

10/25/2016

Press Release

Conference 'From Resistance to Freedom: Struggles for Self-Determination from Rojava to British Columbia' at Simon Fraser University

<http://www.sfu.ca/humanities-institute/public-events/conferences/rojava-conf.html>

Date: Saturday, Oct 29

Time: 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: SFU Harbour Centre, Rm 1700, 515 W Hastings St

The conference will focus on the Kurdish fight against ISIS and the remarkable social experiment in Rojava, northern Syria.

Key topics of the conference.

- The Tactical Medical Unit (TMU) fighting with the Kurdish Self-defence Units (YPG). Veterans of this unit will provide unique insights into the war in northern Syria which has been mostly ignored by the international media.
- Activists and academics will discuss how the Rojava revolution not only provides a theoretical frame for sustainable peace in Syria and throughout the Middle East, but also what we can learn from it in British Columbia.
- With the focus on direct or grassroots democracy and gender, religious and ethnic equality, the Rojava model shows us many ways for how democracy can become more tangible for BC residents and how we can live our lives in respect and equality with each other.
- All money raised during the conference will go towards funds for the 'Project IFAKs for Rojava' by the Multinational Emergency Response Medical Team (MERMT). The project aims to raise US\$4,500 to buy 300 Individual First Aid Kits (IFAK). In Rojava the TMU will then train 350 fighters of the YPG in Combat Life Saving and distribute the kits. Having successfully trained and equipped over 200 fighters already, this project is an effort to for the first time ever roll out professional medical training to one of the Islamic State's most effective opposition (<http://rojavacombatmedics.com/you-can-help/donations/>).

Press contact:

Chris Shaw

Phone: 604 710 8291

Email: cashawlab@gmail.com