

## Turkish Embassy admits they tried to silence the Turkey Tribunal

21 September 2021: The Turkish Embassy confirmed today that they sought to stop The Turkey Tribunal being convened in Geneva, raising it with the UN and making a request to the Swiss authorities to cancel it. The Turkish Embassy in Switzerland falsely accused the Turkey Tribunal of misleading the hotel by saying it was organizing an event about Syrian Refugees in Turkey. The organization clearly states that all contacts, mails, contracts and communications were very clear and that “Syrian refugees” even were never mentioned. It is a ridiculous accusation.

The embassy exposed that they had tried to interfere with the commercial business of the hotel Intercontinental on Swiss soil to try and have the event thrown out of the venue.

**The head of the Turkey Tribunal Vande Lanotte underlined:**

**“There was not one second, where it was not clear, who we are, what the topic is and what is our goal: finding out whether the massive human rights violations can be qualified as crimes against humanity or not. This falsehood can immediately be dismissed as the event is clearly represented as the Turkey Tribunal in the contract.”**

The Embassy followed up this misrepresentation by accusing the Tribunal of being sponsored and guided by the Gülen Movement labeling them as terrorists. In Turkey the Gülen movement is not alone in being vilified by the Turkish regime. The accusation of Terrorist also covers anyone who opposes the authoritarian actions of the Erdogan government which includes the 150,000 civil servants, judges, lawyers and journalists who have either lost their jobs or thrown into prison accused of “terrorist” affiliations. Today in the Tribunal one of the witnesses said, *“To be accused of terrorism, you don’t need to oppose the regime, it’s enough not to applaud them.”*

**Vande Lanotte concluded his consternation at the absurdity of the accusations, stating that the event was actually organized through crowdfunding with over 200 people, some contributing as little as 2 euro.**

The Turkish Embassy has branded the Turkey Tribunal as “a theatrical set up” with “no judicial authority, nor legal or moral authority.” One of the rapporteurs commented

**“ All of us have a moral authority to investigate allegations of human rights violations and in particular where a State stands accused not only of being the perpetrator, but also enabling State actors to operate with impunity. This is evidenced by the Turkish authorities’ own record of prosecutions against alligations of torture and abduction.”**

To date, the Turkish Authorities have not made any comment or response to the Turkey Tribunal organisers other than seeking to have the event cancelled through asserting back handed diplomatic and commercial pressure.