



## **The archives of a trauma**

Collecting a new kind of documents  
after Brussels bombings

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# Introduction

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# Introduction

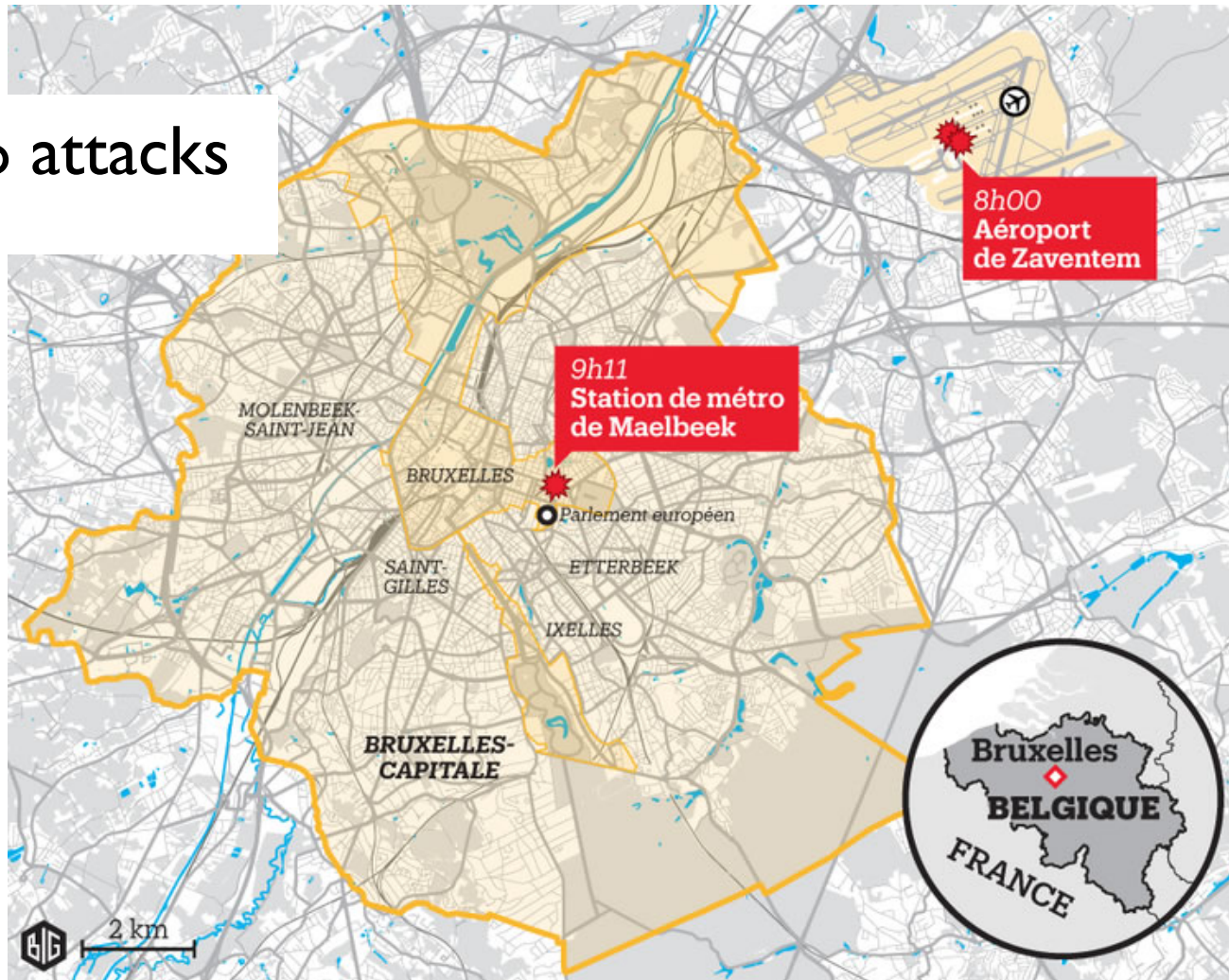
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# The events – 22nd March 2016

## Two attacks





# The events – March 2016

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- ▶ 22nd: two attacks in « Brussels »
- ▶ 22nd – evening: collecting project was born
- ▶ 23rd: Project presented to the municipale authorities



24th: Pictures of the grassroots memorial

25th: Support of the City Council and first collect

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# The project

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► 4 distinct axes:

Buying and collecting  
newspapers

Pictures of grassroots  
memorials

+ donation and purchases of  
photographs in particular

Messages from  
grassroots memorials

Books of condolence





# Working method

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Few  
methodological  
elements at our  
disposal

Which appraisal  
criteria ?

Vernacular  
memorials

How to classify ?

Work in progress:  
permanent  
dialogue with  
other archivists







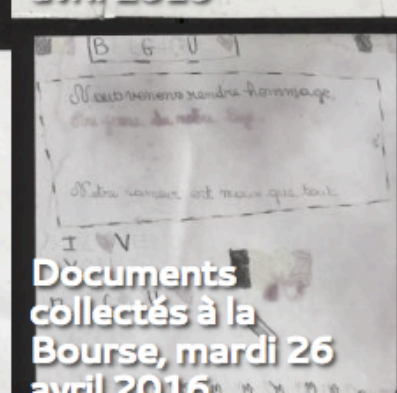
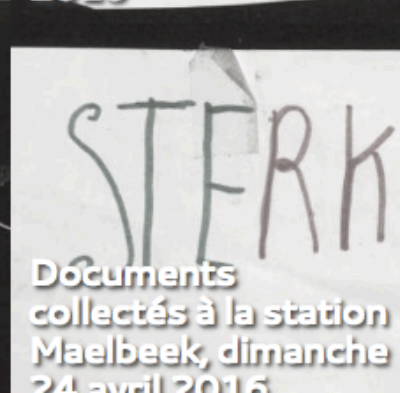
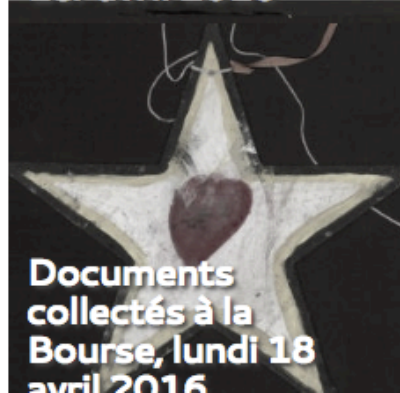
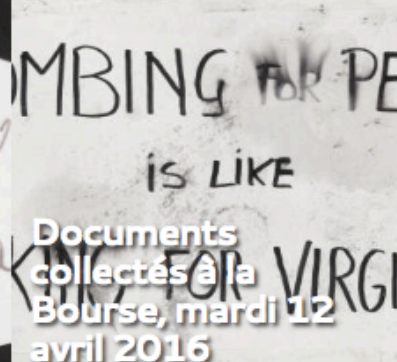
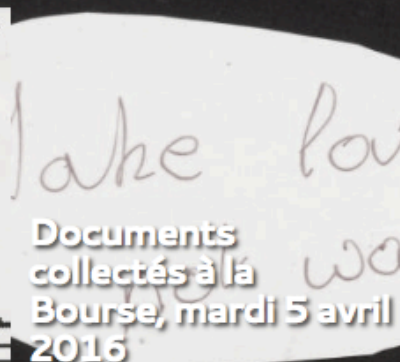
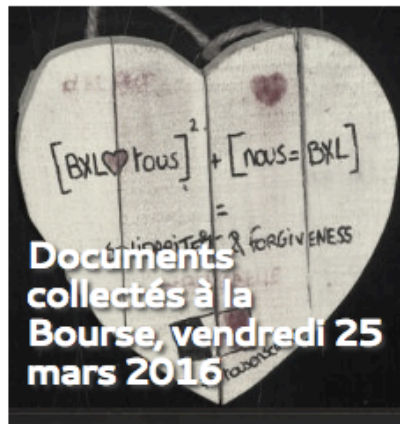
# Working method

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- ▶ Photo
- ▶ Collect
- ▶ Drying
- ▶ Cleaning
- ▶ Temporarily classify
- ▶ Digitization of the messages
- ▶ To do: archival arrangement



WEBSITE : <https://archives.bruxelles.be/commemoration-view>

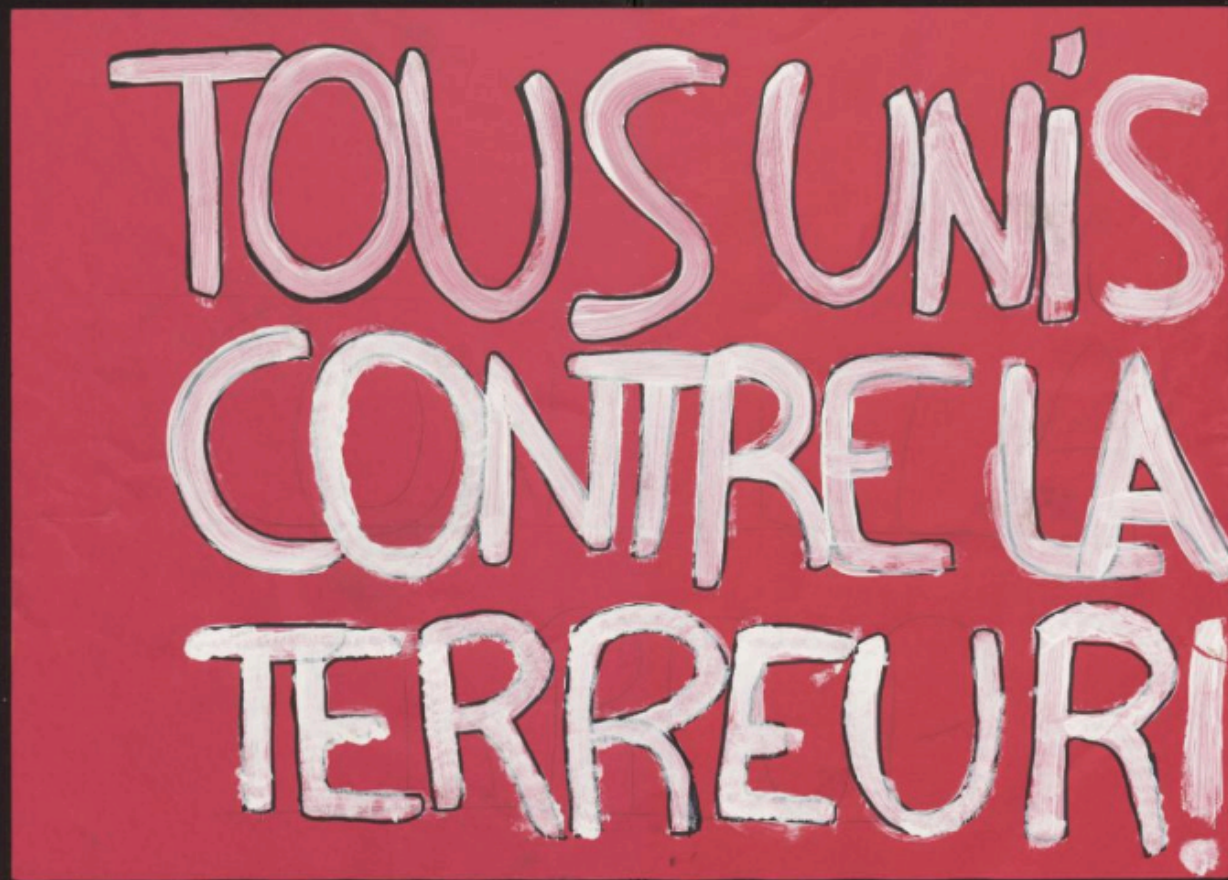




WEBSITE : <https://archives.bruxelles.be/commemoration-view>  
4,000 photos – 2,500 digitised messages

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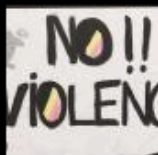
Accueil // Documents collectés à la station Maelbeek, mardi 12 avril 2016



TOUS UNIS  
CONTRE LA  
TERREUR!



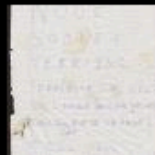
TOUS UN  
CONTRE  
TERREUR



NO!!  
VIOLENCE



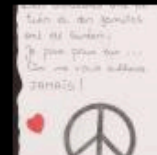
SALAM  
PAIX



FERNANDO



LOVE



L'union de nos familles  
est la solution  
Il faut plus que ...  
On ne peut pas ...  
SABAS !  
PEACE



LOVE



LOVE



# Some questions raised during the collect

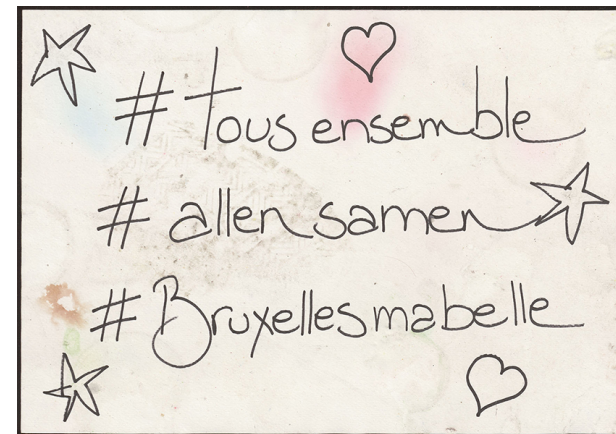




# 1) What is each message individually ?

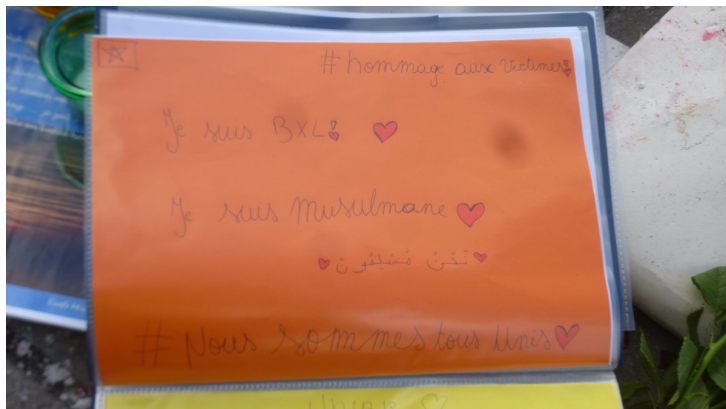
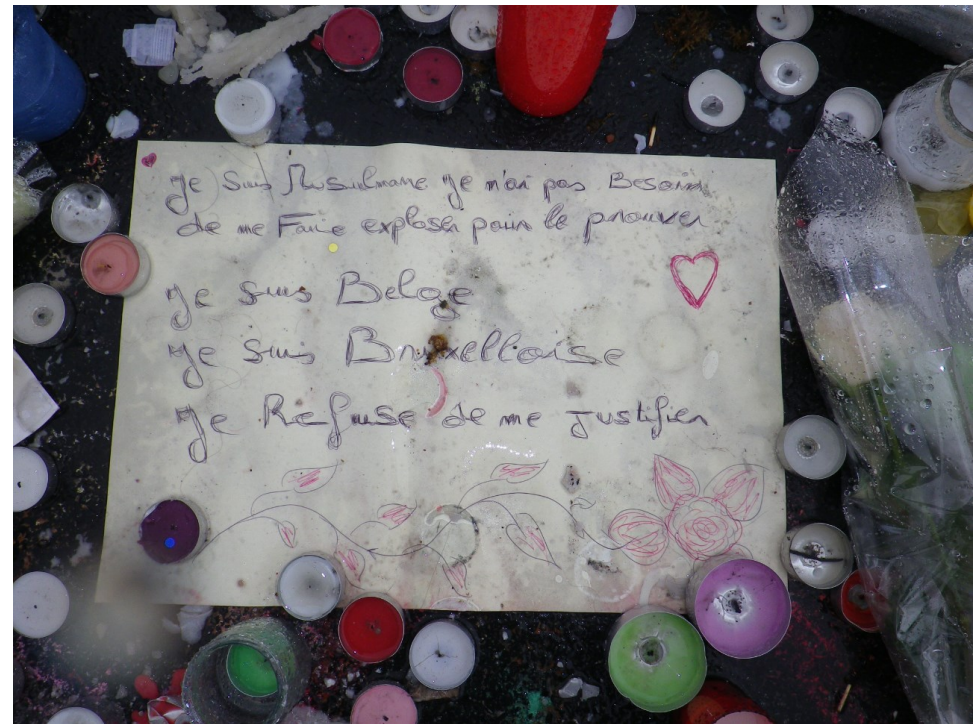
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Tributes ? Messages ? Testimonies ? Reactions ?



# 1) What is each message individually ?

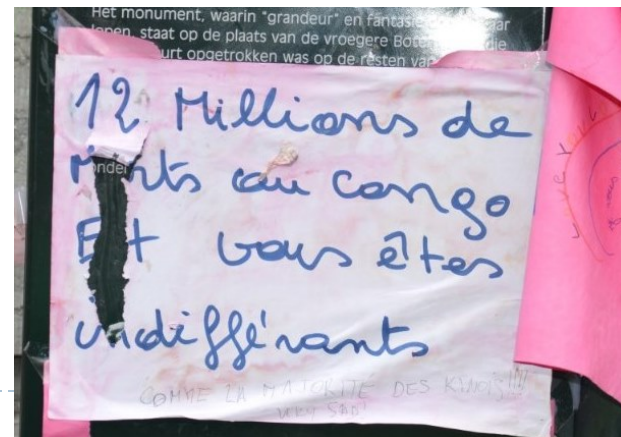
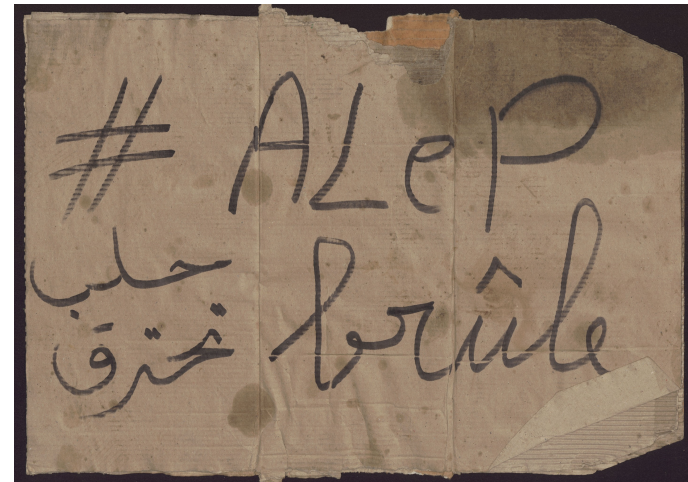
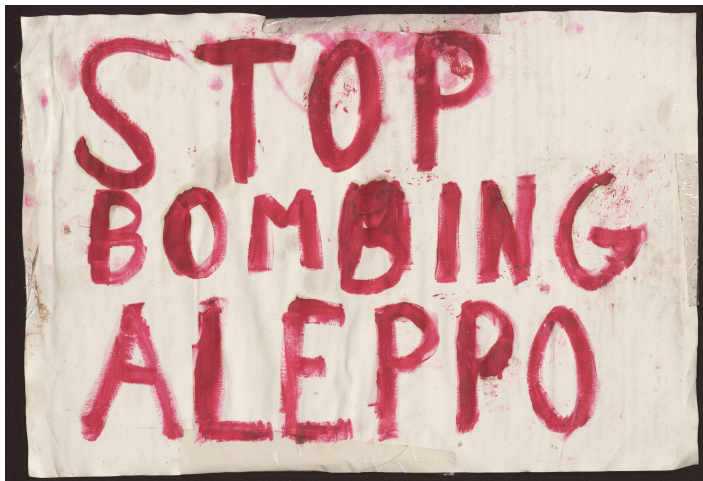
- Muslim community in Brussels: « Not in our name! »





# 1) What is each message individually ?

## ► Political references



# 1) What is each message individually ?

- Sacred texts and religious propaganda





## 2) How to consider the sum total of these messages ?

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- Documents function as a system and cross-fertilise each other > **FONDS**

➤ Consequence:  
archival  
arrangement  
depends on *place*  
and *date* of collect  
(and not on  
document types)



### 3) What do we want to conserve ?

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Messages /  
Texts

Dynamic /  
Staging / Act





## 4) The archives of WHO ? Of WHAT ?

