

## Press Release

Please find below the **Call to Boycott Turkish Government Sponsored Academic and Cultural Institutions** endorsed by a group of leading scholars in the fields of Western imperialism, settler colonialism, histories and anthropologies of the Middle East and/or the Arab World; gender studies, critical race studies, genocide studies and political violence. The regional scope of these scholars and artists represents a wide array of areas, both in and beyond the Middle East, including: Syria, Kurdistan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Armenia and Armenian diasporas, Tunisia, Yemen, South Africa, Sudan, India, Morocco, Latin America, U.S., Canada, France, Germany, Catalonia, Basque Country, Ireland, the UK and many other places. You will also find amongst the endorsers making the call many leading artists from all around the world. This is a call to stop the war and not only that, also to actively promote the ideas embodied by Rojava!

This is in no way the total list of signatures. You can send emails to [info@boycott-turkey.org](mailto:info@boycott-turkey.org) and look for ways to continue to make the boycott affective.

See

<https://boycott-turkey.net/call-to-boycott-turkish-government-sponsored-academic-and-cultural-institutions-2/>

## **Call to Boycott Turkish Government Sponsored Academic and Cultural Institutions**

We call on academics, artists and intellectuals around the world to oppose the Turkish invasion of northeastern Syria by boycotting Turkish government sponsored academic, artistic and musical events taking place inside and outside of Turkey.

### ***Background to the Call to Academic and Cultural Boycott***

The Turkish state's invasion of northeastern Syria has brought a dangerous state of war to the only relatively stable region in the country, threatening the lives of thousands with indiscriminate shelling, mass displacement and continuous bombardment. The Turkish attack threatens to do enormous, perhaps irreversible, damage to international standards of law, human rights and human freedom. It also threatens to destroy a unique experiment in feminist social transformation.

Sadly, there have been numerous cases of invading armies committing war crimes over the last century; but it is rare indeed for the commander to openly declare ethnic cleansing and war crimes as the main objective of his military operation and for the "international community" to respond with almost universal silence—or even support. This is a direct and explicit attempt to change the rules on the ground.

Turkish President R. T. Erdoğan has stated explicitly and repeatedly that it is his intention to militarily ethnically cleanse the Kurdish population of over one million people that live in an arc across the Turkish border from Kobane to Derik and to replace that population with members of different ethnic groups. One year ago, similar declarations were made before invading Afrin, another Kurdish-majority region in Syria. Since then, the originally 95 percent Kurdish population of Afrin has been reduced to a minority, with thousands killed or driven from their homes and the Kurdish language banned in schools. The municipality is now governed by jihadist groups backed by Turkey.

In other words, Erdoğan has declared his intention to violate three different key principles of international law clearly established in the Geneva Conventions and Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunals: 1. The crime of aggression 2. The crime of ethnic cleansing 3. The crime of resettling populations in conquered territory—even now his forces are using NATO-supplied weaponry to illegally bomb churches, hospitals, cultural monuments and civilian infrastructure.

Despite all this, the UN security council has failed to condemn the invasion and most national governments have taken no practical steps to stop it. This could be the end of the Nuremberg Principles, which, although often violated in practice, were at least recognized by all international actors as the principles that should govern military conflicts. Acts previously considered outrageous, even genocidal, risk being normalized.

What has been happening in Rojava for the last seven years—the attempt to create a society based on bottom-up, direct democracy, the liberation of women, and ecological principles as essential to any conception of human liberation—is, ultimately, the real threat to authoritarians like Erdogan, indeed, to authoritarians everywhere, and the real basis for their endless talk of "security concerns." Anyone who dares attempt an experiment that puts women at the heart of the liberation process must be punished so severely that no one will even think about doing it again. We, the undersigned, must object. The Rojava experiment may be imperfect in a number of ways, as any such experiment must be, but it holds out the prospect of changing the game and creating new rights and freedoms rather than robbing us of what little freedom we have. It is important to humanity everywhere that such spaces of hope are preserved.

After almost a week of Turkish state occupation, the region faces more uncertainties than ever before. Under these circumstances we call on the international academy to clearly state their committed opposition to the occupation and their solidarity with peoples of Rojava.

***Implementation of the Boycott***

One of the goals of this call is to encourage dialogue about human rights grounded in a set of shared principles. To this end, our call is directed to academic and cultural institutions. The boycott we are calling for does not preclude communication and collaboration with individual Turkish scholars or democratic institutions/journals. Turkish scholars will be welcome to attend academic events, using institutional funding to do where appropriate, to publish in academic journals and to take part in other activities as individuals.

This is also a call for cultural workers and cultural organizations to boycott events, activities, agreements or projects involving Turkish government or government-funded cultural institutions. International venues and festivals are asked to reject funding and any form of sponsorship from the Turkish government.

This is also a call for people to actively promote the ideas embodied by Rojava. As such, the signatories commit themselves to stimulating transnational intellectual and public awareness of and sensitivity to the situation in northeastern Syria/Rojava by organizing concerted on- and off-campus teach-ins, panels, vigils, concerts, art exhibits, etc., as well as developing solidarity networks and joint-action campaigns with existing academic and public initiatives that target processes of neo-imperialism, settler colonialism, racism, militarism and sexism in various contexts.

Name	Institution/Title/Country
1. Prof. David Graeber	U.K.
2. Prof. John Holloway	Mexico
3. Prof. Adrej Grubic	U.S.A.
4. Prof. Noam Chomsky	U.S.A
5. Howie Hawkins	U.S.A.
6. Prof. Barry K. Gills	Finland
7. Nika Dubrovsky	Artist
8. Brian Eno	Musician
9. Prof. David Harvey	The Graduate Center, CUNY, U.S.A.
10. Alba Sotorra Clua	Filmmaker, Spain
11. Prof. Howard Besser	Founding Director, Moving Image Archive and Preservation Program. NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, U.S.A.
12. Pawel Wodziński	Director, Biennale Warszawa, Poland
13. James Kelman	Writer, Booker Prize, Scotland
14. Annelles Broekman	CREAF institute in Barcelona
15. Nasser Teymourpour	Artist, U.K.
16. Assistant Prof. Ebad Rouhi	Public international law at Islamic Azad University Sanandaj Branch, Iran
17. Prof. Donald Bloxham	History, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

18. Prof. James L. Gelvin	History, University of California, U.S.A.
19. Prof. Nancy Postero	Anthropology, Co-Director, Human Rights Program, UC San Diego, U.S.A.
20. Prof. John Tully	Writer/Historian, Victoria University, Australia
21. Prof. Michael Rothberg	1939 Society Samuel Goetz Chair in Holocaust Studies, UCLA
22. Prof. Michael Davis	U.C. Riverside, U.S.A
23. Ass. Prof. Seth M. Holmes	UC Berkeley, U.S.A.
24. Prof. Fatima Sadiqi	President of ISIS Center for Women and Development
25. Prof. Manuela Picq	International Relations and Sexuality Women's and Gender Studies, Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Ecuador) and Amherst College (USA)
26. Prof. Andreas Bieler	Political Economy, University of Nottingham, U.K.
27. Prof. Saskia Sassen	Columbia University
28. Raul Zibechi	Uruguay
29. Dr. Angela Dimitrakaki	Musical Artist, Edinburg/Athens
30. Prof. Nadjie Al-Ali	Anthropology and Middle East Studies, Brown University, U.S.A.
31. Dr. Thomas Jeffrey Miley	Political Sociology, Fellow of Darwin College, The University of Cambridge, U.K.
32. Dr. Judith Dellheim	Berlin, Germany
33. Sam Salehi Samiee	Painting Department, ArtEZ AKI, Enschede, Netherlands
34. Jonas Staal	Visual Artist, Netherlands
35. Mateo Chacon-Pino	Curator & Writer, Switzerland
36. Prof. Chris Dixon	Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
37. Houzan Mahmoud	Feminist activist & cofounder of Culture Project
38. Dr. Isabel Kaeser	Sociologist, UK
39. Prof. John P. Clark	Philosophy, Loyola University, New Orleans, U.S.A.
40. Ass. Prof. Joost Jongerden	Wageningen University, Netherlands
41. Dr Katie Gaddini	University College London, U.K.
42. Ramsey Kanaan	PM Press, U.S.A.
43. Dr Mahvish Ahmad	University of Cape Town, South Africa
44. Maryam Ashrafi	Social documentary photographer and filmmaker, U.K./France
45. Dr. Felix Padel	Anthropologist, U.K./India
46. Dr. Yara Hawari	University of Exeter, U.K.
47. Professor Michel Pimbert	Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University, UK
48. Masood Ebrahimi	Faculty of Engineering, University of Kurdistan, Sanandaj.

49. Prof. Ana Isla	Department of Sociology and the Centre for Women and Gender Studies, Brock University, Canada
50. Prof. Ziga Vodovnik	University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
51. Ass. Prof. John Cheney-Lippold	University of Michigan, U.S.A.
52. Prof. Geoff Eley	Karl Pohrt Distinguished University Professor of Contemporary History Professor of History and German Studies, University of Michigan, U.S.A.
53. Prof. Joel Beinin	Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History and Professor of Middle East History, Emeritus Stanford University
54. Ass. Prof. Carlota Mcallister	York University, Canada
55. Prof. Harry D. Harootunian	He is Professor Emeritus of East Asian Studies, New York University, and Max Palevsky Professor of History and Civilizations, Emeritus, University of Chicago
56. Prof. Soraya de Chadarevian	University of California, Los Angeles. U.S.A.
57. Anna Galas-Kosil	Curator of international projects Biennale Warszawa, Poland
58. Prof. Hamit Bozarslan	EHESS, Paris, France
59. Ass. Prof. <a href="#">Daphne Winland</a>	Anthropology, York University, Canada
60. Prof. Michael T. Taussig	Columbia University, U.S.A.
61. Prof. Walden Bello	Sociology, State University of New York at Binghamton and senior research fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies of Kyoto University in Japan
62. Summer Brenner	Writer, U.S.A.
63. Dr Bazan Sadiq	University College London, U.K.
64. Ass. Prof. Anneeth Kaur Hundle	Dhan Kaur Sahota Presidential Chair of Sikh Studies Department of Anthropology University of California, U.S.A.
65. Paloma Polo	Visual Artist/Independent Researcher, International League of People's Struggle – Spain
66. Jasmina Tesanovic	Writer and an feminist activist, Serbia
67. Bruce Sterling	Writer, U.S.A.
68. Simon Denny	Artist, New Zealand/Germany
69. Hiwa K	Artist, Germany
70. Dmitry Vilensky and ChtoDelat collective	Artist, Russia
71. Andreas Siekmann	Artist, Germany
72. Kimberly Bradley	Journalist, Germany
73. Prof. Boris Groys	Art Critic, Media Theorist, Philosopher, NYU, U.S.A.
74. Nora Al-Badri	Artist, Germany

75. Ragnar Hjalmarsson	Herties School, Germany
76. Ivor A Stodolsky	Curator and Co-Director, Artists at Risk (AR)
77. Prof. Christian Von Borries	Artist, China Academia of Art , Hangzhou
78. Prof. Laura Fantone	University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.
79. Prof. Raj Patel	The University of Texas, U.S.A.
80. Linda Farthing	Independent Scholar and journalist La Paz, Bolivia
81. Leslie Salzinger	<i>Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Research Gender and Women's Studies</i> University of California, Berkeley
82. Dr. Diane M. Nelson	Full Professor, Cultural Anthropology, Duke University, Durham, NC USA
83. Ass. Prof. Anne-Lise François	University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.
84. Prof. Sherene H. Razack	Penny Kanner Endowed Chair in Women's Studies Dept. of Gender Studies, UCLA U.S.A.
85. Dr. Marina Sitrin	Binghamton University, NY, USA
86. Prof. Derek Gregory	Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies and Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Canada
87. Julie Ward	Poet & politician, Labor MEP, Vice Chair Culture & Education Committee in European Parliament
88. Dr. Tomas Ryska	social anthropologist, University of Economics Prague/CEMS, the Czech Republic
89. Prof. Luin Goldring	York University, Canada
90. Prof. Dr. Xerardo Pereiro	Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD), Portugal
91. Prof. Federica Giardini	Spettacolo Università Roma Tre, Italy
92. Dr Maria Giannacopoulos	Flinders University, Australia
93. Dr. José Gutiérrez	Ireland
94. Dr. Alexander Panez	Assistant professor at University of Bio-Bio in Chile
95. Center of social movements and territorialities studies (LEMTO) of the Fluminense Federal University	Brazil
96. Dr. Annelies Broaekman	Autonom University of Barcelona, Catalonia
97. Dr. Isabel Kaeser	SOAS, U.K.
98. Dr. Christos Zografos	Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona
99. Gustav Duch	Facultat de Veterinaria de la UAB el curso "Incidencia social y política en favor de la Sobirania Alimentaria", Catalonia
100. Federico Demaria	Research & Degrowth (R&D) Institut de Ciencia i Tecnologia Ambientals (ICTA), Universitat Autònoma de

	Barcelona (UAB), Barcelona
101. Prof. Giorgos Kallis	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
102. Ana Isabel Sánchez Plaza	Biòloga CREAM UAB, Catalonia
103. Ass. Prof. Roser Rodríguez Carreras	Universitat de Barcelona, Catalonia
104. Fernando Paniagua de Paz	Programador Ateneu Popular 9 Barris, Catalonia
105. Fer, Ekhi L. de la Granja	Musician and Professor, Catalonia
106. The Research Group on Geography and Gender	The Autonomous University of Barcelona, Catalonia
107. Tiago Carvalho	Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy
108. Nancy Gallagher	Professor Emerita of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, U.S.A.
109. Guillaume Calafat	Associate Professor of History, l'Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
110. Sebouh Aslanian	Ass. Prof. Of History, University of California, U.S.A.
111. Debby Farber	Independent Curator & PhD Student, Leipzig University, Germany
112. Julia Elyachar	Associate Professor Anthropology & International and Regional Studies, Princeton University, U.S.A.
113. Hourri Berberian	Ass. Prof. Of History, University of California U.S.A.
114. Dr. habil. Ilona M. Otto	Earth System Analysis Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany
115. Dr. Mira Menzfeld	University of Zurich, Switzerland
116. Dr Jessica Cooper	Lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
117. Francesco Spagna	University of Padova, Italy
118. Prof. Gavin Brown	Political Geography and Sexualities, School of Geography, Geology, and the Environment University of Leicester, U.K.
119. Matvei Yankelevich	Poet & Publisher, Russia
120. Amir Darwish	Syrian poet; Exiled Writers-ink committee member, UK
121. Aonghas MacNeacail	Poet and song-writer in the Scottish-Gaelic language, Scotland
122. Dafydd Iwan	Welsh singer, song-writer and politician. Former President of Plaid Cymru Party of Wales, Wales
123. Dr Jennifer Langer	Poet and editor of four anthologies of exiled literature; founding director of Exiled Writers Ink, UK
124. George Evgeniou	Cypriot actor, director and writer; founder and artistic director of

	Theatro Technis in London, UK
125. Rocky Rodriguez Jr	Film-maker, writer, theatre director, UK
126. Penny Dimond	Actor, writer and theatre director, UK
127. John Chaney-Lippold	Ass. Prof. Of American Culture, University of Michigan, USA
128. Kathryn Babayan	Ass. Prof. Of History, University of Michigan, USA
129. Carlota McAllister	Ass. Prof. Anthropology, York University, Canada
130. Amy Austin Holmes	Ass. Prof. Of Sociology, American University in Cairo, Egypt
131. Ass. Prof. Gada Kadoda	Garden City College for Science and Technology, Sudan
132. Ass. Prof. Yasser Munif	Emerson College
133. Ass. Prof. Adrienne Pine	Anthropology, American University
134. Nicola Perugini	Senior Lecturer International Studies, University of Edinburg, Scotland
135. Lotte Buch Segal	Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Edinburg, Scotland
136. Ass. Prof. Rayed Khedher	Arab Studies, Davidson College, USA
137. Prof. Charles Piot	Anthropology, Duke University, USA
138. Jule Goikoetxea	Writer & Professor, University of the Basque Country
139. <b>Maria Paula Prates</b>	<b>Anthropologist, Research Fellow at City University of London</b> , Professora Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre (Brazil)
140. Dr Mischa Gabowitsch	researcher, Einstein Forum, Potsdam, Germany
140. Hakan Sandal	Centre for Gender Studies, University of Cambridge, U.K.
141. Schluwa Sama	PhD Candidate, University of Exeter, U.K.
142. Gerardo Lopez-Amaro	PhD Student, CIIS, U.S.A.
143. Philip Luther-Davies	PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge, Department of Sociology
144. Stefano Portelli	Postdoctoral Fellow at Leicester University, Department of Geography affiliate with Harvard University's Department of Anthropology
145. Klaudia Wieser	PhD candidate, University of Vienna, Austria
146. Doug Nicholls	Writer, UK
147. Rahila Gupta	Writer and Poet, UK
148. Alice Creischer	Artist, writer and theorist, Germany
149. Dr. Jose Gutierrez	Sociologist, Ireland
150. Francesco Vacchiano	Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon
151. Anabel Rieiro	Departamento de Sociología y Unidad de Extensión, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales-Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay
152. Luís Silva	Senior researcher. New university of Lisbon, Portugal.



153. Prof. Joya Misra	Sociology & Public Policy, University of Massachusetts USA
154. Dr. Narelle Warren	Monash University, Australia
155. Prof. Filipa Alvim	Anthropologist, University of Coimbra Portugal
156. Ass. Prof. Millie Thayer	Department of Sociology UMass, Amherst
157. Jean Halley	Professor of Sociology, City University of New York, USA
158. Marita Muukkonen	Co-Founding Director: Artists at Risk (AR) and Ecologists at Risk (ER), Helsinki
159. Erden Kosova	Curator & Writer
160. Ratiba HADJ-MOUSSA	Sociology, York University, Canada