

PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

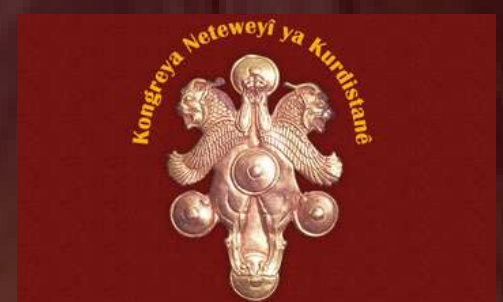


A tribunal to expose and investigate the crimes against humanity and international law committed by the Turkish state on a daily basis in the territory of Northern and Eastern Syria since 2018.

5-6 February 2025
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

An initiative proposed by:

- The Committee of Justice and Law
- Department of Foreign Relations and The Committee of Justice and Law of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES)
- The Center for Research and Protection of Women's Rights
- Human rights organizations in Al-Jazira and Afrin
- MAF-DAD e.V (Association for Democracy and International Law)
- ELDH (European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights)
- IADL (International Association of Democratic Lawyers)
- The Kurdistan National Congress (KNK)
- The Kurdish Institute of Brussels
- And the Free University of Brussels (VUB).





PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

Program the Permanent People's Tribunal

Day 1: February 5, 2025

Opening Session

Member of the Prosecution Team

09.30–09.40 Welcome speech Prof. Gerrit
Loots (Free University of Brussels)

09.40–10.05 Presentation of the Members
of the Tribunal

10.05–10.45 Opening Statement by the
Prosecution

Jan Fermon and Ceren Uysal

Session 1

10.45–11.25 Displacement of population and ethnic
engineering in Afrin

Efstathios C. Efstathiou

11.25–12.05 Massacres, bombings and torture of
displaced civilians in Tel Rifat

Rengin Ergül

12.05–12.20 Torture, kidnapping and arbitrary
detentions in Afrin

**Efstathios C. Efstathiou
and Socrates Tziazas**

12.20–12.30 Questions by Judges

Session 2

13.30–14.20 Witness statement by Ibrahim Sheho on
the situation in Afrin

14.20–15.00 Situation in Sere Kanye and Tel Abyad
(Displacement of population and ethnic
engineering and the use of banned weapons)

Urko Azurtza

Session 3

15.15–15.55 Attacks on energy infrastructure -
Disruption of water supplies

Ezio Menzione

15.55–16.35 Attacks on medical infrastructure,
Kobane hospital etc.

Heike Geisweid

16.35–17.15 Destruction of the environment

Declan Owens

17.15–17.50 Questions by the judges

17.50–18.00 Announcements



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

Program the Permanent People's Tribunal

Day 2: February 6, 2025

Session 4

Member of the Prosecution Team

09.30–10.30 Targeted femicides of prominent women as a tool to dismantle gender dimension of democratic confederalism.
Use of drones attacks against civilians as a tool to obtain the indirect transfer of populations, specially women and children.

Barbara Spinelli

10.30–11.00 Coffe Break

Session 5

11.00–11.30 Secret prisons: arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearance and sexual violence

Anni Pues

11.30–12.00 Cultural and historical erasure

Socrates Tziazas

12.00–12.30 Questions by the judges

12.30–13.30 Lunch

Session 6

13.30–14.00 Bombing of Schemeko School

Rengin Ergül

14.00–14.30 Bombing of the Simav Printing House

Florian Bohsung

14.30–14.35 Communication on attacks on journalists by journalist Chris Den Hond

14.35–15.00 Witness statement by Hoshang Hasan on recent developments and the role of Turkey

**Jan Fermon and
Ceren Uysal**

Closing Session

15.00–16–30 Closing statement by the prosecution

Jan Fermon and

15.30–16.00 Statement by the defense / Presentation on the lack of an effective remedy in the Turkish judicial system

Ceren Uysal

16.00–17.30 Deliberations of the Tribunal / Program for the public:

Avin SUWED, The Co-President of the Executive Council of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria; **Abdul Salam AHMED**, The Representative of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria in Beirut; **Geneviève Gerogios**, Paris Metropolitan Councillor, President of the International Relations Committee of the Council of Paris, Former President of Amnesty International France; **Roberto Eufemia**, Member of Municipal Council-Rome; **Pablo Fernández Fernández**, journalist-Spain

17.30–18.00 Reading of the preliminary findings

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What is the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal against Turkey?

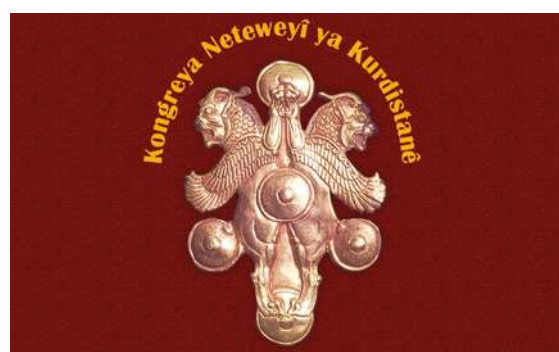
The PPT on Rojava vs. Turkey is a judicial platform established to investigate and expose to the public the crimes committed by the Turkish State and its paramilitary forces in North-East Syria since the occupation of Afrin in 2018 up to the present day.

This Peoples' Tribunal is organized by:

- Department of Foreign Relations and The Committee of Justice and Law of the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES)
- Center for Research and Protection of Women's Rights
- Human rights organizations in Al-Jazira and Afrin
- Association for Democracy and International Law (MAF-DAD)
- European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH)
- International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)
- Kurdistan National Congress (KNK)
- Kurdish Institute of Brussels
- Free University of Brussels (VUB)

MAF-DAD
ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

WITH LAWYERS
IN 21 COUNTRIES
ELD H
European Association of Lawyers
for Democracy & Human Rights



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL AND
POPULATION STUDIES
Research Unit
Qualitative Research in Action



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

Why a peoples' tribunal?

Since the beginning of the war in Syria, the northeastern region of the country, including Rojava, has stood out for its inclusive, democratic, and egalitarian societal model. This unique initiative has successfully brought together Kurds, Arabs, Yazidis, Christians, and other minorities under a spirit of peaceful coexistence, based on principles of autonomy, women's rights, cultural diversity, and social justice.

The Turkish State and its militias have regularly attacked this region with the aim of dismantling this model, depopulating the area, and conducting ethnic cleansing. However, no significant efforts have been made within the framework of international law to address these attacks, nor has a mechanism been established to hold them accountable. Therefore, the need for a people's tribunal arose to document the facts from the perspective of victims, witnesses, and experts, and to condemn them in the court of public opinion.



Are there precedents for similar peoples' tribunals?

People's tribunals have a long history. Many communities have resorted to them in the face of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. This tribunal draws inspiration from the Russell Tribunal of 1967, which exposed war crimes in Vietnam, and the Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT), established in Italy in 1979.

The Rojava Permanent People's Tribunal is conducted with the support of the PPT. In March 2018, a similar tribunal was organized in Paris against the Turkish State, addressing crimes committed against the Kurdish people, including the assassination of three Kurdish women revolutionaries in 2013. The verdict was presented two months later in a session at the European Parliament.



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

Why focus on the war crimes of the AKP-MHP regime?

Since 2015, the AKP-MHP regime has implemented an extermination policy against the Kurdish people, inspired by the "Sri Lanka model," which targeted the Tamil population. This approach, known as the "Collapse Strategy," has been applied not only to the Kurdish people in northern Kurdistan within Turkey but also to Rojava and southern Kurdistan. Advanced weaponry, including drones, chemical weapons, and prohibited gases, has been used indiscriminately against civilians, with no obstacles or reactions from international powers.



What specific war crimes are being investigated?

The investigation focuses on crimes committed since the occupation of Afrin in 2018. These include the forced displacement of civilians, bombing of residential areas, schools, and homes, torture, extrajudicial executions, gender-based violence and rape, ecological crimes, destruction of historical and religious sites, and damage to essential infrastructure like electricity, gas facilities, food supplies, and drinking water.





PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

How will the trial in Rojava against Turkey be conducted?

The tribunal will adhere to the principles of fairness and procedural rigor. A jury of experts will analyze evidence presented by witnesses, victims, and specialists. An international team of prosecutors will prepare the indictment, and the jury will issue a summary judgment followed by a detailed and reasoned decision.

While the tribunal's decisions are not legally binding, they will contribute to documenting the truth, raising awareness among the international public, and shaping future legal processes.

Who will participate in the tribunal?

In addition to the jury, prosecutors, witnesses, and experts, the tribunal will involve international civil society organizations, intellectuals, political figures, human rights advocates, lawyers, and representatives of various communities.

How can we support the Rojava People's Tribunal against Turkey?

You can apply to participate by attending the tribunal and disseminating its findings within your community. You can also support the tribunal by following and sharing its activities on social media:

X: @rojavaTribunal

Instagram: @rojava.tribunal



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PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

The following PPT judges are going to take part on this session:

Domenico Gallo (Italy)



Former Section President of the Court of Cassation, he entered the judiciary in 1977, actively participated in the life of the current “democratic magistracy” and the European Association of Magistrates “MEDEL”. In September 1994 he was elected Senator. At the end of the legislature, in 1996 he returned to the judiciary, where he served until 31 December 2021. He has edited numerous publications on topics relating to institutional issues and human rights. Among these: *Da Sudditi a Cittadini – il percorso della Democrazia*, Edizioni Gruppo Abele (2013); *Ventisei Madonne nere*, Delta Tre Edizioni (2019); *Il Mondo che verrà*, Delta Tre Edizioni (2022) e *Guerra Ucraina*, Delta Tre Edizioni (2023), *Guerre*, Delta Tre Edizioni (2024).

Rashida Manjoo (South Africa)



Professor Emerita at the University of Cape Town, South Africa where she taught for many years in the Faculty of Law and convened the LLM Human Rights Program. Between 2009 and 2015, she held the position of United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences. Her UN work has included monitoring and reporting on States’ compliance in responding to and preventing violence against women, its causes, and consequences, both generally and in different country contexts. Prof Manjoo is the former Parliamentary Commissioner of the Commission on Gender Equality, an institution created by the Constitution of South Africa, with a mandate to oversee the promotion and protection of gender equality and women’s rights. She has also been involved in social context training for judges and lawyers, where she has designed both content and methodology.

Czarina Musni (Philippines)



Human rights lawyer and member of the Union of Peoples’ Lawyers in Mindanao (UPLM). She focuses her work on the defence of the land rights of the peasants and indigenous communities in Mindanao against extractive industry companies and the government policies which results in the displacement, destruction of livelihood, environmental plunder and even killings and enforced disappearances of community leaders and members. She is also active in the campaigns for peace talks between the Government of Philippines and the Communist Party of the Philippines – National Democratic Front to resolve the ongoing armed conflict in the country. For her actions, she has been a victim of the red-tagging phenomenon that criminalises, stigmatizes and threatens those who defend human rights, those who criticise the government and those who call for a just and lasting peace in the Philippines. Due to the intensified persecution against her, she had to flee from her country for her safety and security.



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

Giacinto Bisogni (Italy)



Magistrate since 1981 and at the Court of Cassation since 2002. He has been working on international and EU law issues since 1997, collaborating with the European Commission on European civil codification projects. He is the author of numerous essays and commentaries on the protection of fundamental rights. He worked in the Legal Service of the European Commission from 1999 to 2022. Currently, he has ongoing collaborations with various universities, including the Law & Anthropology department of the Max Planck Institute.

Gabrielle Lefèvre (Brussels)



Belgian journalist since 1972: at La Cité until 1995; then at Le Soir until 2009. Columnist on the alternative news website www.entrelesignes.be since 2009. Specialist in development cooperation, social issues including migration, poverty and poor housing. Non-magistrate member of the Belgian High Council of Justice, representing the press, from 2008 to 2012. Member of various professional journalism bodies, including the Commission d'agrégation au titre de journaliste professionnel and founding member of the Conseil de déontologie journalistique. Member of the Henri La Fontaine Foundation, dedicated to pacifism. Former President and member of the Board of Directors of the Pro Renovassistance Foundation, dedicated to housing the most disadvantaged, in Brussels, and author of several books.

José Elías Esteve Moltó (Spain)



Senior lecturer of Public International Law and international relations. Director of the Master's Degree in Human Rights, Democracy and International Justice (2019-2023) and Secretary of the Human Rights Institute at the University of Valencia (2012-2021). He is currently in charge of the International Human Rights Department of the Legal Clinic of the Law Faculty of this University. Investigator advocate in claims related to international crimes committed in Tibet and Burma before the Spanish tribunals through universal jurisdiction. He has published dozens of articles in journals and book chapters on topics associated with international crimes, international humanitarian law, business and human rights focusing the attention on cases as the Union Carbide disaster of Bhopal.

Frances Gail Webber (UK)



Former barrister who specialised in immigration, refugee and human rights law until her retirement in 2008, and acted as a junior barrister for Amnesty International in the Pinochet extradition case of 1998-99. She is a trustee of the Institute of Race Relations, having served as vice-chair for many years, and is an honorary vice-president of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers. She co-edited Macdonald's Immigration Law and Practice (5th and 6th editions, 2001 and 2005) and Halsbury's British Nationality, Immigration and Asylum (4th edition, 2002 reissue), and is the author of Borderline justice: the fight for refugee and migrant rights (Pluto, 2012). After retirement she lectured at Warwick and Birkbeck (University of London) for some years, and she has spoken and written extensively on migration and human rights issues.



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

The following PPT Prosecutors are going to take part on this session:

Dr. Anni Pues (Germany)



Dr. Anni Pues is a Senior Lecturer in International Law at the University of Glasgow, where she teaches and researches international criminal law. She has published widely on questions of international criminal and human rights law. In addition to her academic career, she is a legal practitioner, who has acted as Counsel at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers, the International Criminal Court, and the European Court of Justice.

Barbara Spinelli (Italy)



Barbara Spinelli is a lawyer based in Bologna, co-president of the European Lawyers Association for Democracy and Human Rights (ELDH), member of the Human Rights Study Committee of the Bologna Bar Association, and the Human Rights Commission of the National Bar Council (C.N.F.). She is the author of “Femicide. From Social Denunciation to International Legal Recognition” (FrancoAngeli, 2008) and other publications on femicide, male violence against women, and human rights. She has served as an international observer in Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and Tunisia, and is a co-author of the “Manual for International Process Observers. The Defense of Human Rights

Declan Owens (Ireland)



Declan Owens is a trade union and environmental lawyer with the environmental non-profit, Ecojustice Ireland. He is co-chair of the Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers in Britain and the International Officer of the Socialist Lawyers Association of Ireland

Ezio Menzione (Italy)



Ezio Menzione is a lawyer in Pisa, Italy. He specialized in criminal law and death in many trials as a lawyer concerning human rights in front of Italian courts. In the last ten years, he's been appointed International Observer for the Italian Union of Penal Chambers (UCPI) and as such he has attended many trials in other countries, especially in Turkey and Turkish Kurdistan.



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Efstathios C. Efstathiou (Cyprus)



Efstathios C. Efstathiou is a lawyer and member of the Cyprus Bar Association. Beyond his legal practice, Efstathios serves as the Vice President of the Cyprus Association for the Protection of the Rights of Prisoners and Released Prisoners, showcasing his unwavering dedication to upholding the rights and well-being of individuals within the Cyprus justice system. As a member of the Cyprus Democratic Lawyers Association, Efstathios is deeply committed to advocating for justice, fairness, and human rights within the legal realm.

Heike Geisweid (Germany)



Heike Geisweid has been practicing law in the field of migration since 1996, with a primary focus on asylum cases for individuals from Turkey and Kurdistan. She has been a member of the board of (MAF-DAD e.V), the Association for Democracy and International Law, since 2006. Additionally, she has served as a board member of AZADÎ - Legal Aid Fund since 2003.

Jan Fermon (Belgium)



Jan Fermon, a lawyer at the Brussels Bar, specializes in criminal law, international (humanitarian) law, and human rights law. Since 2005, he has been a bureau member of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL). With extensive experience as a lawyer, legal advisor, researcher, teacher, and human rights defender, Fermon is skilled in immigration law, criminal defense, international law, and international humanitarian law. His work reflects a strong commitment to human rights and progressive legal practices.

Rengin Ergül (Kurdistan)



Rengin Ergül, a Human Rights Lawyer, has been actively working as an advocate and activist in the field of human rights since 2009 and has been practicing as a human rights lawyer since 2013. Her work focuses on torture and ill-treatment, prisons, and refugee rights in Turkey and Kurdistan. She has contributed to the management and activities of several legal and human rights organizations in both regions. Currently, she continues her work in Germany as a member of The European Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH) and the Association for Democracy and International Law (MAF-DAD).



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Şerife Ceren Uysal (Turkey)



Şerife Ceren Uysal is a human rights lawyer from Istanbul. She has been based in Vienna since August 2016. An executive board member of the Progressive Lawyers Association since 2015, Ceren Uysal was awarded the Dr.Georg Lebiszczyk Prize for Freedom of Speech in Austria in 2016 December. She is currently the co-secretary general of The European Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights (ELDH). Ceren is working as PEN Norway's Legal Adviser on Turkey.

Urko Aiartza Azurtza (Basque Country)



Urko Aiartza Azurtza is an esteemed member of the Gipuzkoa Lawyers Bar and has represented numerous human rights groups and individuals as a lawyer in national and international courts and institutions, which include the ECHR and UN. He is a Board Member of BEHATOKIA, The Basque Observatory of HRR. He also holds the position of Co-President of the European Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights. Hailing from the Basque Country, he previously served as a senator (2011-2015) in Madrid, where he held the position of Spokesperson in the Justice, Foreign Affairs, Iberoamerican, and Standing Senate Committees. In recent years, he has been actively providing consultancy on peace and mediation to public and private international institutions in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Since 2019, he has also taken on the role of director at the Olaso Dorrea Foundation and its "TM eLab", a center for generating innovative ideas in the Basque Country, his birthplace and current residence

Socrates Tziazas (Cyprus)



Socrates Tziazas is a lawyer and member of the Cyprus Bar Association with a specialization in criminal law and human rights practice. His expertise also extends to the application of the rule of law and human rights principles in the criminal justice system. As a dedicated member of the Cyprus Democratic Lawyers Association, Socrates is deeply committed to promoting the rule of law, protecting human rights, and advocating for justice in Cyprus and elsewhere.

Florian Bohsung (Germany)



Florian Bohsung is a young human rights activist and researcher. He studied International Relations and Human Rights Law at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. For the past year, he has worked for the Legal Center Lesvos in Greece.



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

The following witnesses are going to take part on this session:

Aynur Zeid Pasha (Rojava)



Aynur Zeid Pasha is a lawyer and a member of the Syrian Bar Association since 2001. She has been a human rights activist since 2004, working with human rights organizations in Aljazeera. She is a lecturer at the Social Justice Academy in Qamishli and has been a legal adviser to the Social Justice Council since 2016, the Center for Research and Protection of Women's Rights since 2019, and the Women's Council in North and East Syria.

She specializes in women's rights, with a focus on the case of Hefrin Xelef.

Mizgeen Mardia Abdul Hamid Hassan (Rojava)



Mizgeen Mardia Abdul Hamid Hassan has been a feminist human rights activist since 2011 and holds a bachelor's degree in journalism. She served as the Executive Director at the Center for Research and Protection of Women's Rights in Syria from 2019 to 2024 and is currently the Co-Chair of the Rights and Justice Commission in the Self-Administration.

She specializes in women's rights, focusing on the case of Nadia Suleiman.

Khaled Abdulhamid Ibrahim (Rojava)



Khaled Abdulhamid Ibrahim was born in 1971 in Karbatli Village, Al-Darbasiyah, Al-Hasakah. He graduated from Damascus University, Faculty of Law, in the class of 1999-2000 and has been a practicing lawyer registered with the Damascus Bar Association since 2001. Throughout his legal career, he has represented clients before State Security Courts, Military Courts, and Criminal Courts in Damascus and Aleppo, specializing in defending prisoners of conscience and Kurdish political detainees. He was a human rights activist from 2004 to 2011.

From 2012 to 2015, he was a permanent member of the Western Kurdistan Council, representing the Social Justice Council in Western Kurdistan. In 2013, he was appointed as the Head of the Social Contract Drafting Committee in the Jazira Region. From 2014 to 2016, he served as Deputy in the Justice Authority in the Jazira Region.

From 2016 to 2018, he was the Head of the Human Rights Authority in the Jazira Region and Legal Advisor to the Executive Council. From 2018 to 2021, he was the Head of the Office of Humanitarian Organizations Affairs in the Jazira Region. Since 2022, he has been a member of the Administrative Body in the Department of Foreign Relations in North and East Syria, focusing on counter-terrorism, humanitarian affairs, and diplomatic rights.

Mohammed Khair Bashir Al-Mohammed (Rojava)



Mohammed Khair Bashir Al-Mohammed is the Head of Oil and Gas Stations in Rumailan.



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

Akram Khalil Suleiman (Rojava)



Akram Khalil Suleiman was born in 1988 in Salhia, Hasaka, Syria.

Akram Khalil Suleiman is an experienced electrical engineer with a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Tishreen University, Latakia. He has been the Director General at the Ministry of Energy in the Self-Administration since 2016, overseeing the implementation of various energy-related projects and managing procurement and logistics. Previously, he worked as an electrical engineer at the Syrian Petroleum Company in Rumailan from 2014 to 2016.

Ruben Wagensberg Ramon (Catalonia)



Ruben Wagensberg is a human rights activist and Catalan politician. In 2016, he led the campaign “Casa nostra, casa vostra” in support of the rights of people displaced by conflicts, organizing in Barcelona the largest demonstration in history for the rights of refugees. He is currently a member of the Catalan Parliament and was the driving force behind the first official international recognition of DAANES in 2021. His ties to the Kurdish people have led him to visit Rojava on numerous occasions, where he has become politically involved in the Kurdish issue and the defense of their civil rights.

In 2023, he was politically persecuted when he was unjustly accused of terrorism by the Spanish state, forcing him to go into exile in Switzerland until 2024, when his case was dismissed. That same year, he submitted a report to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation about the harm suffered by the population due to the criminal management of the Alouk Water Station by Turkey in the occupied areas.

Rubel Bahho (Rojava)



Rubel Bahho, born in 1981 in Qamishli, Syria, is a member of the Syriac Union Party and has served as the Co-Vice President of the Foreign Relations Department since 2022. Graduating in electricity in 2002, he has worked in the field, including at Qamishli International Airport. He has led the Suroyo Media Foundation since 2018 and was a lecturer for the Syriac Security Forces (Sutoro). Politically and socially active, he was arrested by the regime in 2013 and released after a year and a half.





PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

Endorsing organizations:



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY



5-6 February 2025

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