

The Yesterday of Tomorrow

Memory, Trauma and Nostalgia as a Mechanism of Self-
Continuity of the Kurdish nation

Genocide Exhibition

Kavien Begikhani, Human Diversity student

Leiden University College, March, 2018 - The Hague

*My name is a dream
I am from the land of magic
my father is the mountain
and my mother the mist*

*I was born in a year whose month was murdered
a month whose week was murdered
a day whose hours were murdered*

*if you could one by one count all the leaves in this garden
if you could count all the fish little and big
in the flowing river in your front of you
if you could one by one count the migratory birds
during their migration season from the north to south
and from the south to north*

*I would also promise
to count one by one
all the victims of this beloved land of Kurdistan*

Sherko Bekas

The Yesterday of Tomorrow: Memory, Trauma and Nostalgia as a Mechanism of Self-Continuity of the Kurdish Nation.

As part of the Human Diversity major at Leiden University College, Kaviem Begikhani made a Kurdish Genocide Exhibition at his university campus. The aim was to inform students and academic staff about how the difficult history of (incremental) genocide and oppression against the Kurdish people in the region, has created a mechanism of self-continuity and resistance.

Here, the intersection between collective and individual memory, trauma and nostalgia play a fundamental role for the Kurdish people to create and protect the 'homeland' in literature, poetry, music and other cultural-artistic expressions as a means of self-continuity and survival.

Advocaat-General Simon Minks - senior prosecutor at the Dutch prosecution office in The Hague, located in the Palace of Justice - also paid his respects to the victims of the Halabja chemical attack on March 16th, 1988 at the exhibition.

As a tribute to these victims - and also with an eye on protecting people from future chemical attacks and atrocity crimes in general - Simon Minks will also give a workshop for 25 LUC students in May, titled: Prosecuting Atrocity Crimes: A Worldwide Obligation.

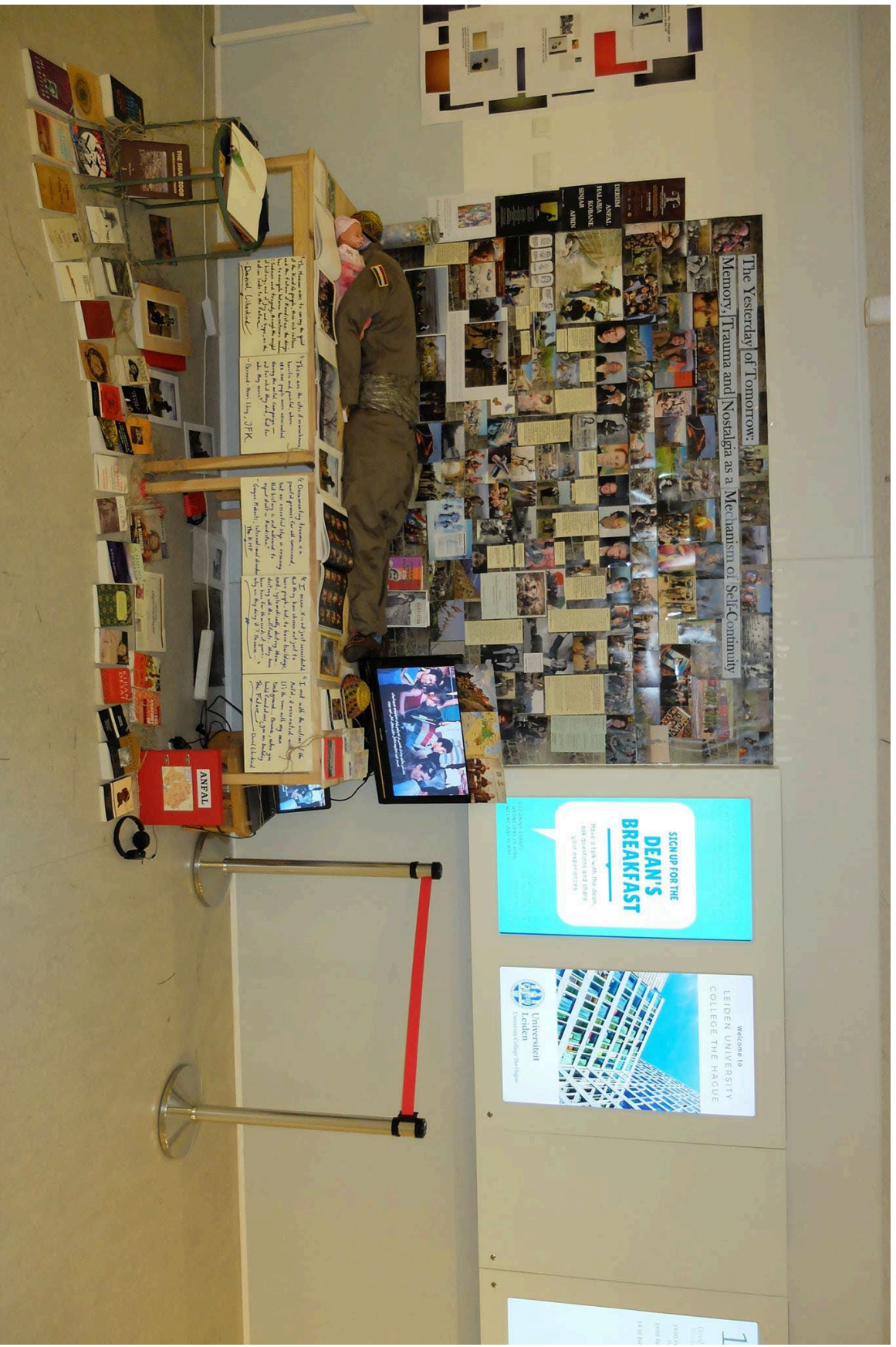
Last year, Simon Minks was also a keynote speaker at the 3rd Lalish Conference for Peace & Coexistence at the American University of Kurdistan last, April 25-26th, 2017.

In 2005, Minks successfully prosecuted Dutch businessman Frans van Anraat to 17 years imprisonment for his complicity in the delivery of chemical substances to the former Iraqi Ba'ath regime - which in turn - were used at the chemical attacks on Halabja and other Kurdish cities. *(From: Nishtiman Youth Network (NYN) Facebook post)*

*I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope,
For hope would be hope for the wrong thing; wait without love,
For love would be the love of the wrong thing; there is yet faith
But the faith and the love and the hope are all in the waiting.*

*Wait without thought, for you are not ready for thought:
So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.
Whisper of running streams, and winter lightning.
The wild thyme unseen and the wild strawberry,
The laughter in the garden echoed ecstasy
Not lost, but requiring, pointing to the agony
Of death and birth.'*

T.S. Eliot - Four Quartets, 1943.



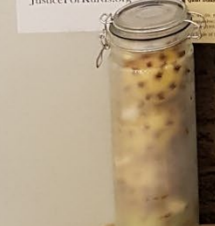
The Yesterday of Tomorrow: Memory, Trauma and Nostalgia as a Me

PERMANENT PEOPLE TRIBUNAL ON TURKEY AND KUWAIT
15-16 MARCH 2018
BOULEVARD DE NEUILLY - PARIS

DERSIM ANFAL HALABJA KOBANE SINJAR AFRIN
Where was...? - JPK

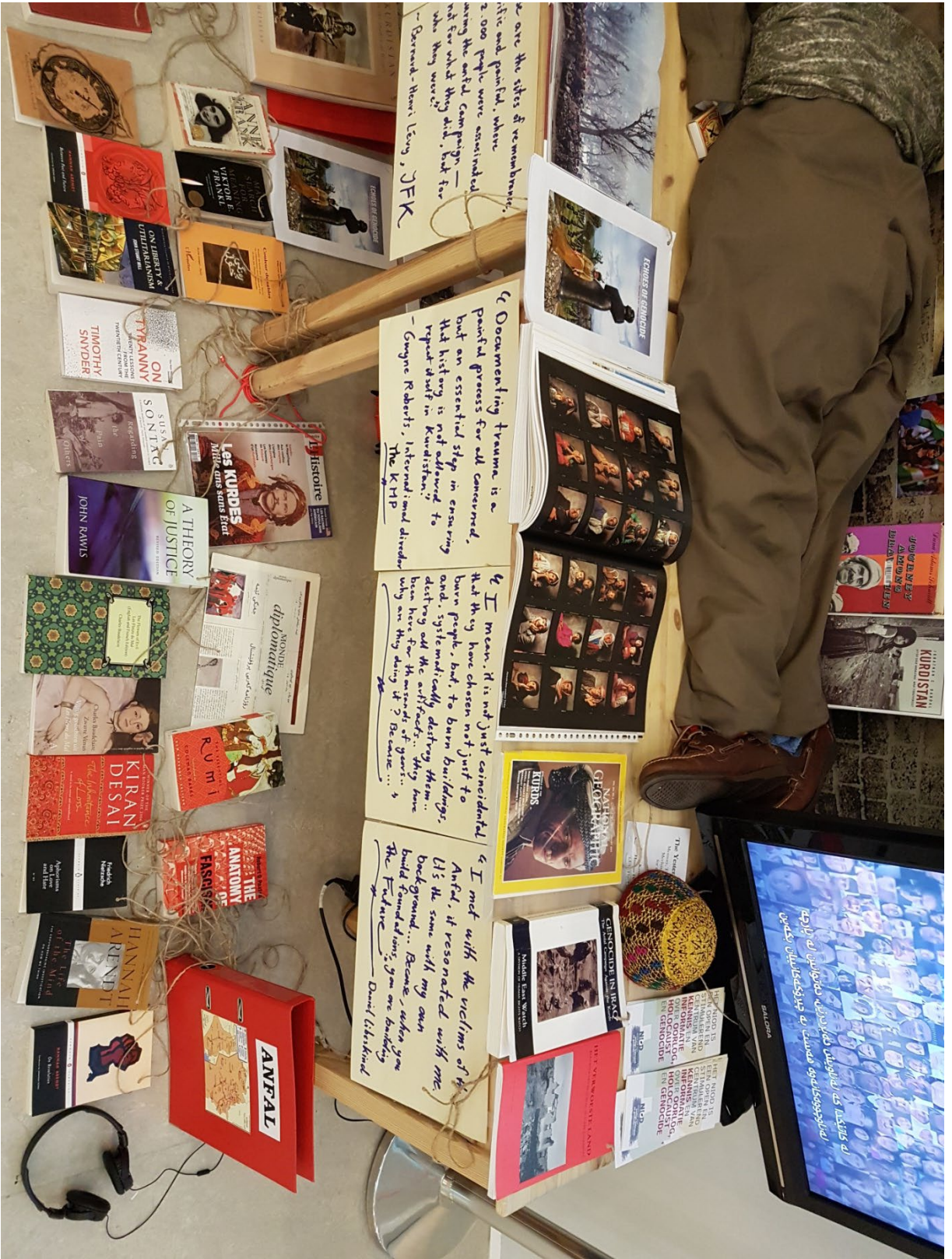
THE BOMB
The world's most powerful...
The world's most powerful...
The world's most powerful...

JusticeForKurds.org
The gas smelted like a mixture of sweet...
Kurdish civilians on 10 March 1988.



as a Mechanism of Self-Continuity



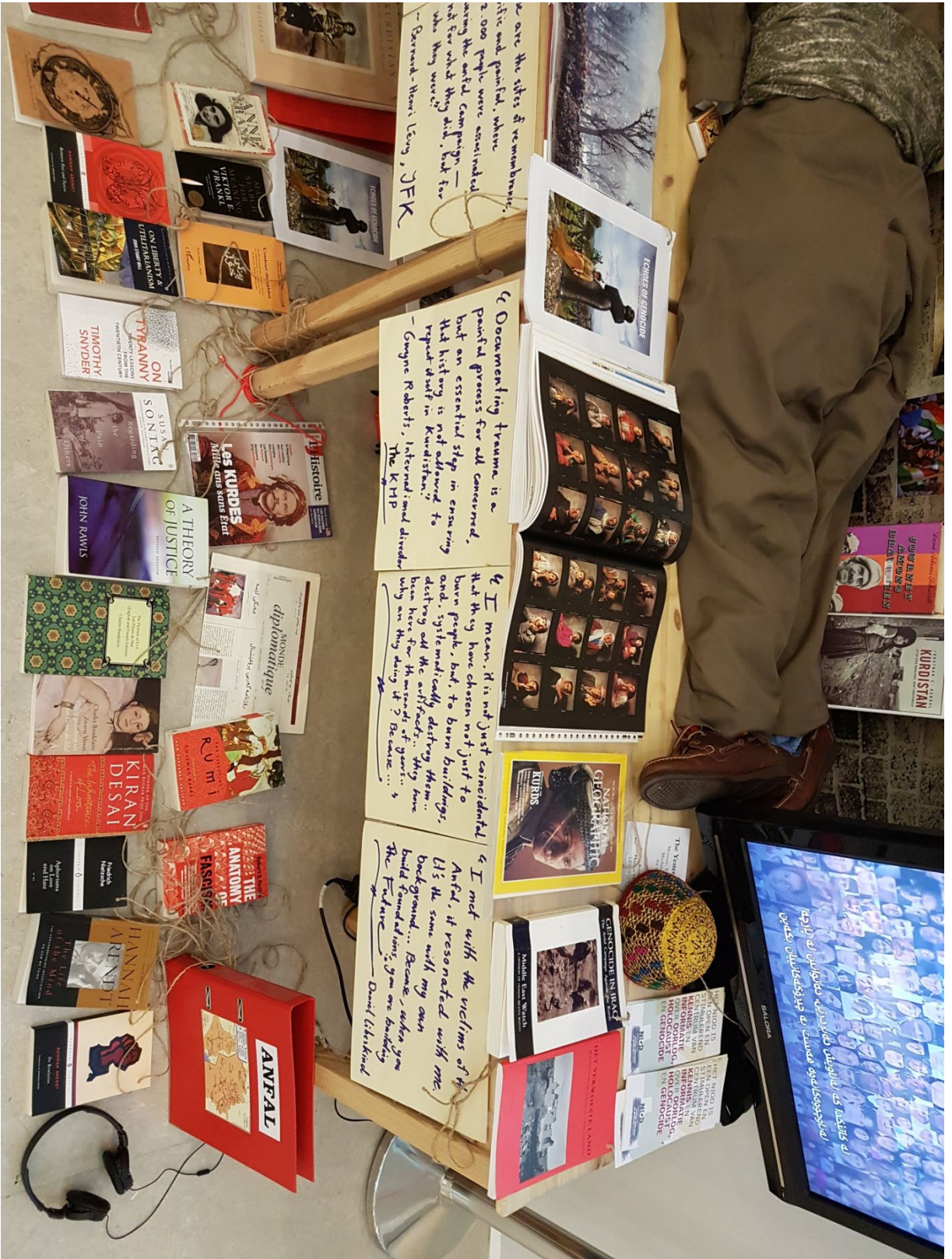
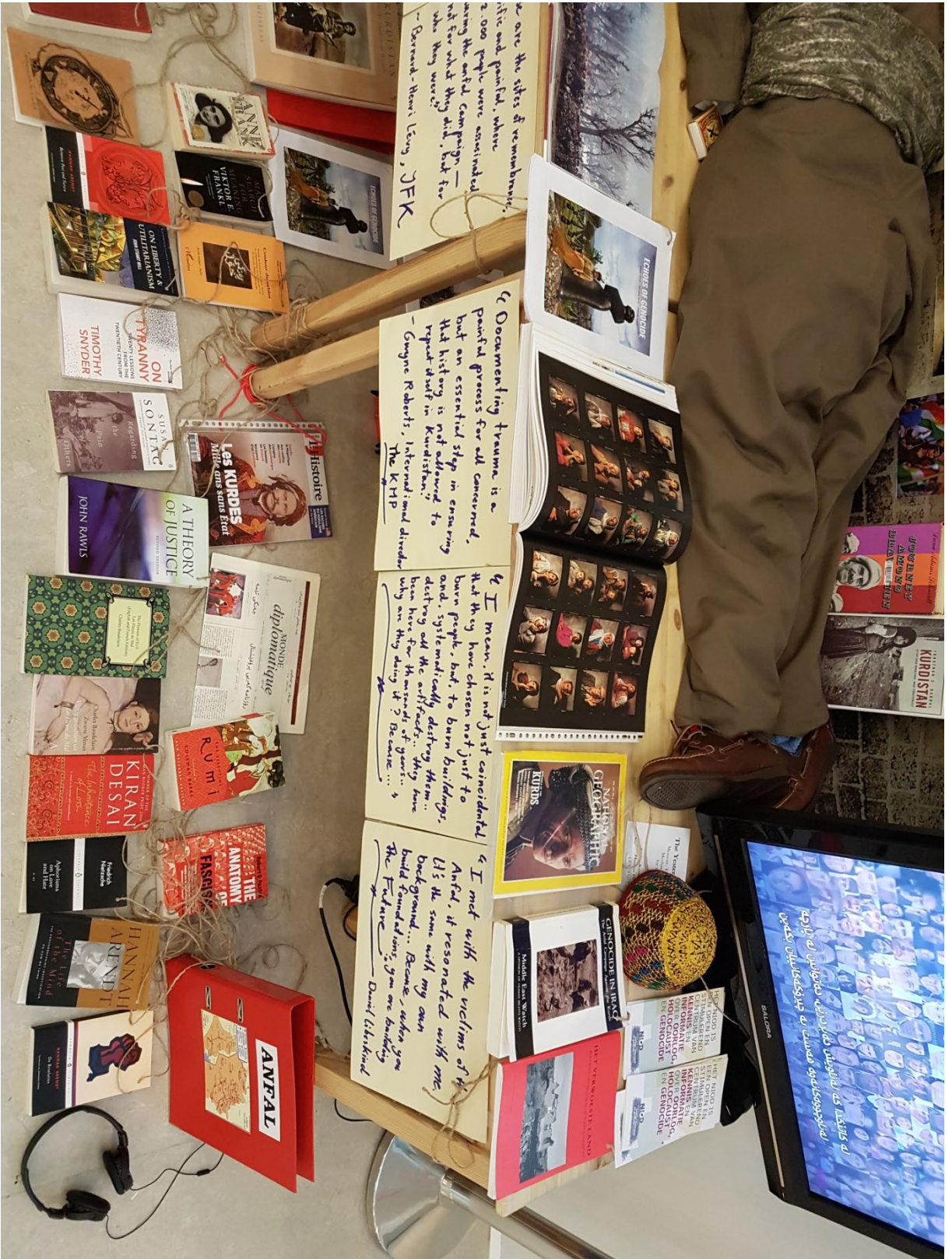


we are the sites of remembrance,
 and grief. where
 2,000 people were surrounded
 during the anfal campaign —
 not for what they did, but for
 who they were!
 — General: Hani, Lévy, JFK

Documenting trauma is a
 painful process for all concerned,
 but an essential step in ensuring
 that history is not allowed to
 repeat itself in Kurdistan!
 — Gayne Roberts, 'Internal' and director
 of the KHP

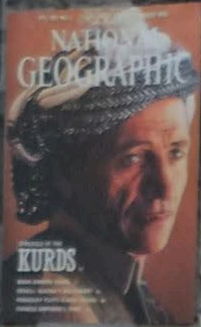
I mean, it is not just coincidental
 that they have chosen not just to
 burn people, but to burn buildings,
 and, systematically destroy them...
 destroying all the artifacts... they have
 been here for thousands of years...
 why are they doing it? Because...

I met with the victims of the
 Anfal, it resonated with me.
 It's the same with my own
 background... Because, when you
 build foundations, you are building
 the future
 — Daniel Libeskind





about to be raped
The earth stood up
to speak of the poverty of an old man
being murdered
The earth stood up
to speak the words of a poet
while he was being buried alive
The earth stood up once again
It stood up to break the silence
around the burning body of Kurdistan



Humanitarian Operations in Northern Iraq, 1991
WITH MARINES IN
OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT



HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, DC

The Kurds have been hardened by digging up of mass graves; estimates of the missing and dead range from 100,000 to 300,000. A United Nations report concluded that the atrocities committed by Saddam's regime were "so grave and [...] of such a massive nature that since the Second World War few parallels can be found. Yet in this land of blasted there the it see 'sh' "



On the Western communication of Yalagin - while the rain drops in corner groups there in her garden - a place where she found refuge. Beyond her eyes long to conclude her story with saying that we - as a people - have the ability
When Saddam Hussein was hanged after his conviction for crimes against his of Iraq and was obliged to pay 100 Iraq dollars for the father that pierced the peacefully business and revolutionary message. (I think the father of the humanity learn brightly and we must ensure it runs through the darkness, so it has been. - The New Britain and National Daylighters.







 Het liest, willen we
 vergest en
 Deze scifthe doos op
 zider racten stan
 Dit li tteken, verdugen
 met kleeding
 Maar je kan het niet
 loalden

 Leagte, stite
 Naar coch luid
 Veel vooroeren
 Naar niet te omschrijven

 Voor sommien
 geproewerd u geheugens
 Bij anenien geleerd
 met het verstand
 De gebeurtenisten van
 langelijf geleden
 Ze blijven voortbestaan
 in ons

**VRIJHEID
 DOOR DE DEUR**

ECHOES OF GENOCIDE

CONFERENCE ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
 OF THE HALABJA GENOCIDE

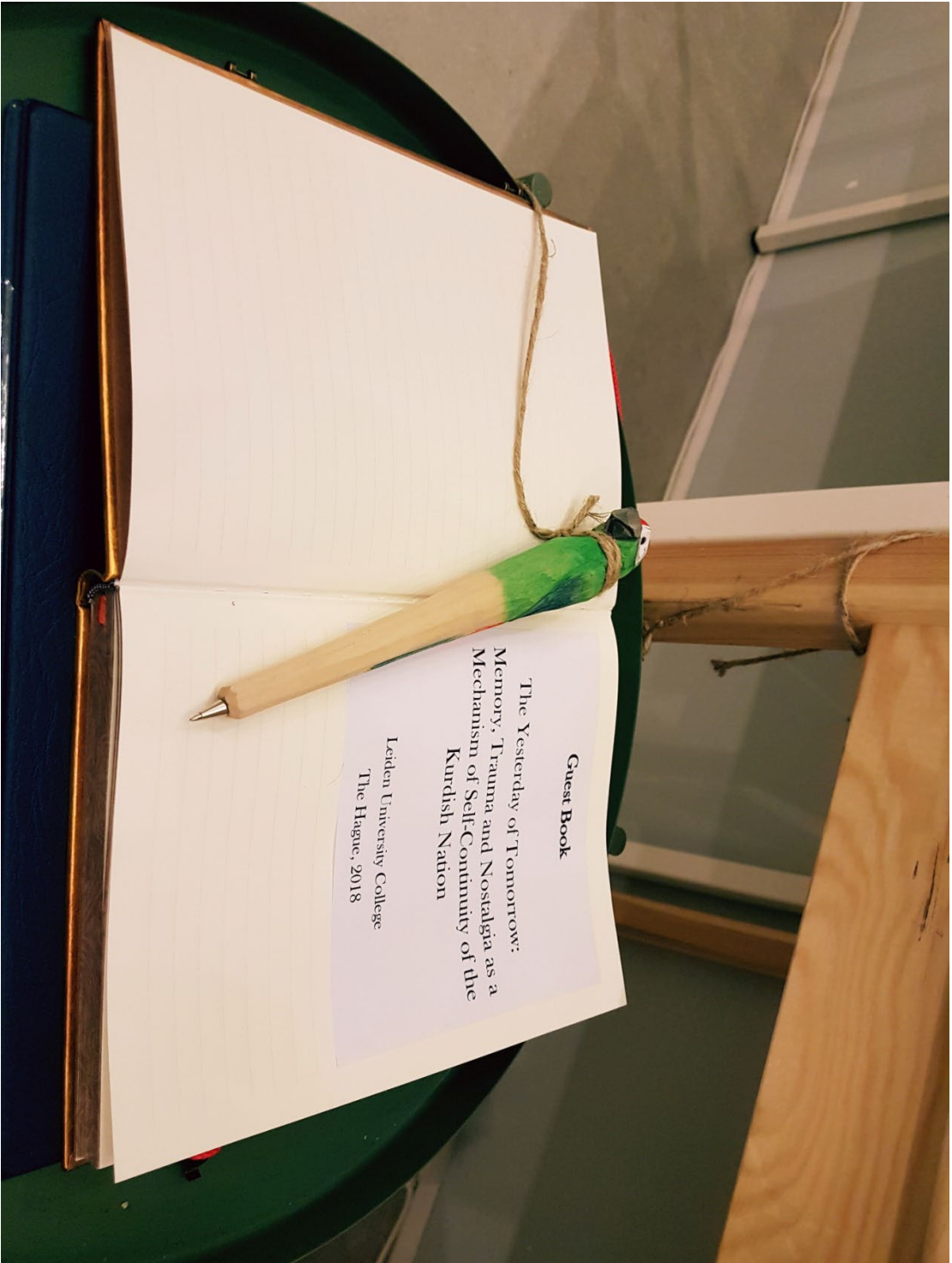
HOSTED BY THE KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
 REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES
 THE NEWSEUM - WASHINGTON, D.C.
 MARCH 13, 2018



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Cover photograph courtesy of RZZA, rzzaphoto.org. Illustration (left) by Ladan Ahmad



Guest Book

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Mechanism of Self-Continuity of the
Kurdish Nation

Leiden University College
The Hague, 2018



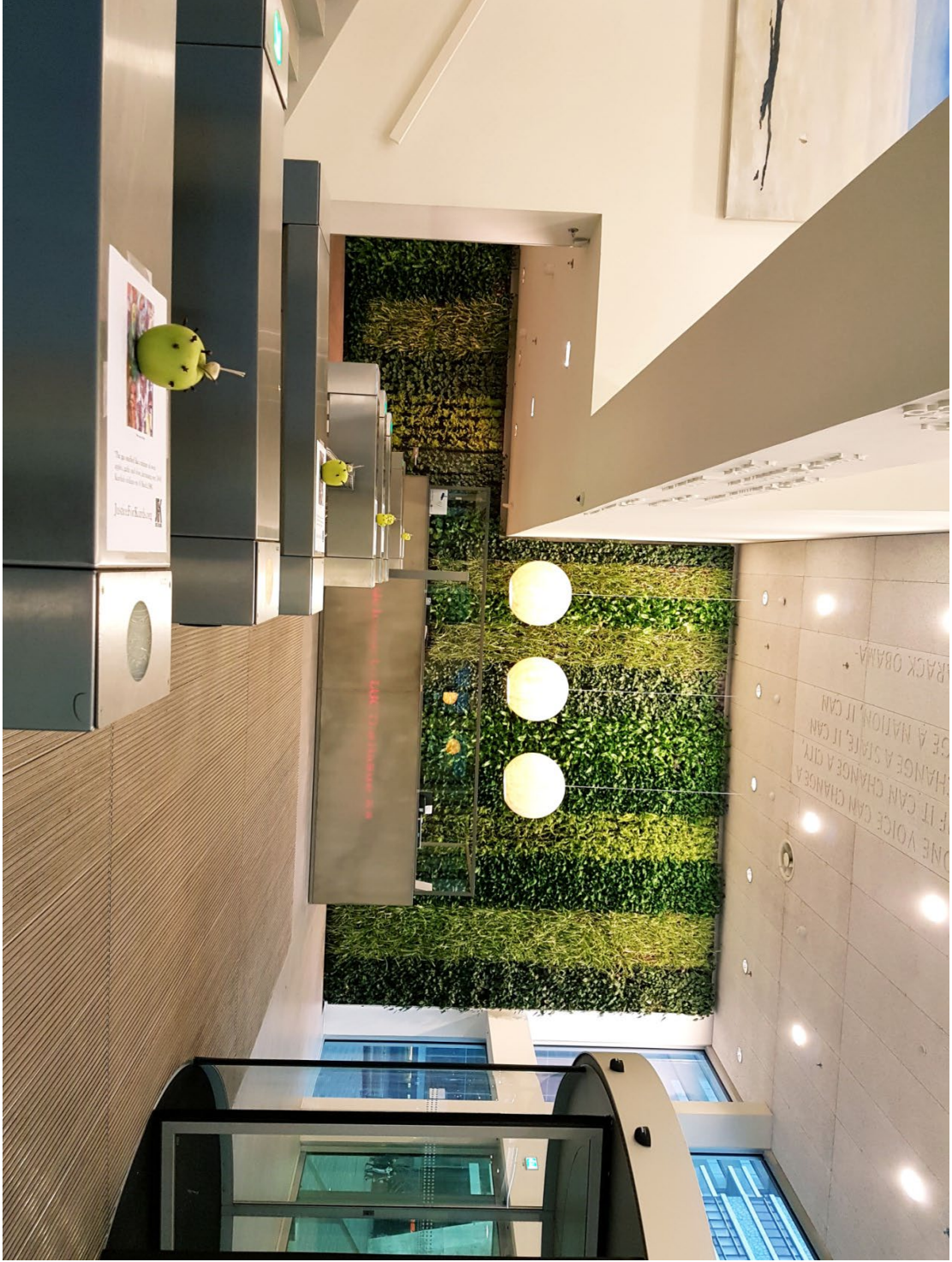




Photo: Lukman Ahmad

'The gas smelled like a mixture of sweet apples, garlic and clove, decimating over 5000 Kurdish civilians on 16 March, 1988.'

JusticeForKurds.org







PROSECUTING ATROCITY CRIMES: A WORLDWIDE OBLIGATION

LECTURE &
WORKSHOP BY
SIMON MINKS

Week 5, exact date to be announced
@ Paleis van Justitie - Prins Clauslaan 60,
Den Haag
more info on the FB event or via
workshop.atrocitycrimes2018@gmail.com

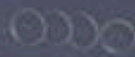
max 25 participants



A photograph of Simon Minks, a man with glasses wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red and white striped tie. He is standing in a library or study, with bookshelves filled with books behind him. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the overall tone is professional and serious.

ADVOCAAT - GENERAAL
OPENBAAR MINISTERIE

Simon Minks successfully prosecuted seven members of the Hofstad-group, two Afghan generals, Trafigura as one of the largest oil-traders in the world, multiple Somali pirates, 'Chemical Frans' and in 2013, a person who wanted to fight in the civil-war in Syria. Currently, Minks is investigating a criminal war-crime case against the Tamil Tigers, among many other high-profile international war- and atrocity crimes. Simon also trains military officers at the Dutch Defence Academy (KMA) in Breda.



WORKSHOP

PROSECUTING ATROCITY CRIMES:
A WORLDWIDE OBLIGATION

LUG THE HAGUE - 2018

Simon Minks



As from 2004 Simon Minks is a (senior) public prosecutor at the court of appeal in the region covered by the Hague Court of Appeal. Minks is specialised in the prosecution of terrorism cases and high profile international (war) crimes. In this capacity he has successfully prosecuted two former Afghan generals, of the then security service.

His most noteworthy prosecution, however, was with the late 2004 arrest, after an international investigation, of the businessman, F van Anraat. At 63, van Anraat had become the first man convicted in connection with alleged war crimes committed against Kurds in Iraq and Iran. Dubbed '*Chemical Frans*', and heading BBC World News articles with '*Saddam's Dutch Link*', van Anraat was accused of directly supplying thousands of tons of base materials for chemical weapons, some of which were allegedly used in the Halabja massacre, killing an estimated 5,000 civilians in a single day.

In 2010 Minks successfully prosecuted seven suspects known as the *Hofstad* group. As members of a terrorist organisation, they were convicted by the court of appeal and sentenced up to 13 years imprisonment. In 2011 Minks successfully prosecuted Trafigura, one of the largest oiltraders in the world. Trafigura exported illegal chemical slops to Ivory Coast. In 2012 he successfully prosecuted Somali pirates and in 2013 a person who wanted to fight in the civil war in Syria. Currently, Minks is handling another criminal case against Somali pirates and a criminal war crime case against Tamil Tigers.

He is a member of the General Board of the Jason Foundation – originally a NAVO youth movement involved in international security issues.

Minks is also vice chair of the Dutch section of the human rights organization ICJ.

In December 2013 he addressed the UN working group "Business and Human rights" in Geneva as speaker/panelist.



کوردستان یادووری
بەڵامانی
KMP
KURDISTAN MEMORY PROGRAMME



Mission

Documenting the Kurdish story for the world.

▼ Scroll down to continue

