



Hansaring 82, 50670 Köln
Tel.: +49(0)221/16793945
Fax: +49(0)221/16793948
Email: azadi@t-online.de



ASSOCIATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
Hansaring 82, 50670 Köln
Tel.: +49(0)221/16793950
Fax: 49(0)221/16793948
Email: info@mafdad.org

09 January 2015

Dear Sir,
Dear Madam,
Dear friends,

as many of you will remember, we organized international expert conferences on "**The so-called anti-terror struggle using the example of Kurds –practice in the European legal sphere**" in 2009 and 2010. We regard the solid exchange of information and views as very valuable.

We would like to follow up with a third international expert conference, focusing mainly on questions of international law and the right to self-determination of peoples, which have, in the light of the dramatic political developments in the Middle East, moved to the focus of international politics. The conference is titled "**The so-called anti-terror struggle using the example of the Kurds in the light of International Law**" and will be held from 6 to 8 February 2015 in Bonn. Please find attached the programme.

In the first part of the session, different talks will present the historical development and practical significance of the right to self-determination of peoples, the role of non-state actors, the importance of democracy and nation-states, and, last but not least, the current interpretation of the right to self-determination.

In 2011 - during the unrests in Syria – the construction of the societal system of "democratic autonomy", a concept proposed by the PKK-representative Abdullah Öcalan, was launched in the North of Syria, which is predominantly inhabited by Kurds. Three self-governing cantons were created: Afrin, Kobanê and Cizîre.

This revolutionary model of democracy, as well as the war between the terror militia "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) against the self-governing Syrian-Kurdish city of Kobanê (Arabic: Ain al-Arab) that has been escalating since mid-September, as well as the strikes of the US Air Force against positions of ISIL will be examined from the perspective of international law.

In the second part of the event, several lectures will be given on the discourse around the concept of terrorism in the context of the political and criminal persecution of the Kurdish movement, its institutions and activists. Considering the ISIL-terror in Syria and Iraq, the diverging interests of both the regional and international powers, the delivery of German arms to the Peshmerga of the northern Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government on one hand, the denial of any support for the defense forces YPG / YPJ in Kobanê due their closeness to the Kurdistan Worker's Party, PKK on the other hand, should be of particular interest. The international community's stigmatization of the freedom struggle of the Kurds as "terrorism" has for decades persistently concealed methods of state terrorism applied against the Kurdish population in Turkey.

The peace process which began at the end of 2012, the unilateral ceasefire declared by Abdullah Öcalan in spring of 2013, and the talks between him and representatives of the Turkish state apparatus, have been extremely fragile due to the current developments. Nevertheless, or perhaps precisely because of that, issues of democratization, dialogue and exchange of perspectives in the Middle East will be given great attention.

The first conference day will close with the presentation of the appeal proceedings to the European Court to delist the PKK from the "terror list", as well as the presentation of concepts of the Kurdish movement to solve the Turkish-Kurdish conflict.

On the second day, the speakers will confront the consequences of indexing the PKK on "terror lists" and of the operation ban on the PKK issued in Germany in 1993, and discuss which legal and political counter-strategies can be developed.

The topics will therefore provide ample opportunity for intensive and fruitful discussions.

To this end, we would like to cordially invite you. We are looking forward to your registration.

Arrival day is Friday, 6 February and the conference will end on Sunday, 8 February at 1.00 pm. Costs for accommodation and meals will be covered by us. We will also take care for room reservation.

If you choose to participate please inform us until 20 January **by email** (azadi@t-online.de or info@mafad.org) or **by fax** (+49 -0- 221 – 16 79 39 48) about your arrival and departure days, so that we can make the booking.

Conference languages Turkish, English, German
Simultaneous translation available

Kind regards,

Heike Geisweid
Lawyer, Chairwoman of MAF-DAD

Dr. Elmar Millich
Chairman of AZADÎ

Association for Democracy and
International Law, Köln

Association for Legal Aid for Kurds
in Germany, Köln

