

The Law's Enemy: Terror, Desire and the Decolonization of Kurdistan

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Live Stream Available @www.icgc.umn.edu

How to defend oneself if the law capitalizes on the psychoanalytic distinctions between demand and desire, the subject of statement and the subject of enunciation, the symbolic and the real when charging individuals with the crime of terrorism? What form do surveillance and prosecution assume when the law searches for the desire that exceeds the demand, the being that hides behind the representation, the real that destabilizes the symbolic? This is an ethnography of "yurtsever" Kurds in Northern Kurdistan accused of committing "terrorist crime" and spent three to thirty years in Turkish high-security prisons. "Yurt" means homeland, "sever" is the one who loves. When the status of the homeland is yet to be determined by a decolonization struggle, the love for that homeland is not called patriotism but a crime. This presentation questions how the Turkish counter-terror law, which perverts psychoanalytic epistemologies, establishes the object cause of the love of "yurtsever" Kurds to repress their decolonization struggle.

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Art Piece

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