabilirsiniz:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/whatdidkavalado

Twitter: www.twitter.com/whatdidkavalado

Facebook: www.facebook.com/whatdidkavalado

Sorularınız için berlinforkavala@theater-findet-stadt.de zerinden bizimle iletiřime geebilirsiniz.

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Attachment

Osman Kavala's Biography

(Source: <http://osmankavala.com/en/about-osman-kavala>)

After graduating with a degree in Economics from Manchester University in 1982, Osman Kavala took over the management of Kavala Group companies. Dedicated as he was to running the family business, Osman Kavala was also deeply attuned to cultural forces affecting Turkey. In response to the oppressive atmosphere in the aftermath of the military coup on September 12, 1980, he had contributed to the foundation of İletişim Yayınları (İletişim Publishing House) in 1983 with the goal of inspiring positive social change. The mission of İletişim Yayınları was to carry out effective, extensive and popular publishing activities that served the democratization and civilization process in the country. In the following years, objectives such as acknowledgement of cultural diversity, dialogue on arts and culture and cultural collaboration became the cornerstones of initiatives he took part in and supported.

After partaking in relief activities in the aftermath of the 1999 earthquake, he quit his position in the business world and dedicated himself to work in the field of civil society for the betterment of all. He became one of the important actors in Turkey's developing civil society activities during the 1990s, working in a variety of civil society organizations and projects. In 2002, he decided to focus his work on arts and culture and founded Anadolu Kültür together with a team of like-minded individuals from the arts, business world, and civil society. The group's objectives included enabling the production, viewing and sharing of arts and culture in Turkey, supporting local initiatives, emphasizing cultural diversity and rights and strengthening local and international collaborations. Anadolu Kültür aimed for creating a culture of peace in the society by their projects.

In the belief that a civil arts and culture initiative would serve dialogue and peace after the severe conflicts of the 1990s, Anadolu Kültür founded the Diyarbakır Arts Center (Diyarbakır Sanat Merkezi - DSM) as its first local initiative. Over time DSM became a place where artists from Istanbul and European cities visited and met local artists to design collaborative projects; a center that was open to everyone. It also became an important platform through which individuals willing to make art in Diyarbakır could get professional support and make connections. Kars Arts Center (Kars Sanat Merkezi), another initiative that was founded in 2005, became the sole multi-purpose hall in the city. It served as a center for cultural communication and activities for individuals not only from Turkey, but also from Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan until it closed its doors in 2009.

Other projects in Anatolian cities began mainly in Antakya and Çanakkale and spread through the inclusion of cities such as Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Van, Batman and other cities. Since 2004, projects that were conducted in a variety of cities in collaboration with local administrations and arts and culture actors were intended to support arts and culture programs of municipalities and augment the role of civil initiatives in determining urban politics. In the same period, Anadolu Kültür organized arts and culture workshops for prisoners, and work produced in these workshops were exhibited and shared in the form of a publication.

In 2010, during preparations for the negotiation process for Turkey's accession to the European Union, Anadolu Kültür diversified its work to include projects to create connections between European and Anatolian cities. The objectives of these projects were to support the cultural environments in cities other than İstanbul, and to create cultural bridges between these cities and Europe in order to contribute to the European Union process of Turkey. The TANDEM program, carried out since 2011, supported long term collaborations between cultural administrators from Turkey and European countries. Participants from more than twenty cities in Turkey met with their European partners and developed projects together. BAK project, which started in 2012, brought together youth from different regions in Turkey and they worked together on collaborative artistic projects along with advisors. Anadolu Kültür, through its own centers and projects such as TANDEM, BAK and New Film Fund provides opportunities to many arts and culture producers from Turkey to enable their projects. Another center that was founded under Anadolu Kültür in 2008 is DEPO in Tophane neighborhood. DEPO with its accessible and flexible structure aims to meet the need for an independent art space that is not commercial and open to critical voices in the İstanbul arts and culture scene.

Anadolu Kültür also carries out projects that are geared towards children facing difficult life conditions. The photography workshop for children that was held after the 2011 Van earthquake, educational projects for Ezidi refugee children and books that are prepared for Syrian refugee children in two languages are some of the prominent projects in this realm.

In order to develop regional collaboration between civil society actors and promote a culture of understanding and peace, Anadolu Kültür worked on and supported a variety of projects such as Armenia-Turkey Youth Symphony Orchestra, Speaking To One Another project that brings together youth from Armenia and Turkey for oral history studies, Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform and concerts such as “Gomidas is 140 Years Old” and “In Memoriam”.

Another area in which Osman Kavala works is cultural heritage. In the realm of the cultural heritage, he contributed to the foundation of Association for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (Kültürel Mirası Koruma Derneği - KMKD). This foundation conducts field research and publishes reports on the preservation of mobile and immobile entities under threat, and on their restoration according to the original standards.

Osman Kavala’s main focus of work, Anadolu Kültür, celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2017. In addition to his work with Anadolu Kültür, Osman Kavala is also a founding member, board member and on the advisory board of many civil society organizations such as Open Society Foundation (Açık Toplum Vakfı), Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (Türkiye Ekonomik ve Sosyal Etüdler Vakfı – TESEV), TEMA Foundation, History Foundation (Tarih Vakfı), Diyarbakır Political and Social Research Institute (Diyarbakır Siyasal ve Sosyal Araştırmalar Enstitüsü – DİSA), Turkish Cinema and Audiovisual Culture Foundation (Türkiye Sinema ve Audiovisuel Kültür Vakfı – TÜRSAK). As his curriculum vitae clearly evidences, Osman Kavala has dedicated his life toward building a civil and just society.

Osman Kavala is an individual who is sensitive to our country’s challenges and has tirelessly worked to bring people with different perspectives together in dialogue to address local and international conflicts. This dialogue both lays a foundation and charts a course for positive real world change based on peace and human rights. His work is culturally constructive, focused on building a better future for all citizens.