



STOP THE ATROCITIES WHICH THE FASCIST TURKISH
REGIME IS COMMITTING AGAINST THE KURDISH
PEOPLE. DEMAND JUDICIOUS ACTION FROM OUR
GOVERNMENTS
UNITED WE ARE STRONG - WE ARE HUMAN
International Conference Ad Pacem (Towards Peace)

Grand Hotel Amr ath Kurhaus, The Hague

18 March 2016: 17:00 – 21:00

PROFFESIONAL SKILLS III

Assignment 2: Project Management

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Introduction

In Turkey, the AKP government, headed by prime minister Erdogan has implemented a suppressing regime which controls all sectors of the state, since they obtained a majority in parliament in 2002. The police and military, the state bureaucracy and the judicial sector have been occupied by civil servants loyal to the AKP party. Currently, Erdogan strives to implement a presidential system in order to centralize all power; therefore, every sign of disobedience and critique is brutally suppressed. (Erdemir, 2016)

During the general elections on 7 June 2016, the AKP government lost its majority as a result of the success of the progressive pro-Kurdish Democratic Party of the People (HDP), who obtained 13.6 percent of the national votes, and therefore significantly weakened the limited AKP majority. This caused much fear among the nationalists Turks loyal to the AKP, because they required at least 70 percent of the votes to implement a presidential system, in order to devise a Turkish nation state. (Letsch, Traynor, 2016)

That is why, Erdogan wants to organize a second round of elections and push the HDP under the elections threshold, and in that way secure the vast majority needed to implement this centralist presidential system.

As the AKP party lost significant support during the elections, they endeavored to regain the support of the Turkish majority. Therefore, they resumed the 40-year long conflict with the Kurdish Workers Party, PKK, after almost two years of peace talks and negotiations. In order to gain more traction, Erdogan wants to portray himself as a strong leader who fights against the Kurdish terrorists.

Therefore, the AKP government has installed round-the-clock curfews in seven Kurdish provinces and 20 counties.

For the past six months in front of the worlds eyes, Turkish state forces have used extensive violence and humiliation against the Kurds, and fired artillery overnight in populated areas. In the past six months these atrocities have caused 768 civilian casualties. At least 265 civilians have been burned to death in the basements of their residential buildings, as they took refuge for the Turkish bombardments. (Kurdistan National Congress, 2016) (Charlton, 2016)

Amnesty International has strongly condemned these atrocities and stated that the Turkish regime is conducting 'an collective punishment' against the Kurdish people. (Amnesty International, 2016)

In addition, Turkey is bombing the Kurdish YPG forces in Syria, who are the most decisive force in the fight against Daesh, and are supported by the USA, Russia and the coalition. This implies that Turkey rather prefers Daesh at its borders, than a democratic Kurdish region ruled by the Syrian Kurds. (Reuters, 2016)

It is crystal-clear that Turkey does not want a democratic Kurdish state based on equality & humanity in Rojava (Northern Syria), and by all means the regime wants to continue the large-scale illegal oil-trade with Daesh. While the Kurdish YPG & Peshmerga are the most decisive force in the fight against Daesh, and are supported by the US, the Turks show their real intentions, and demonstrate the world that they are not fighting terrorism, in fact, they are the lifeline for IS, together with their close partner Saudi Arabia. (Graeber, 2016)

Despite all the difficulties the Kurds in Syria have encountered, they have managed to declare a federal system in Syria, called Rojava. (BBC, 2016)

In addition, recently on March 7 2016, the largest newspaper of Turkey, Zaman, was violently taken over by the AKP regime, and one day later the newspaper had been transformed in a pro-government propaganda instrument. This illustrates that the press has been censored and the "division of powers" has been faded. (The Economist, 2016)

All this happens under the eyes of the International community; however, most European countries remain very silent and passive, as Turkey will "solve" the refugee crisis and limit the uncontrolled mass influx to Europe.

Dr. Professor Joost Jongerden from Wageningen University states on Facebook:

"Turkey-EU negotiations about refugees is a human trafficking agreement, in which both parties agree on expelling and receiving people, and turn blind eyes to humanity. Instead of Turkey joining the EU, the EU is joining Turkey."

In fact, many international organizations remain very passive and silent, and refrain from actively condemning the atrocities which are committed by the fascist regime in Turkey. (RT, 2016)

Therefore, in order to make a significant shift and counter this destructive vicious circle of violence and suffering of human beings, I find it essential to organize a thought-provoking conference, in order to raise awareness among the civil society, as most of the hypocrite mainstream media are not covering the full story, and twist the news in order to serve their own national interests.

In the week when the violence in Northern Kurdistan reached on of its highest point, the Dutch NOS reported about Carnaval, a Dutch party which is primarily about getting drunk and acting crazy, and knives that were way to sharp in the Albert Heijn, a Dutch supermarket chain. These facts illustrate the double-standards of the Western Media, and that they turn a blind eye towards the suffering of people, when their own interests are in danger. (NOS, 2016)

The main goal of this "bottom up" approach is to make people aware what is happening with their fellow human beings, in order to stimulate them to demand justice and solid action from their local and national governments. It is primarily focused on the Kurds; however, the broader message is to spread humanity and understanding. To gain traction for all the struggling people across the world, to all the resisting women, to the peoples of Kurdistan who rise up against tyranny, to all the political prisoners, to all those immortals who were killed on the road to freedom, to those who defend life in the targeted cities, in the valleys and in the mountains.

Moreover, an essential objective of this campaign is to build bridges between the Turkish and Kurdish community, in order to overcome the past and stimulate reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. In order to monitor these relations, a Facebook page will be set up, where all interested people can conduct a respectful dialogue about sensitive issues, and in that way, create understanding as a way towards reconciliation.

The conference itself will be held on Friday 18th March 2016, in which a diverse range of speakers will address the issues, and afterwards there will be time for a healthy discussion and Q&A. There will be also information desk, from which people can receive flyers, brochures and a plastic bracelet with a strong text written on it. Then, everyone may share a picture of his self with the bracelet and a personal message to stop the violence.

In addition, there will be a peaceful mass-demonstration on Sunday 27th of March on 13:00 the "Plein" close to the Dutch parliament. This demonstration is aimed at raising more awareness about the atrocities which the Turkish regime is committing against Kurdish civilians, and targets the Dutch government in order to demand judicious actions from them.

This paper will demonstrate the course of action in detail, and what recourses and people will be involved, in order to organize a highly successful and effective conference.

Target Audience

Raising public awareness for the inhumane atrocities which the Turkish regime, headed by the fascist dictator Erdogan who wants to implement a presidential system, is committing against the Kurdish people.

The target audience are the ordinary people, academics and intellectuals: the civil society. We utilize a bottom-up approach, as most of the political elite only serves their own interests. This approach will guarantee that we will have a solid foundation of people who want to stop the Fascist Turkish regime and its criminal actions against innocent civilians. Subsequently, these people can spread the message in their own transnational networks, through Facebook and other social media.

We also have to make a distinction between the two separate events.

The first, and main event, is the conference organized in the Kurhaus on Friday 18 March from 17:00 until 21:00. Everyone is welcome to attend, however it's targeted mostly on students, academics, intellectuals, journalists, as it will also attempt to explain why the International community is not taking active action against the Turkish regime. We label these people as: those who are willing to push the limits and demand justice and humanity, whatever the unjust consequences may be.

However, this does not mean that politicians and policy advisors are excluded. We will be very happy to welcome them, and they are more than welcome to make a contribution and explain their views.

In preparation for the second event, the peaceful demonstration on Sunday 20 March, plastic bracelets will be distributed to all the visitors of the conference and also during the demonstration, with the text: " Stop the fascist Turkish regime. We are HUMAN". Moreover, we will also make flyers with inspiring text written on it, which will call for humanity and understanding. These will be widely distributed during the event and the demonstration.

The target audience for the mass demonstration are the ordinary people, all human beings who strive towards more humanity and justice may be included in the demonstration. Cooperation with other NGO's and human rights organizations will be requested, in order to gain more traction and spread the message throughout the world.

Objective of the Project in SMART

In order to organize a highly successful event, one has to determine what the realistic objectives are, which obstacles have to be encountered, and in which timeframe all of this has to happen. Planning is essential, as it ensures that there is a clear course of action (COA), and that there has been clear anticipation on possible complexities.

I want to explicitly state that this project will be organized and conducted by a wide and dedicated group of Students, academics and young-professionals, mostly from Kurdish origin. Therefore, there is enough human capital, as well as financial recourses available. Funding will primarily derive from the KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government), and multiple other Kurdish organizations, as well as from private donations. This is a huge advantage for our project, as many people are emotionally involved since they have lost family members their selves, there is a huge number of dedicated people available to make this conference and demonstration a success.

Specific: What is the end result?

First of all, the sky is the limit. Most people have forgotten that they have the power to demand justice from their governments and politicians. In fact, "the law of the number" also plays a significant role, as it makes a significant difference whether you demonstrate with 75 people or with 50.000.

Unfortunately, many people refrain from taking significant action and initiative, for many possible reasons. Therefore, we will not aim to have 50.000 demonstrating against the Turkish regime on Sunday, as people have many other things on their minds, caused by the forced "system" (capitalist system) they reside in.

Therefore, the main goal for both the conference and the peaceful demonstration is to spread awareness about the atrocities which the Turkish regime is committing. Subsequently, every individual may contribute to the cause in its own way, according to its own principles and recourses.

1. **Main goal:** Raising active awareness among the society, about the atrocities which the Turkish regime is committing against Innocent Kurdish civilians. Subsequently, these people may demand judicious actions from their government and politicians, in order to counter the fascist Turkish regime and their criminal acts against innocent civilians.

2. (Indirect) Transnational uprising/demonstrations of the people, demanding their governments to act against inhumanity, not particularly focused on the Kurds, but on all suffering humans throughout the world.

Measurable: How to measure if we have reached our goal?

Nowadays, we live in an information-society, in which we are overloaded by news and information from multiple channels and Social Media, radio and television. This information scope is only intensified by the globalizing processes and therefore we have the capacity to reach the whole world with our message and mission, especially through

Facebook. Therefore, it's easy for us to conduct a plain and simple survey amongst people, in order to determine how much knowledge, they have about the Turkish-Kurdish conflict. We will utilize an online survey programme, such as Survey Monkey, to conduct the survey. Moreover, people can share their feelings and recommendations on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Ad-Pacem-1705641009718440/>

However, we must take into account, that there is also still a substantial part of society, primarily the older generation, who is not active on social media as such. Therefore, we will not only conduct surveys on the internet, but also walk through 2 major cities in the Netherlands, and talk with the ordinary people about their knowledge of the conflict. These cities will be Amsterdam and The Hague, on Monday 28 March, after our mass protest.

- 1: Conducting surveys online and on streets, talking with ordinary people and check their knowledge.
- 2: Measuring how the mainstream media reports about the conflict, by watching news and programmes
- 3: Measuring how politicians express their selves about the conflict, by watching news and programmes
- 4: Check Facebook page & views YouTube Video

Achievable: Can we achieve this goal?

Yes. United we are strong, shoulder to shoulder nothing can beat us. We are supporting a just cause, we are on the right side, and therefore the law protects us.

The main goal of this campaign which includes the conference and the demonstration, is to spread awareness about the, lately intensifying, suffering of the Kurdish people, among the ordinary people in the Netherlands, and around the world, as we live in a highly interconnected world with many transnational networks. Subsequently, these people can demand judicious actions from their governments and politicians.

Therefore, this aim of spreading awareness among the people is certainly achievable. Subsequently, the people can decide for their selves what they want to do exactly with their knowledge. We will try our utmost best to stimulate them to take action, each according to their own capabilities: such as spreading the message though their own networks, conducting a fundraiser campaign for the victims, or putting pressure on their governments and politicians.

Realistic: Is the project goal realistic: challenging enough, but still achievable?

The project goal is very realistic, as we are striving to spread awareness among the people, since they are badly informed by the mainstream media. However, the second stage of the project is more challenging, because it is not clear what these people might do with the information they have obtained.

Fortunately, we know there is a huge group of dedicated students, academics, intellectuals, writers, storytellers, activists, politicians and other people, who really want to fight for universal justice and humanity. Therefore, many of these people actually are prepared to sacrifice their own time and recourses to rise up against injustice.

In the end it's about sending a strong signal to the Dutch government, as well to the international community, that we do not accept this kind of violence and injustice against an innocent civilian population. What makes it worse, is that these acts are not committed by an evil lawless terrorist group like Daesh, but actually by their major lifeline: the fascist regime in Turkey who is the second largest NATO army.

This means that all NATO member are especially responsible for the actions their partners take on the ground, and when they refrain from condemning these criminal actions, they must realize that that is unacceptable. In addition, this also illustrates how valid the Geneva Conventions and Universal Human Rights are, as they are transgressed by a NATO army.

Time-bound: Is there any specific deadline by which the goal must be achieved?

The first stage of the project will be reached immediately, as the people will be informed by credited academics and intellectuals, and people who have experience from the ground, backed by verifiable facts. Subsequently they can share and spread this information in their own (transnational) networks, through social media.

The second stage must be reached as soon as possible, in order to prevent further suffering and casualties, as far as that is possible. In a good scenario, there will be 5000 people demonstrating on Sunday 27 March, and this will send a strong signal to the government, which subsequently, must condemn or take solid actions.

However, it is no guarantee that the Dutch government will actively condemn the acts of the Turkish regime. Nevertheless, the people will be well-informed, and in the long run, this will have significant importance for the credibility and status of governments and International Institutions, as they can be held accountable for their passiveness.

We will distribute flyers with the contact information and details about the event. Moreover, the link of our Facebook page and YouTube video should be easily accessible, in order to reach many people. Subsequently, people can spread our Facebook page and video through their own social networks.

Course of Action

1: Reserve the Kurhaus Hall, in Grand Hotel Kurhaus in Scheveningen, for Friday 18 March 2016, from 17:00 until 21:00. If for any reason this location is not anymore possible, we will reserve another hall in The Hague. For now, we will assume that the Hall can be reserved for the International Conference.

Recourses: Kevin Suleiman will reserve the Grand Hall, and maintain all contact with the Kurhaus Hotel.

Costs for renting, including security and free drinks (coffee & tea): €1990,-

I am working together with a close team of in total 5 people in order to work efficiently and effectively. Subsequently, this board can distribute tasks to other members who are actively involved, which will be approximately 50 members who are actively and voluntarily involved.

1: Kevin Suleiman: Organizational Management Kurhaus Conference.

2: Mazlum Django: Design Facebook page, flyers, T-shirts, and YouTube video.

3: Sipan Salim: Floormanager Conference Ad Pacem + Moderation

4: Sara Abdullaah: Information Desk & distribution bracelets and flyers

5: Dunya Barzan: Information officer & Information Desk and distribution bracelets and flyers

2: Publicize the conference on Facebook, with a solid promotional text and pictures.

Recourses: Mazlum Django will do this. One solid week needed for preparation and delivery orders.

Costs:

Facebook: 0.00

3: Determining which speakers will come and speak on the conference.

Recourses: Sipan Salim will manage all the contact with the speakers and moderate the conference.

1: Dr. Professor Joost jongerden -> focus on Fascist Turkish Regime & Atrocities

2: Ms. Dilar Dirik -> Focus on Kurdish Revolution and Worldwide revolution for Humanity

3: Dr. Jonas Staal -> Focus on Democratic Confederalism (Kurdish system of self rule)

4: Dr. Radha D'Souza -> Role of media (priming/propaganda)

4: Managing security with the Kurhaus Hotel. (Inclusive in the rent-price)

recourses: Kevin Suleiman. Costs included in rent price.

5: Determine a good moderator for the conference

6: Designing and distributing flyers prior to the event

7: Designing and distributing plastic bracelets prior to the event

8: Designing 25 colorful and remarkable T-shirts with solid text, for the people who are helping to organize this conference, and will be guiding and managing the peaceful demonstration.

9: Drawing up a plan of action for the conference day itself

10. Ask the municipality for a permit for the demonstration on Sunday 20 March 2016. If they do not grant this, we will conduct the peaceful demonstration without official permission.

Recourses

Financial:

Funding from various Kurdish organisations €10.000,-

KRG – Kurdistan Regional Government €25.000,-

Private Donations €5000,-

Human recourses: dedicated people, students, friends, KSN (Kurdish Studies Network), activists.

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