



EUROPEAN CENTER
FOR CONSTITUTIONAL
AND HUMAN RIGHTS



Bundeszentrale für
politische Bildung

INVITATION

Book presentation – “Syrian state torture on trial”

Where: @Oyoun, Lucy-Lameck-Straße 32, 12049 Berlin

When: 15 May 2023 – 6.30 PM

At the Koblenz Higher Regional Court, for the first time, a high-ranking former official of the Assad regime was sentenced in January 2022 to life in prison for crimes against humanity committed in Syria. An additional employee had already been convicted in February 2021. The reckoning with Syrian state torture in Germany sends an important signal to survivors and the international community and represents a turning point in the fight against impunity.

Although one can point out the shortcomings in how the German judiciary conducted these international proceedings – by making access to Arabic translations for Syrians unnecessarily difficult and failing to sufficiently investigate sexual violence, among other things – it is a step on the path toward justice.

The trial received worldwide attention, which makes it all the more important to contextualize the events that occurred – both within and outside of the courtroom in Germany, Europe and Syria. What happened in the courtroom can only explain the nature of the crimes against humanity to a limited degree. Therefore, in cooperation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/bpb), we have produced a trilingual anthology that offers insights into the proceedings, situates them in a larger historical and social context, and captures their significance with respect to international criminal law. In the publication, voices from the Syrian diaspora, in particular, present their perspectives.

We would like to cordially invite you to the release of the anthology "Syrian State Torture on Trial." After the program, we look forward to joining you in conversation over drinks.

As of 15 May, the anthology will be available under order number 10952 for 7€ at the [Federal Agency for Civic Education](#).

Program

18:45 Musical opening, greeting & introduction

Wassim Mukdad Trio

Thomas Krüger (President of the Federal Agency for Civic Education)

Wolfgang Kaleck (General Secretary, ECCHR)

19:10 Panel: The Koblenz trial – Justice for crimes against humanity in Syria

With Ruham Hawash (Syrian activist, joint plaintiff and Assistant Director of IMPACT Civil Society Research & Development), Hannah El-Hitami (freelance journalist), Mariana Karkoutly (Senior Fellow, Humanity in Action/Board Member, Huquqyat) and Patrick Kroker (ECCHR)

Moderation: Kristin Helberg

20:00 Performance

“Al Khatib Glossar” – Theatrical reading | Kollektiv WieseWieEsIst

20:15 Break

20:30 Musical interlude | Wassim Mukdad Trio

20:40 Panel: Justice, memory and art – Perspectives from Syria

With Khaled Barakeh (conceptual artist and cultural activist), Florian Jeßberger (Professor of international criminal law, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) Joumana Seif (ECCHR), Rosa Yassin (Syrian author)

Moderation: Kristin Helberg

Afterwards: Get-together at Café BulBul

[Registration.](#)