

Commemoration at Binnenhof of Salwa Bugaighis's murder one year ago



Today members of the House of Representatives, activists and others will convene at the Dutch Parliament to commemorate and reflect on the murder on the Libyan Salwa Bugaighis. She was killed on June 25th 2014 by Al Nusra/ISIS because she demanded democracy and equal women's rights in her country.

The struggle that she led is continued, for this reason today's remembrance is a call to support the 'Justice for Salwa is Justice for All' campaign. In this initiative the impunity of the killers is being questioned.

Quote

Several member of the House of Representatives that have worked with Salwa Bugaighis spoke on the event: Michiel Servaes (PvdA), Han ten Broeke (VVD) en Wassila Hachchi (D66). They symbolically signed a photo Salwa to support the campaign. 'We know very well why we are here,' says Michiel Servaes, 'because we have not forgotten Salwa. She paid the highest price for her courageous actions. We will follow up on the questions we have asked in Parliament two days after her death, June 27th 2014.'

After a short video clip on Salwa's life, those who were present spoke with each other. Wassila Hachchi: 'I worked together with her and she woke us up, she asked us to protect the interests of women and girls in Libya. She fought for more democracy and better protection of human rights.' Han ten Broeke can confirm the words of the other representatives. 'I met Salwa and remember her as a very passionate woman. I have become aware in my work that we have to protect activists such as Salwa actively.' In this regard it is important that the Netherlands will be considered for a seat in the UN Security Council in 2017. Our voice can be strengthened with such a position.

Defence of human rights

There is no doubt that Salwa Bugaighis was killed because of her outspoken and visible activism for justice. She was a defender of freedom, inclusive democracy and human rights, in particular women's rights. The murder of Salwa Bugaighis is a brutal crime that can be placed in a general trend to limit and silence the role of women and women's rights organisations in Libya and the wider Middle East. Salwa Bugaighis was one of the driving forces behind the political transition in the post-Gaddafi era and continued with passion and courage to fight for the role of women in this transition.

For information on Salwa Bugaighis or an interview with Elisabeth van der Steenhoven, please contact Daria Janssen-de Vrijer (communication@wo-men.nl) or call +31 (0)70 3923106.

More information on 'Justice for Salwa is Justice for all' can be found [here](#). #Justiceforsalwa

<http://www.el-karama.org/justice-for-salwa/justice-for-salwa-home>

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