

Enes Kanter Freedom

Former NBA Player and Human Rights Activist

Enes Kanter Freedom is a human rights activist, NBA star, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee who lost his NBA career for speaking out against human rights violations in China.

Raised in Turkey, Freedom began to call out human rights violations by President Erdogan in his home country. Turkey then canceled his passport, put his name on Interpol's list, imprisoned his father, and set a \$500,000 bounty on his head.

During a 2017 visit to Indonesia, Freedom was nearly kidnapped by the government with intentions to send him back to Turkey. Later that year, he barely escaped police officers in a Romanian airport that the Turkish government sent after him. In nine years, Freedom received 12 arrest warrants issued by the Turkish government and countless death threats.

After debuting his "Anti-CCP" shoes during the season opener, every Celtics game was banned in China and Turkey. In many interviews and with the art on his "Freedom Shoes", he has spoken out for the rights of Uyghurs, Tibetans, Hongkongers, Taiwanese, and others facing Chinese oppression. In February 2022 he was traded from the Boston Celtics to the Houston Rockets, who waived him. The NBA is reluctant to sign him for speaking out against China, and continuously try to silence him.

Seven years after having his Turkish citizenship revoked, Freedom became an American citizen. While becoming a citizen, he changed his last name to Freedom. Freedom has become a voice for the oppressed in Turkey, China, Russia, Iran, and more countries worldwide.