

Laudatio by Mandy Abou Shoak,

Dear Rabab,
Dear Guests,
Dear Ruth-Gaby, Susanne, Heidi, Angela,

In a world marked by unrest and uncertainty, we need heroines more than ever. Women who have the courage to stand firm in their beliefs. Women who are not afraid to fight against injustice. Women who are ready to bear the weight of responsibility.

Today, we gather here to honour one such remarkable heroine: the peace activist Rabab Baldo. Rabab, your tireless dedication to Sudan is a beacon of hope in these dark times, a ray of light breaking through the shadows.

You, Rabab Baldo, are not just an activist; you embody courage and determination. As Sudan is torn apart by the ravages of war and violence, you raise your voice against injustice and fight for a hopeful future. You fight for peace. You fight for justice. In these dark times, your work and commitment are living proof of strength, hope, and unyielding courage.

Your work, Rabab, reminds us of what truly makes a heroine. It is not loud voices or powerful positions that create heroines. It is women like you, who, despite all odds, fight for what is right. It is women like you, who speak when others remain silent. And it is women like you, who bring hope where despair seeks to take root.

In times such as these, it is more important than ever to recognize the heroines of our time. Women like you, Rabab Baldo. Women who, despite unimaginable conditions, continue to fight for peace, unity, and dignity.

As we know from you, the situation in Sudan is dire. The war spreads, people are displaced, and women suffer unspeakable violence. Yet, amid this chaos, you, Rabab Baldo, stand firm like a rock in the storm. We see your vision: a lasting, comprehensive ceasefire. An agreement that includes the voices of all Sudanese, especially the women.

Rabab, you show us that peace cannot only be achieved by men at negotiation tables. You introduced the “Shuttle Diplomacy Initiative” to include women peace activists in the process. Through this, you call on all of us—Switzerland and the international community—to stand with Sudanese women, not to leave them behind. You urge us to turn our words into action. And you demand that women’s voices be integral to the peace process.

Let us also take a moment to honour the countless heroines whose voices have been silenced in the dust of war. Mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends—silent stars whose light was extinguished in the darkness of conflict. Women who were victims of violence beyond measure. Women whose pain went unheard. Yet their spirits endure in our hearts, carried by the gentle breeze of memory that flows through our thoughts. Rabab, you carry their burden, and we stand beside you to ensure that their stories are never forgotten. Their voices will continue to echo in our hearts. We will call their names to the heavens, so they are never lost. We will tell their stories, so the world never forgets their tears and their courage.

Your perseverance, Rabab, is a call to all of us. We cannot look away. We cannot remain silent. You remind us that peace is not an unattainable dream, but a goal worth fighting for.

The revolution in Sudan has shown us the strength of the people. Slogans like “Huria, Salam wa Adala” – “Freedom, Peace, and Justice” – echoed through the streets, reminding us that a better future is within reach. Rabab Baldo, with your dedication, you embody these ideals and tirelessly work to make them a reality. You have devoted your life to ensuring that women are included in the peace process, and your efforts have already borne fruit.

Rabab, today we honour you for your courage, your determination, and your relentless work for peace in Sudan. You are a heroine of our time, and your work will inspire generations to come. You show us that women are not just victims of war, but also the architects of peace. And through your actions, you give us hope in the midst of darkness. You urge us to believe in a future where weapons fall silent, and the voices of women are heard. You give us the strength to unite and build a world where peace and justice prevail for all.

With your unshakable resolve, you spark within us the flame we all need to stay brave, to persevere, and to move forward.

May your voice be heard across the world, and may your dream of a peaceful and just Sudan soon become a reality.