

INVITATION TO THE PRESS



PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY

5-6 February 2025

Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

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 Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) – Campus
Etterbeek – Gebouw Q: aula QA – Brussels

PERMANENT PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL ON ROJAVA VS. TURKEY 5 – 6 February 2025,

Brussels Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

Invitation to the Press for the Coverage of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal

Dear Members of the Press and Journalists,

We are reaching out to invite you to cover a historic and critically significant event: the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Rojava vs. Turkey, which will take place on the 5th and 6th of February, 2025, at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Brussels, Belgium.

The Tribunal will address allegations of severe human rights violations and war crimes committed by the Turkish government and Turkey-backed forces in north and east Syria, also known as Rojava. These accusations include actions that may constitute crimes against humanity under international law, such as the forced displacement of populations, the use of banned weapons, targeted assassinations, torture, and the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage.

As a press dedicated to informing the public and upholding the principles of transparency and accountability, your presence at this event would be invaluable. The Tribunal's proceedings will provide access to first-hand testimonies, expert analyses, and a wealth of evidence regarding the situation in Rojava. Coverage of these proceedings will serve as a crucial tool for raising awareness, promoting accountability, and amplifying the voices of victims.



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Key Issues to be Addressed During the Tribunal

- **Forced Displacement of Populations:** Testimonies will highlight cases of forced displacement, particularly in Afrin and Ras al-Ayn, where Kurdish residents have been driven from their homes in violation of international humanitarian law.
- **Use of Banned Weapons and Targeting of Civilians:** Evidence will be presented regarding the alleged use of banned weapons, such as white phosphorus, against civilian populations and infrastructure, including schools and hospitals.
- **Targeted Assassinations and Civilian Massacres:** Cases such as the assassination of Hevrin Khalaf, a prominent advocate for peace, and the massacre at Taqal Baqal will be addressed, shedding light on violent acts against non-combatants.
- **Manipulation of Essential Resources:** Reports on the deliberate disruption of the Alouk water station -which provides water to over one million people- will be presented, highlighting the impact on public health and humanitarian conditions.
- **Destruction of Cultural Heritage and Religious Sites:** The systematic destruction and looting of cultural sites, including sacred Yazidi shrines, will be documented as violations of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property.
- **Torture and Unlawful Detention:** The Tribunal will showcase reports of torture and arbitrary detention, including the emblematic case of Nadiya Sulaiman, as part of a broader strategy to repress the cultural and ethnic identity of the population.

These issues highlight the gravity of the situation and the urgent need for media coverage to ensure that the international community remains informed and engaged.





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Press Access:

The Tribunal's sessions will be open to journalists and media agencies, with opportunities for:

- Access to live hearings featuring testimonies from survivors, expert witnesses, and international legal scholars.
- Interviews with key participants, including members of the Tribunal's jury, representatives of supporting organizations, and legal experts.
- Media materials, including press kits, background information, and access to visual content from the proceedings.

Press Registration and Accreditation

To facilitate access and ensure proper logistical arrangements, we kindly ask the press to register their interest in covering the Tribunal. Registered press will receive a press pass, priority access to interviews, and early access to press materials.

**Please confirm your participation by contacting our media team at:
press@rojavapeopletribunal.org or via WhatsApp: +31686453055.**

The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal on Rojava vs. Turkey is a vital opportunity for the media to play a central role in amplifying the voices of victims, promoting justice, and holding those responsible for human rights violations to account. Your participation will contribute to a more informed and engaged global audience. We look forward to welcoming you to Brussels for this landmark event.

Respectfully,

Midya Abdah – Center for Research and Protection of Women's Rights in Europe

Heike Geisweid – Association for Democracy and International Law (MAF-DAD)

Ceren Uysal – European Association of Lawyers for Democracy & World Human Rights (ELDH)

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