

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION

Haytoug Հայդուգ

April, 1999
Armenian Genocide
Special Edition

1915 American newspaper articles
University students get involved
The "white" genocide
Economic interests cause denial
Genocide pull-out poster

The Armenian Genocide

This special edition of Haytoug is dedicated to the memory of not only the 1.5 million martyrs of the Armenian Genocide, but also the 300,000 victims of the Abdul Hamid massacres of the 1890s, the 20,000 victims of the Adana massacres of 1909, the hundreds of victims of the Sumgait pogroms of 1988, and all victims of racial murders and suffering around the world.

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Հայդուկ Haytoug

The Official Publication of the
ARMENIAN YOUTH FEDERATION
ARF Youth Organization of Western America

For all Armenian youth residing in Western America
who strive for the national, social and economic
liberation of the Armenian people

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what the press wrote about it...

The New York Times

Excerpts from three articles written in 1915

TELL OF HORRORS DONE IN ARMENIA

Report of Eminent Americans
Says They Are Unequaled in a
Thousand Years.

TURKISH RECORD OUTDONE

A Policy of Extermination Put in Effect
Against a Helpless People.

ENTIRE VILLAGES SCATTERED

Men and Boys Massacred, Women and
Girls Sold as Slaves and Distributed
Among Moslems.

The Committee on Armenian Atrocities, a body of eminent Americans which for weeks has been investigating the situation in Turkish Armenia, issued, yesterday, a detailed report of that investigation, in which it asserted that in cruelty and in horror nothing in the past thousand years has equalled the present persecutions of the Armenian people by the Turks. The committee adds that the sources of its information are "unquestioned as to veracity, integrity, and authority of the writers."

The data on which the report is based, were gathered from all parts of the Turkish Empire.

The report tells of children under 15 years of age thrown into the Euphrates to be drowned; of women forced to desert infants in arms and to leave them by the roadside to die; of young women and girls appropriated by the Turks, thrown into harems, attacked, or else sold the highest bidder, and of men murdered and tortured. Everything that an Armenian possesses, even to the clothes on his back, are stolen by his persecutors. The report says that the use of the bastinado has been revived, high dignitaries of the Church have been hanged, families

scattered to the four winds, and thousands upon thousands of defenseless, miserable persons herded together like cattle and driven into the desert lands of the empire, there to starve and die..."

*Appeared in The
New York Times
Monday,
October 4, 1915*



Armenian intellectuals hanged in the street in Constantinople before the deportation of the Armenians to the desert had begun.

Photo by Armin T. Wegner

AID FOR ARMENIANS BLOCKED BY TURKEY

Attempts to Send Food to
Refugees Frustrated, Says the
American Committee.

PUTS VICTIMS AT 1,000,000

Careful Survey Show 55,000 Per-
sons Killed in the Vilayet of Van
Alone

The America Committee on Armenian Atrocities, among the members of which are Cardinal Gibbons, Cleveland H. Dodge, Bishop David H. Greer, Oscar S. Straus, Professor Samuel T. Dutton, Charles R. Crane, and many other prominent citizens, issued a statement yesterday in which it was said that authentic reports from Turkey proved that the war of extermination being waged by the Turks against the Armenians was so terrible that when all the facts were known

the world would realize that what had been done was "the greatest, most pathetic, and most arbitrary tragedy in history."

Attempts to furnish food to the Armenians ordered deported to distant parts of the empire were blocked by the Turkish authorities, the committee said, the Turkish officials stating that "they wished nothing to be done that would prolong their lives."

In the statement the committee makes public a report received a few days ago from an official representative of one of the neutral powers, who, reporting on conditions in one of the Armenian camps, says:

"I have visited their encampment and a more pitiable sight cannot be imagined. They are, almost without exception, ragged, hungry and sick. This is not surprising in view of the fact that they have been on the road for nearly two months, with no change of clothing, no chance to bathe, no shelter and little to eat. I watched them one time when their food



was brought. Wild animals could not be worse. They rushed upon the guards who carried the food and the guards beat them back with clubs, hitting hard enough to kill sometimes. To watch them one could hardly believe these people to be human beings. As one walks through the camp, mothers offer their children and beg you to take them. In fact, the Turks have been taking their choice of these children and girls for slaves or worse. There are very few men among them, as most of the men were killed on the road. Women and children were also killed. The entire movement seems to be the most thoroughly organized and effective massacre this country has ever seen."

"They all agree," adds the committee, referring to the reports, "as to the method of procedure, the thoroughness and cruelty of the destructive work, and the confessed purpose of the plan to wipe out the Armenian nation. The fact that the central government at Constantinople refuses to permit Armenians to leave the country is further evidence of their purpose of extermination..."

"Probably it is not an overestimate to say that 1,000,000 of the possible 2,000,000 Armenians in Turkey at the beginning of the war are either dead or in Moslem harems, or forced to profess Mohammedanism, or are on their sad journey to the desert and death..." [reported only six months after the start of the Genocide]

*Appeared in The New York Times
Monday, November 1, 1915*

Two boys with bare and banded feet starved to death in open desert

Photo by Armin T. Wegner

"...the greatest, most pathetic, and most arbitrary tragedy in history."



Armenian orphans

Photo by John Elder

MILLION ARMENIANS KILLED OR IN EXILE

American Committee on Relief
Says Victims of Turks Are
Steadily Increasing.

POLICY OF EXTERMINATION

More Atrocities Detailed in Support of Charge That Turkey Is Acting Deliberately.

In a statement issued yesterday from the offices of the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief at 70 Fifth Avenue further atrocities committed by Turks upon Armenian Christians were detailed and additional evidence was given to support Lord Bryce's assertion that the massacres are the result of a deliberate plan of the Turkish Government to "get rid of the Armenian question," as Abdul Hamid once said, by getting "rid of the Armenians."

Professor Samuel T. Dutton, Secretary of the committee, said:

"According to all of the best evidence which the American committee has received, it is probably well within the truth to say that of the 2,000,000 Armenians in Turkey a year ago, at least 1,000,000 have been killed or forced into Islam, or compelled to flee the country, or have died upon the way to exile, or are now upon the road to the deserts of Northern Arabia, or are already there.

The number of victims is constantly increasing. Surely there can be no greater need of immediate help, even in these troublous times, than the desperate need of the Armenian refugees..."

*Appeared in The
New York Times
Wednesday,
December 15,
1915*

Longing to stop the bleeding

By Seluk Tezgul

The following article was written three years ago by a native of Turkey who had been living in Las Vegas for 14 months. The article appeared in the Review-Journal. It shows that the deceitful Turkish educational system will not always succeed in oppressing Turkish minds from learning and discussing the truth about the Armenian Genocide.

This month, Armenians mark the 81st anniversary [in 1996] of the massacre of 1.5 million of their people in Turkey, but not all Turks want to forget.

The souls of 1.5 million Armenian victims are, after 81 years, still longing for acknowledgment and an apology from Turkey.

Recently, when I was assisting in my friend's Las Vegas retail shop, a lovely elderly couple came in. While they were looking around, they asked me my national origin. Trying to guess their origin first, I responded hesitatingly that I was Turkish. "We are Armenian!" said the husband, looking at my eyes painfully and meaningfully.

I then realized what I was afraid of. Yes, they were Armenians, two members of a big nation that had attained high cultural and social values in human history in the east of Asia Minor many centuries ago. Two members of a noble nation whose 1.5 million innocent grandparents were massacred 81 years ago through the brutal and treacherous methods used by the Turks - my own ancestors. Imagine the emotional situation experienced by the three of us, who had met by coincidence.

Whenever I meet Armenians, I feel shame and pain because of my Turkish identity, and I wish to disappear at once or to hide myself in a hole in the ground. Usually after a brief talk, however, they realize that I am not one of the 60 million Turks who was cheated for decades by his own government's chauvinistic, illogical, unfair and nonsensical official state ideology and history into believing the crooked "facts" intended to suppress knowledge of the brutal genocide. On the contrary, they usually realize that I am one of the handful of Turks who is aware of that horrible genocide and acknowledges it. And this time, too, it took very little time for the couple to understand me.

I've never trusted and believed in the official history and ideology of my country. And when I researched and studied the reliable and honest foreign historians, I came face to face with the blood-chilling truth. The biggest Armenian genocide of the last century was horrible: Yes, indeed, 1.5 million innocent, highly civilized people - in com-

parison with their nomadic barbarian executioners - were slaughtered like poultry by the Turkish soldiers and people, with whom they had lived side-by-side for centuries.

In addition, I've listened to the chilling details of the massacres from the mouths of the living Turkish witnesses. The awful details of the genocide, which was completed insidiously within a year, can easily fill a small bookcase with tens of bloody-paged books. And today, I'm still hated by my own relatives and friends because of my acknowledgment of the genocide.

Unfortunately, their brains are washed by the lies and suppression of the truth by the Turkish government and army.

What could be the underlying reasons for this horrible injustice? If we study the history carefully, we'll see that the Armenian people settled down in the northeast region of Asia Minor around 900 B.C. - almost two millennia before the Turks and others invaded not only that region but, step by step, the whole of Asia Minor. (The Armenians' home country is still occupied by the Turks today.)

The agriculturalist Armenians had built a rather advanced civilization, especially famous for accomplishments in architecture and art. They were an honest, lovely, noble, humanistic and peaceful people. Their capital, Ani, was so beautiful it was called "the twin sister of Constantinople" by Roman historians. Armenians didn't know how to fight; therefore they built ceramic pots, jars and metallic handicrafts and jewelry instead of swords, arrows and shields.

On the other side, the Turks were a pastoralist, nomadic, quarrelsome, totalitarian people, without artistic and architectural talents like the other nomadic tribes of Central Asia. Their lives were mainly based on hunting, fighting, war and plundering. Therefore, they built powerful and effective weapons instead of handicrafts.

Naturally, when the invasion of the pastoralist nomads began in the early 11th century, the Armenians quickly fell under the barbarians' hegemony, like the other agriculturalist civilized peoples of Asia Minor. Many thousands of their men were mutilated and massacred. The women were raped; pregnant women were stabbed; and their cities and towns were burned down by the invaders.

The Christian Armenian people lived under the merciless barbarian hegemony of the Islamic Turkish Ottoman Empire for several centuries, and they suffered indescribable sorrows as slaves until the genocide of 1915, which is commemorated on April 24.

The Ottoman Empire, which reigned tyrannically for more than 600 years, collapsed in 1918. Unfortunately its corrupt wreckage fell on a civilized nation three years before its death, crushing 1.5 million innocent Armenians.

Toward the end of World War I, the Turks were defeated on all fronts, but especially heavily on the eastern front by the Russians, and they blamed this on their minority people, namely Armenians, living in the Russian border area.

Thus began one of the most treacherous and insidious and genocides of history. It was planned entirely by Turkish statesmen and leaders and was carried out by Turkish soldiers hand-in-hand with their people - sadly, even by the Armenians' Turkish neighbors - and systematically completed within a year. Armenians were annihilated in front of the eyes of Western diplomats in Turkey. Some of the victims were rescued by those diplomats and survived. The best historical records of this genocide are those held by various foreign embassies.

That horrible genocide has never been forgotten, must never be forgotten and will never be forgotten.

Alas, still today the Turkish government and its leaders are deaf and dumb, and they remain silent about their country's bloody past. They are still denying history's clear and solid truths. Its 60 million people are still not completely aware of the genocide committed by their ancestors, because of the official state policy to suppress history. Of course, grandchildren should not be judged responsible for their grandparents' crimes, but the grandchildren should not endorse their ancestors' brutality either.

History is waiting for that honest, dignified, fair and noble Turkish leader who will acknowledge his ancestors' biggest crime ever, who will apologize to the Armenian people, and who will do his best to indemnify them, materially and morally, in the eyes of the entire world.

Yes, history is longing - and the Armenian people are longing - for that person who will break the dim and tragic taciturnity of 81 years between the two nations, the person who will stop the bleeding from that deep wound.

Everybody is longing, but - of greatest importance - the souls of those innocent 1.5 million victims, including bayoneted infants and raped women with their mutilated bodies, have longed for that noble leader for 81 years.

A Scholarly Debate?

UCLA students submit Armenian Genocide arguments in Ottoman History class

There are always two sides to every story. An historical event that is subjected to debate is threatened to lose its factuality. When two sides begin to argue over an issue, they risk trivializing the issue. The trivialization of the 1915 massacres against the Armenians by the Turkish government is one of its tactics in their efforts to deny the occurrence of the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish government and other Genocide deniers have successfully subjected the facts to debate. The Armenian Genocide is not an event that can be debated, because thousands of pages of documentation and hundreds of photos thoroughly verify its truism.

A handout entitled "Armenian Problem" written by a UCLA student in Professor Stanford Shaw's Ottoman History class was copied and distributed to the students on the morning of March 16, 1999. The handout, reprinted on this page, was written as a reaction to a lecture about the Armenian Genocide by guest historian Professor Vahakn Dadrian. After reading the handout, other students from Shaw's class quickly responded with their own handouts, one of which is reprinted on the following page.

UCLA

Ersin Sivrican

Armenian Problem

On Feb. 4, 1999, Professor Stanford Shaw's class on the Ottoman Empire and The Turkish Republic had a special lecture about Turko-Armenian Conflict by Professor Vahakn Dadrian who is known to be the leading provoker of Armenians against Turks.

It was a remarkable day for Armenians in UCLA and all over the Los Angeles area. They filled the front rows of Bunch Hall 1200 Auditorium well before 8:00 a.m. with notepads and tape recorders in their hands. Prof. Shaw told me that they wanted to videotape the lecture but he did not let them do it for various reasons.

Prof. Dadrian was so excited with this Armenian group that he did not bother even glancing to the rest of the room where the real students of the class were seated. He was like a general lecturing his soldiers right before a brutal attack to the enemy sites and unfortunately most of his lecture was full of lies and exaggerations. Even the title of his lecture was a make up, Armenian Genocide. This is a subject that is disputed among historians. It is not proven or approved by United Nations so it can not be named as genocide, but this is what they want other people to believe in. On Feb. 17, 1999's Daily Bruin my classmate Harout Semerdjian says, "The Armenian Genocide is a chapter in Ottoman History not covered by Prof. Shaw." Of course it is not covered because there was not anything called genocide in Ottoman History and in any case, the Armenian perspective is given in Professor Hovannisian's courses on Armenian history. It is something that revolting Armenians have created to keep their culture alive by harassing Turks and hatred against Turks, and unfortunately they are succeeding in it because American society does not know the real history and all they hear is this genocide cries from the fanatic Armenians.

In Ottoman history there were brutal murders and punishments against its subjects involving all ethnic groups including Armenians, Christians and even Muslims, because it was an empire of power. Sultans killed their own fathers, brothers and cousins to take power and of course anyone who was opposed them and was a threat to their Sultanate. In the late 1800's there were mass murders all over the Balkans and Ottoman Empire, but they have never become genocide. They were just a struggle for power and wealth. Christians killed millions of Muslims in Macedonia and throughout Southwestern Europe and central Asia, and the same Christians killed thousands of other Christians who were not of the same ethnic origin.

The Armenians should not have the slightest doubt that if Ottomans really wanted to have an Armenian Genocide, they would have done it easily with no survivors because they had the power and time for 600 years. On the contrary they gave enormous freedom to minorities who were divided into millets which had their own courts, laws and judges to execute their laws. Ottomans gave the minorities the chance to rise in the bureaucracy and even become a Sadrazam, today's Prime Minister. Armenians were never excluded from the bureaucracy; they have always had important positions in ruling class and had their own representatives in the late 1800's parliament.

Professor Dadrian showed vicious anti-Muslim bigotry, the same Armenian bigotry toward Islam, which cause much of the trouble in the first place. He stated that the word " Jihad " in the Koran means that the Koran demands all non-Muslims to be killed. This is an ugly falsification. Islam is a religion of peace and brotherhood. If this were not so, there would not be a Turko-Armenian conflict since there would not be any Armenians left to have conflict with. He also said that Armenians were not allowed to join the secret police, which is entirely untrue. The Secret service was formed in the last 100 years of Ottoman Empire, when they had continuous conflicts and wars with Russians, and Armenians were fighting on the Russian side against their own State, the Ottoman Empire, killing their Muslim neighbors in Anatolia.

Another important issue in Turko-Armenian conflict is the one that is taking place lately in US universities. While Armenians have established chairs in different universities to spread Armenian propaganda, they have protested and used political pressure to stop UCLA and other universities from establishing chairs for Turkish History which might raise question marks in people's minds about Armenian claims. They have harassed and persecuted professors of Turkish history throughout the United States to force them to be silent regarding the facts of Turkish history. So far therefore, students at UCLA and people in Los Angeles heard only Armenian's point of view. Armenians always prevented Turks or others to express any idea that contradicts with theirs. Some years ago, when Prof. Shaw was lecturing about Armenians in Ottoman Empire, and angry group of Armenian mobs protested him by surrounding his classroom in the Architecture Building forcing the entire UCLA police force to protect the class and leading to physical assaults against him as he left the building. Also after another lecture on Armenian problem in Ottoman History, Prof. Shaw's house was bombed by fanatic Armenians and he had to be protected by FBI for a while. In 1973 ASALA, a horrible Armenian terrorist organization, started its assassinations of Turkish diplomats in Los Angeles by brutal murders of Mehmet Baydar and Bahadır Demir and then in 1982 Kemal Arikian. Under these circumstance how do you expect a fair competition between Armenians and Turks?

This is how the extreme Armenians are expressing themselves, with hate, anger and violence. They are fooling the world by their lies regarding the Turko-Armenian conflict. But they will never get what they want. Turkish Government will never accept their demands that it acknowledge an Armenian genocide, because such genocide never took place. Four million people, including Armenians, Turks, Jews and others, died in World War I as the result of what went on during the war—to call this an Armenian genocide is to deny the fact the Turks and other Muslims as well as Jews suffered and died as well. So let the mad dog bark. I am sure that sooner or later an Armenian generation will find out the truth and stop this hatred toward Turkish people for the sake of the PEACE. Until then Turks as well as other victims of these violent acts have to deal with it.

Turkish Propaganda

BY LIANA VARDANYAN

In an amazing hate-sheet that was distributed this Tuesday [March 16, 1999], my Turkish classmate Ersin Sivrican says that the Armenian Genocide is a subject "debated" by historians. Here it is crucial to bring up the thoughtful article in The Yale Review by Terrence Des Pres entitled "On Governing Narratives: The Turkish-Armenian Case." Des Pres details the plight of the old adage "there are two sides to every story." In addition, Des Pres highlights the relevance to us as university students when asking the question:

"What is happening to the university if increasing numbers of scholars occupy positions funded or promoted by governments and have no ethical or professional qualms about work that aims, sometimes less, sometimes more, to shore up the official claims of nation-states?"

In regards to the Armenian Genocide, Des Pres becomes more specific:

"Our own official archives are thick with first hand evidence, and many additional sources exist, including the state papers of several nations, eyewitness documentation, journalistic reports, and testimony by survivors and their children. As much as any historical event can be known, this one is known."

Friends, historical facts can not be "debated." A fact remains a fact. One must wonder, like Des Pres did, "has the old and honored method of hearing both sides become a gimmick for turning history on its head and allowing the interests of the Turkish government to occupy center stage?"

The Armenian Genocide is an historical event regardless of whether it fits the current political agenda of Turkey. The first Post-World War I Turkish government under Grand Vizier Damad Ferid not only accepted the brutal deportations and massacres of the Armenian population but its Turkish Courts Martial condemned to death in absentia the chief organizers and perpetrators (Talaat, Enver, and Jemal Pashas). Unfortunately after that, for political and economic reasons, the Turkish government embarked on a shameful policy of historical revisionism and Genocide denial. Denial is the final stage of genocide. Those who deny it are accomplices after the act.

My grandfather is a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. He was one of only a few from his family that survived the Genocide, in the city of Van. His four sisters, fearing rape and death, committed suicide in 1915 right as the Turkish soldiers had broken into their house. Today, I have no relatives from my grandfather's side of the family. My other grandparents are children of genocide survivors.

Ersin's letter was marked by attacks on a personal level, with no relation to history whatsoever. He attacks an entire people (Armenians), while trying to portray world-renowned scholars such as Prof. Vahakn Dadrian as theatrical performers and cheer leaders. Personal attacks are made by desperate people who resort to such cheap tactics in the absence of persuasive evidence to sustain their propaganda.

This is the same guy that was shocked to learn last quarter that Armenians at one time lived in "Eastern Turkey," since he said they are not taught such things in Turkey. I find it quite ironic that a science-major student, who has no knowledge of the history of his own country, was able to fill two full pages of propaganda material ranging from genocide

denial to the personal lives of professors! I he acting as a mouthpiece for others? I cry foul, and ask others to join me! Because Turkey got away with its crimes against humanity, and because of power politics has silenced many countries in the face of deplorable policy of denial, similar crimes are occurring in Turkey again, and this time against the Muslim Kurdish population. The Kurds in Turkey today are not recognized as a separate ethnic group, and are not allowed to have their own schools or enjoy cultural autonomy. If we continue to remain silent on the issue of genocide and crimes against humanity and support deniers and cynical revisionists, Kurds and other subject peoples will eventually suffer the same fate as the Armenians. It happened to the Jewish people in Europe; it happened to the Cambodians in Southeast Asia; it happened to Rwandans in Africa.

For those who deny the Armenian Genocide, please answer the following question: What happened to the entire Armenian population of over 2 million residing in Turkey after 3,000 years of existence in region? No Armenians are left on the lands of historic Armenia in Turkey.

Liana Vardanyan is a student of History and Near Eastern Studies at UCLA.

"...the Armenian massacre was the greatest crime of the war; and the failure to act against Turkey is to condone it ... the failure to deal radically with the Turkish horror means that all talk of guaranteeing the future peace of the world is mischievous nonsense."

--US President Theodore Roosevelt
May 11, 1918, letter to Cleveland Hoadley Dodge

"The acts committed against the Armenians meet the definition of genocide given in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."

--Mr. Laurin, International Federation of Human Rights
Report on the Armenian Genocide
United Nations Commission on Human Rights
Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities
38th Session
August 5-30, 1985 Geneva, Switzerland

Armenian Students Win Historic Vote at UC Berkeley

BERKELEY (AGRC)--In a broad showing of support, a rainbow coalition of University of California students, on Wednesday evening voted unanimously to support Armenian students, and drafted a resolution demanding that the University reopen its investigation and urge a U.C. Professor to apologize for a verbal assault he made upon Armenian students last year.

On the evening of March 10, 1999, the UC Berkeley Armenian Students Association achieved a great victory - some would say historic. The ASUC Student Senate, composed of a broad coalition of students from diverse backgrounds, passed a unanimous resolution demanding that the University urge Prof. Hamid Algar to apologize for his actions of last April 24, 1998.

Last year Prof. Hamid Algar, a UCB professor in the Near Eastern Studies Department, approached the Associated Armenian Students table in Sproul Plaza where they were commemorating the Armenian Genocide and said to them that the Genocide never happened but that he wished it had. He further said that Armenians deserve to be massacred.

After conducting a five-month investigation, the University, in its January 6, 1999 report, issued by the Chancellor's office, apologized for Prof. Algar's actions but concluded that although his actions were ethnically demeaning, his actions did not create a "hostile environment" for the students involved. Disappointed and outraged at this conclusion, the UCB Armenian Students' Association, in consultation with ASUC representatives, introduced a bill through the ASUC Senate to ask the University to review its decision.

This bill, entitled "A Bill Against Hate Speech and in Support of Reprimand for Prof. Algar," was authored by ASUC Senator Jorge Garcia and sponsored by ASUC Senators Jorge Garcia, Cris Arzate, Willie Brown, Josh Diosomito, Anny Song, Kevin Sabet, Arian White, and ASUC President Preston Taylor.

Wednesday evening, amidst a throng of nearly 30 people, crowded in a small con-

ference room, including representatives from the Chancellor's office and the UCB Police, the bill passed unanimously with 17 votes in support and 0 against.

Those previously unfamiliar with the incident were outraged that an ethnic group of students could be assaulted with such impunity by a tenured UC Professor.

It is a heartening sign of solidarity with Armenian students that the Associated Student Body of UC Berkeley, composed

worked tirelessly in researching campus policies regarding faculty misconduct and in crafting the language contained within it.

Each addressed the 25 member Senate on the floor, having prepared and distributed a packet of materials on the Genocide, provided by Richard Kloian of the Armenian Genocide Resource Center, to each Senator.

ASA students found it very gratifying to hear Senators defend the historicity of the Armenian Genocide and advance their arguments for the passage of this bill.

Senator Kevin Sabet, a member of the Bahai faith, was particularly supportive, citing the history of persecution of non-Muslim Near Eastern peoples. With this level of support the ASA was able to append three additional clauses to the resolution from the floor during deliberations.

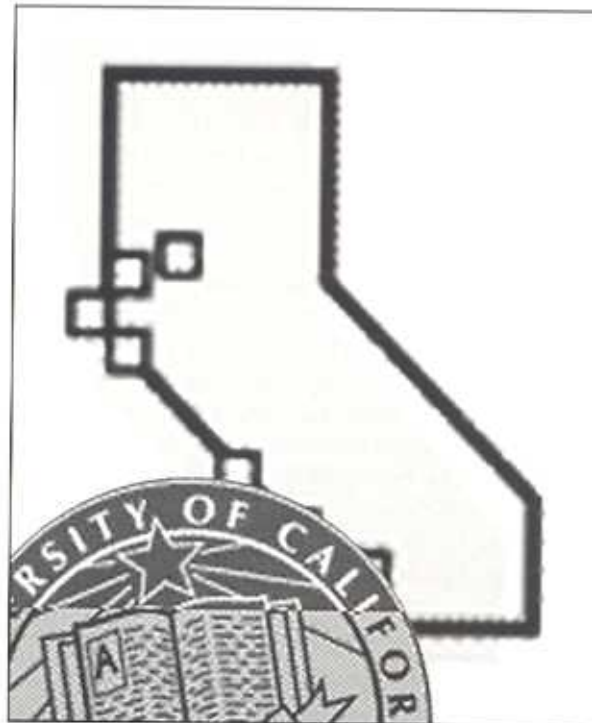
A representative from the chancellor's office was present to answer questions regarding the issue. Senators concurred that her answers to Kate Nahapetian's probing questions were woefully inadequate.

The ASA must now work to get the Academic Senate (faculty representative body) to follow suit. The groundwork for this has already been laid and the Resolution can be ratified in its present form if necessary. Most importantly, the issue is effectively out of the hands of the ASA and is now placed in

the hands of the Student Body at UC Berkeley, although the ASA will be directing the enforcement of the resolved clauses from within the body.

Concerned individuals may still write to the University, noting the precedent the University's action sets for future attacks of this nature. The University needs to be informed that this kind of behavior by professors cannot be tolerated and that you are aware of the current situation and will be following their progress.

Chancellor Robert Berdahl,
Univ. of California, Berkeley,
200 California Hall, #1500,
Berkeley, CA 94720.
Phone: (510) 642-2331
Fax: (510) 643-5499



mostly of Asians, Hispanics, and African-Americans, officially recognized the seriousness of this incident and formally disapproved of Prof. Algar's actions.

The incident with Algar is believed to be the only time in the recent history of UC Berkeley that a professor has personally attacked a group of students outside of academic discourse. Some believe that the University was unprepared to deal with such a situation and mistakenly treated the incident as a heated academic debate and not a personal attack on a group of individuals.

Much credit for the success of this bill is due to ASUC Senator Jorge Garcia, and ASA members Shant Tchakerian, Kate Nahapetian, and Paul Maranian, who

The Armenian Genocide

1915-1923

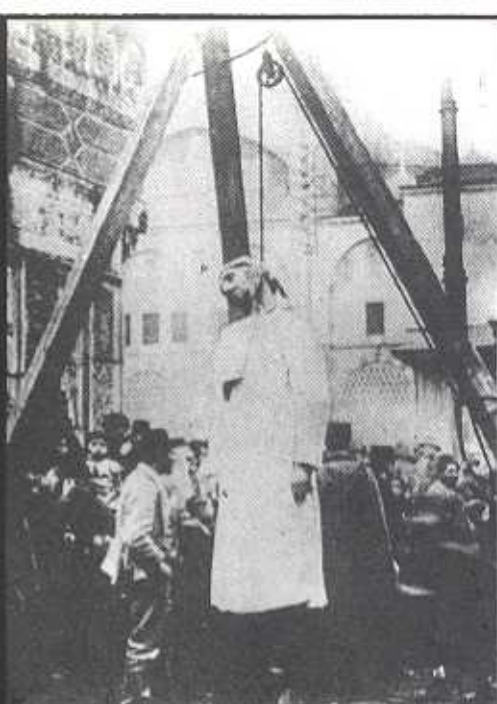
perpetrated by the Turkish government
1.5 million Armenians killed



A collage of...

Clockwise from top left: Executed men from Adana, from whose bodies pieces were taken; A man whose kneecaps were severed (Ernst Weizsäcker); Revolutionary Federation members; Beginning of the Genocide (Armin T. Wegner); Nudity of women (Armin T. Wegner Collection); Corpses laid out in the camp; Trench dug for their reception; Trench dug for the

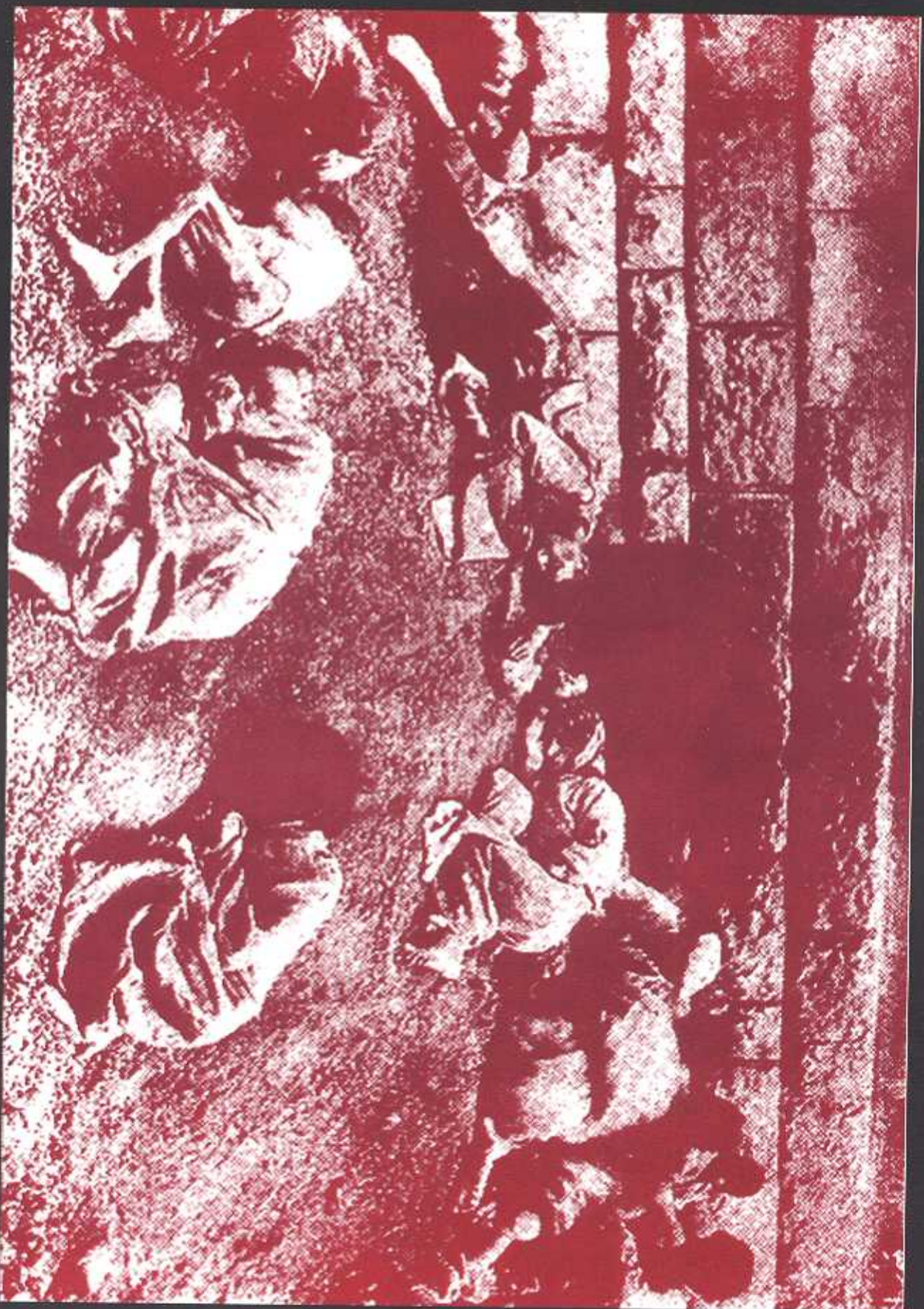




HELL

(Armin T. Wegner Collection); Armenian children of flesh were ripped off with cotton hooks and neckh); On exhibit, the heads of nine Armenian (Armin T. Wegner Collection); Famine victims left in a degrading state in an open mass grave with the corpses of murdered Armenians waiting until one huge common grave is dug for the bodies of the slaughtered Armenians.





NEVER FORGET

PROPOSAL OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA March 11, 1999

Whereas it is the role of professors to be "intellectual guides" that foster a positive learning environment; and

Whereas it is the duty of the University to protect students from harassment and a hostile learning environment; and

Whereas it is a form of "unacceptable behavior" and a violation under the University Faculty Code of Conduct (hereinafter the Code) for a faculty member to conduct "the intentional disruption of functions or activities sponsored or authorized by the University" p.7; and

Whereas it is unlawful for members of the University community and citizens of Berkeley to disturb the peace; and

Whereas the value of the freedom of speech is undoubtedly recognized; and

Whereas it is also recognized that such freedom may not be legally used to shield malicious and hateful speech meant to incite others; and

Whereas it is "unacceptable behavior" under the Code for a faculty member to conduct "the harassment or intimidation of another member of the University community, with the intent to interfere with that person's performance of University activities." P. 8; and

Whereas it is a form of "unacceptable behavior" under the Code to carry out "[d]iscrimination against a student on political grounds, or for reasons of race . . . ethnic origin . . . ancestry. . . p7; and

Whereas using ethnically demeaning statements and calling for the massacre of an entire people is nothing more than the outright expression of hate speech and, in the very least, a gross violation of the Code; and

Whereas Professor Hamid Algar inexcusably, provokingly, and maliciously screamed ethnically demeaning statements and threats to students on University property while students were commemorating the memory of 1.5 million Armenian civilians killed in the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923; and

Whereas the University Police twice refused to file a report from a University student regarding this incident; and

Whereas disturbing a University authorized activity and discriminating against students based on ancestry are violations of these minimum standards; and

Whereas the Code mandates that faculty are to respect students; and

Whereas the conduct of Professor Algar is at the very least a great departure from professional standards that students should expect from professors; and

Whereas the University's characterization of the commemoration of the Armenian genocide as a mere "conviction" or "historical issue" is tantamount to sheer ignorance reaching the irresponsible levels of misinformation; and

Whereas Chancellor Berdahl has stated that intimidation and threats will not be tolerated by students or faculty when he stated that "each of us shares the responsibility for creating and maintaining a community in

which we can work together in an atmosphere of respect and civility toward each other."; and

Whereas the Code establishes minimum standards of conduct "which a faculty member cannot fail to observe without being subject to University discipline."; and

Whereas such threats constitute serious misconduct that may result in dismissal or severe censure or reprimand; and

Whereas the Student Body and trans-campus community is appalled at Professor Algar's conduct and intentions and is concerned about his abilities to uphold the ideals of the University to provide a constructive education; therefore be it

Resolved that the ASUC no later than 8 days after the passing of this bill send a letter to the University expressing the need for substantial increases in funding directed to educate University officials on the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923; and let it be

Resolved that the ASUC to no later than 8 days after the passing of this bill send a letter to the University demanding that the University take disciplinary action in reprimanding Professor Hamid Algar by means of censure unless an acceptable written apology is submitted by Professor Algar to the Student Body; and let it be

Resolved that the ASUC to no later than 8 days after the passing of this bill send a letter to national and local news publications including the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Boston Globe, the San Jose Mercury News, and the Contra Costa Times expressing the indignation of the Armenian community and Student Body for the current lack of reprimand of perpetrators of hate speech and for the double standards held by the University in recognizing the genocidal sufferings of some peoples but not of others, and in not extending the definition of a hate crime to apply to Armenians and their descendants; and let it be

Resolved that the ASUC Senate direct the ASUC Academic Affairs Vice President to immediately use the presence of the ASUC Academic Affairs Office in the relevant Academic Senate Subcommittee(s) to exert pressure on the Academic Senate for the purpose of obtaining the censure of Professor Algar unless he submits an acceptable written apology to the Student Body; and let it be further

Resolved that the ASUC Senate immediately direct the ASUC President, Student Advocate, and Acting External Affairs Vice President (or Chief of Staff) to, under the concerted leadership of the Office of the President, have the respective offices assist the Armenian Student Association in initiating a campus-wide activist movement by means of campus group coalition building, petition signing, and peaceful protest with the goal of achieving the censure of Professor Hamid Algar by the University unless Professor Algar submits an acceptable written apology to the Student Body; and be it further

Resolved that the ASUC send a letter to UCPD requesting that it review its procedure for filing reports of hate-related incidents in order to ensure the expeditious and unconditional recording of hate-related incidents and crimes.

Resolved that the ASUC direct the Student Advocate to send a letter to UC P.D. requesting that it open the case concerning Professor Algar.

Resolved that the ASUC will send a letter to Assistant Vice Chancellor Horace Mitchell requesting that his office initiate action by the Police Review Board to investigate possible mishandling by UCPD officers regarding the reporting of the case of Prof. Algar. ■

The White Genocide?

Has the Armenian Genocide really ended?

At the end of the Armenian Genocide, the remaining Armenian population fled to other parts of the world (i.e. Lebanon, Syria and Iraq) and began to form the Armenian Diaspora. The devastation of the Genocide destroyed a sound civilization of thousands of years and stripped its people from their homeland. The orphaned, deprived, and divided survivors had to find refuge in foreign lands.

Confronting numerous obstacles and difficulties, the Armenians formed their unique communities and managed to preserve their ancient language, culture, and customs, and succeeded to remain Armenian apart from their lands. All the while, they could not forget nor forgive the brutal massacre of their parents and grandparents.

However, the conditions for our parents to keep their Armenian identity were much different than they are for us. The circumstances in America are such that assimilation is apparently inevitable or at least in a much greater scale than other countries. It is unfortunate that we, the youth in the Armenian communities of the US, are losing our language and culture, and as a result slowly falling in the path of assimilation. It is hard to try to understand every single arrangement behind the complex American assimilation program, but it is not difficult to understand the provided reasoning coming from the mindset of a collective whose motives do not embody the encouragement of self-actualization.

The obvious is irrefutable: the Armenian youth, which represents the future force of the Diaspora, is in danger of assimilation. This is called "The White Genocide" ("Jermag Tchart"). It is the result of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, and it gets worse as time goes on. It is termed "white" because it's unnoticeable and not bloody.

Let us first recognize that the perpetrator of the Genocide, the Turkish government, is at fault for the creation of this situation.

We must denounce this state, and condemn the current government of Turkey for its continual denial of the Armenian Genocide and its attempts of distorting history. As an obligation to both the martyrs of April 24 and to preserve the idea of justice, we, the youth must stand up against the present placements of lies and deceit. We must empower ourselves with any and every justifiable action and knowledge so that we discredit the Turkish deceit and expose the true horrific history.

We must, however, simultaneously battle the state of the "White Genocide."



However shady the understanding of the situation of the current Armenian youth may seem, one thing is obvious: we are losing our national identity. We are the victims of an involuntary engagement in a foreign culture that is primarily motivated by corporate commercialization and growth. It occupies the individual with hope for future success in business fields and a variety of positions. It provides all of the simple physical and mental pleasures, and generates an imitation culture. It also incorporates, if need be, whatever immoral or unethical pleasurable engagements with a promotion of an individualized corporate life. This is the polar contradiction of our

cultural understanding and traditions. It contravenes a people's right to the conviction of unity and the sustenance of its culture and customs. Our Armenian history is too great to be forgotten and our unique Indo-European language is too precious to be sacrificed to an unfortunate historical reality, or exchanged with a foreign one that subsequently entails the above-mentioned elements of "The White Genocide."

The loss of our Armenian identity and the subsequent refusal to concern ourselves with the Armenian cause, the struggle for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, or the fight for the establishment of a United Armenia are the unfortunate effects of "The White Genocide." Let us not succumb to the will of the oppressors. We must undertake the demanding mission of fighting "The White Genocide," the loss of our national identity, and the existent general indifference towards critical issues facing the Armenian people.

Contrary to the authoritative dictation or the subliminal insinuations of the media and many politicians, establishments and institutions, the right to demand justice is not a crime, and the right to preserve our national identity is not offensive. Resoluteness of determination is essential in our uneven battle.

The guidance of our preserved traditional values will strengthen us, and reassure our affirmative understanding of justice and the battle against "The White Genocide."

We, the newest generation of Armenians outside of homeland, are the descendants of a proud civilization with an exceptional history and a prominent culture. Let us target and repel all of the forces and factors behind "The White Genocide" so that our generation and with it our identity do not vanish; so that the Turkish crime of the Armenian Genocide does not go unpunished. It is up to us to continue the struggle. ■

Economic interests silence the Armenian Question

The fascist Turkish government designed and executed the 1915 Armenian Genocide and succeeded in the wholesale slaughter, disposal, and elimination of the Armenian people from Western Armenia.

The assembled international community, devastated by this reality, under the leadership of then United States President Woodrow Wilson, acknowledged the right of the remaining Armenians to their proper lands and signed the Treaty of Sevres,

tion of the Armenian Genocide and a response to the Armenian Question is being sought in Washington through lobbying efforts by the Armenian National Committee and Armenian Assembly.

Taking into account this history and examining the complex interests of the superpowers, we encounter a number of questions: Why have Armenians been deprived from the justice of the Armenian Genocide when, for example, the Jews have been granted full

primary interest is the export of Azerbaijani oil. The intent of the economic growth and the capitalist expansion in such pacts has, historically and repeatedly, resulted in the silencing of the Armenian Question and the forfeiture of justice.

The Armenian Genocide has not been officially recognized by the United Nations, let alone be answered so that historical Armenian lands be returned to the Armenian people and compensation



which allotted to the Armenians most of Western Armenia.

However, the expansion of the Soviet Union and the treaty of Losaine gave way to the disregarding of the Treaty of Sevres. During the Cold War, the US strengthened its military bases in Turkey as part of its defensive measures against both the USSR and Arabic countries of the south.

At that time, when it seemed that the Armenian Question would fade out and thereafter the Armenian Genocide forgotten, the opposite occurred, and the Armenian struggle for self-determination matured. It began with the mass protests and demands of the 1960s and escalated to the Armed Struggle movement of the '70s and '80s.

Currently, the movement for the recogni-

tion of their Holocaust? Is the settlement of American military forces in Turkey reason enough for the decades of Western reluctance to consider answering the Armenian Question? Now that the USSR has collapsed, why does the United States continue its pro-Turkish policies?

To the critical, well-informed thinker who is not affected by the misinformative media or the deceptive reasoning of the superpowers, the real reasons preventing the exposure of the Armenian Genocide and its just resolution is clear: Turkey and Western powers have been benefiting at the expense of the Armenian people.

Today, there is an even greater danger in the region with the newly developing tri-alliance of Turkey-USA-Israel whose pri-

received as an attempt to acknowledge the destruction.

However, justice-seeking hard-working people should not and will not be discouraged by the unjust arrangement of materialist economic interests or the territorial lines drawn by imperialist forces.

We know about the facts of the Armenian Genocide, and we know that the cities of Van, Garin, Bitlis, Mush, Sassoon, Kars, and Ardahan have always belonged to Armenians.

We cannot allow global powers continue to distort history and silence the Armenian Question. We cannot let any government's motivation of economic interests limit Armenian rights or determine Armenia's future.

Hovannisian's new book introduced by Hamazkayin

GLENDALE (Asbarez)--More than 200 community members gathered at the Glendale Public Library last Thursday to witness the introduction of *Remembrance and Denial*, the latest volume of work by the AEF Armenian Modern History Chair at UCLA, Prof. Richard Hovannisian.

Organized by the Western Regional executive of the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Association, with the participation of the compatriotic unions of Kharpert, Vashbouragan, Ourfa and Daron-Douruperan, the event attracted an array of individuals from the community, especially the youth.

In his presentation, Hovannisian stressed that Genocide denial was the fundamental issue facing Armenians, given that come next century, the Armenian Genocide would be considered a reality of the past century.

He said that while other genocides, such as the Cambodian and Rwandan genocides, have garnered recognition and have made their way to international tribunals, the Armenian Genocide, had not yet received the necessary recognition.

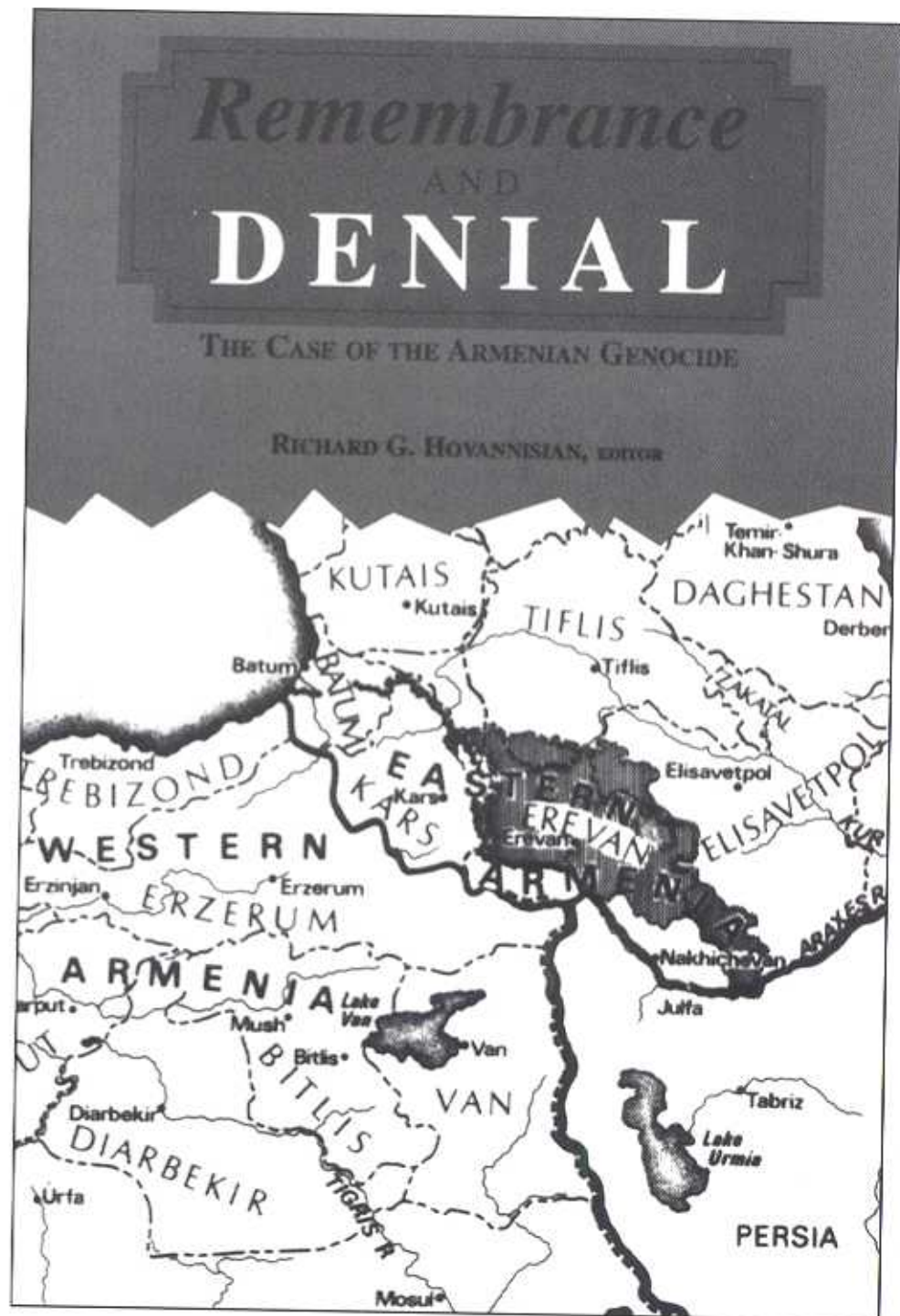
Hovannisian explained that his new volume explores the Genocide denial issue from four angles: Denial-calling into question the actual occurrence of the Genocide; Reasoning-explanations or justification for the Genocide; the relative approach to the Genocide; and finally, and the most abhorred, the trivialization and simplification of the Genocide.

In his presentation, Hovannisian discussed the Turkish and its allies' approach of presenting the Genocide in the aforementioned categories, adding that the Jews are pressing to separate the Genocide from their Holocaust.

"The Genocide must become a daily curriculum for our daily schools," said Hovannisian who added "our future generations must be taught to struggle and learn the means by which to acquaint ourselves with non-Armenians."

The program Mistress of Ceremonies, Eugenie Bedrossian, praised Hovannisian and his efforts in maintaining the Genocide issue alive and addressing the Armenian Cause within international forums.

She also stated that the introduction of the book was fitting for the Hamazkayin,



whose mission of introducing Armenian culture and education to the community continued to be maintained.

Also speaking at the gathering was Garo Momdjian, who has worked under the guidance and tutelage of Prof. Hovannisian for more than a decade.

He praised Hovannisian for his ability to educate generations of Armenian youth on the most importance facet of Armenian life-the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He added that while

the professor was noted for his in depth research and studies on the first Armenian Republic, he has devoted his entire career on researching and advancing the Armenian Genocide issue.

In conclusion of the program and following Hovannisian's comments, Hagop Mgrtchian of the Compatriotic Union of Daron presented the professor with a plaque of appreciation.

Hovannisian answered numerous questions and signed copies of his book. ■

Conversation with survivors of the Armenian Genocide

Albert Garjikian

Born in Kessab, 1910

“We went 30 kilometers then stopped. After the next 30 kilometers there was water, but they didn't let us drink any. They would beat whoever tried to drink.

My dad said that we should collect some money, give it to the Turks, so they will let us at least have some water.

The first day, they took us to a place where the previous day they had murdered many people, and as we were walking I saw the corpses of many people, each one twisted in a different way.

My dad spent all the money on food and slowly all the money we had ran out.

My brother, Robert died as a small child. I had two sisters who also died. All that were left of our family was me, my older sister, my brother Stepan, my mother and father.

We lived on the shore of a river for a few months and I kept crying, “Mommy, I'm freezing, Mommy, I'm freezing.”

We were headed toward Homs, which was very dangerous, because there were many Turkish soldiers worked there, and so we communicated in special signals, so we wouldn't get caught.

After we escaped the first time, we got caught by three Turkish soldiers, and they put us in three rows. First the men, then the women in front of them, and the children were in front of the women. The soldiers said that they wouldn't be able to rest until they killed us all. That's where the three soldiers violated my oldest sister. ”

Bedros Bahadourian

Born in Gurun, 1903

“In Anteb there was an American college. Next to it was a big field. Ditches were dug for houses. The dead were thrown in these ditches together and covered up. I saw this with my own eyes. I will never forget one day when I was walking through the village. I stopped and extended my arms towards the sky and said “Jesus please save me.”



Skulls and remains of bones

Photo by Amin T. Wegner

The Euphrates river ran through Beregeek. One day I came home and I could not find my mother. My neighbor's wife told me that the day before they went to commit suicide but decided not to proceed with it. The next day my mother went by herself without telling me or anyone else, and threw herself into the river. She couldn't bear

what had happened to our family any longer.

I was covered with lice. When I shook my shirt, they would drop by the hundreds. A nurse used a knife to cut my scalp in several places to start bleeding. She then took salt, mixed it with blood on my scalp and dispersed it all over. She then bandaged my head. This was the cure for my lice problem. ”

Haig Baronian

Born in Paypert, 1908

“They were knocking on our neighbor's door, “Open the door Vagharsh efendee.” My mother was crying because she knew what was going to happen to us. They would finish there, then come to us.

When the Turks ordered us to come out, my father did not resist. He kissed us good-bye, gave his watch to my mother, and left quietly.

We gathered the essentials into small bags. It took us two days to get there.

When we came out of the city, the ruthless Turks started to kill the Armenians.

My mother could not feed or give milk to my younger brother Souren, so she was forced to leave him under a small tree. I do not know what happened to him.

My grandmother started complaining about the Turks killing innocent children, so one of the Turk soldiers took out his sword and started stabbing her.

Only fifty to sixty Armenians were left alive in our village.

After the Genocide, I never saw my mother again.

My first message is that Armenians should stay Armenian, receive a good education, and keep their faith.

Armenians are diligent, smart, and competent people.

In the most dire circumstances, I firmly believed that Armenia would be fine. ”

From the booklet Conversation With Survivors of the Armenian Genocide by the “Zavarian” and “Shant” chapters of the Badanegan Organization. ■

For further reading...

Caravans to Oblivion: The Armenian Genocide, 1915

G. S. Graber 1996

Graber, who has previously written on the SS and its genocidal policies, clearly demonstrates that a gigantic slaughter took place. He also makes a strong case that government officials, at least at the regional level, encouraged and in some cases organized the slaughter. Graber further asserts that this "genocide" was centrally planned and organized by the national government with the clear intention of making Ottoman lands "Armenian free." A compelling and deeply disturbing study.

Jay Freeman 1996, American Library Association.

The History of the Armenian Genocide: Ethnic Conflict from the Balkans to Anatolia to the Caucasus

Vahakn N. Dadrian

Dadrian's extensive research in European archives demonstrates persuasively that the anti-Armenian measures were not only genocidal in character but that they were premeditated and predesigned. Prof. Dadrian has chosen to examine and analyze the Armenian genocide in a historical perspective. The published volume is an exceptional book.

The Armenian genocide, though not given such prominent treatment as the Jewish Holocaust which it precedes, still haunts the Western world and has assumed a new significance in the light of ethnic cleansing in the Balkans. This study by the most distinguished scholar of the Armenian tragedy offers an authoritative analysis by presenting it as a case study of genocide and by seeing it as a historical process in which a domestic conflict escalated and was finally consumed by a global war.

German Responsibility in the Armenian Genocide

Vahakn N. Dadrian, 1996

One of the striking features of the WWI Armenian genocide perpetrated by Ottoman Turkey, is the fact that it was enacted despite the powerful presence of Imperial Germany in Turkey at the time. In this path-breaking work of historical recovery, Dadrian examines the complex conditions of Turko-German political-military alliance analyzing the developments within the framework of which Germany's direct and indirect involvement in the macabre drama of the Armenian genocide is seen materializing. Thus, German responsibility is cast into relief not only as a legal but also as a moral exigency.

"Avoiding special pleading, respectful of the canons of authentic scholarship," says prominent Holocaust scholar, Steven Katz, "Professor Dadrian has exposed the full nature of Turkey's great crime-with extensive assistance from Germany as he documents in his newest work, German Responsibility in the Armenian Genocide-and has made comprehensible both its logic and implementation. Uniquely possessed of the necessary languages to carry out such research Dadrian's work is likely to remain unsurpassed for a long, long time."

The Armenian Genocide: History, Politics, Ethics
Richard G. Hovannissian (Editor) 1992

Beneath the shadow of the First World War, the Young Turk government orchestrated the massacre of over one million Armenians in the Turkish Empire between the years 1915 and 1918. Virtually erased from public memory and forgotten out of political convenience, this attempt to destroy the Armenian population is a prototypical example of genocide which has been repeated throughout the twentieth century. The Armenian Genocide explains the historical, cultural and political conditions which led to this tragedy and to the subsequent claims that it never actually took place. Edited by a leading expert on Armenia, this collection presents a multi-disciplinary investigation and interpretation of the Armenian Genocide. Each contributor examines the event from a unique perspective; methods of study include archival research, political analysis, fieldwork, comparative investigation of genocide and analysis of the literary response. Through exploration of the history, politics and ethics of the Armenian Genocide, this book sheds light on one of the most profound and neglected events in twentieth-century history.

Black Dog of Fate

Peter Balakian

Black Dog of Fate is an account of two seemingly unrelated stories: author Peter Balakian's privileged upbringing in a New Jersey suburb during the '50s and '60s and the Armenian genocide carried out by Turkey in 1915. How these two events intersect is at the heart of Black Dog of Fate and makes for mesmerizing, if disturbing, reading.

Growing up in Tenafly, New Jersey, Balakian was more interested in sports than in family history. He and his siblings never learned to speak Armenian, and their ethnicity was reserved for Sunday lunches, a time when--amidst discussions of food, art, or suburban life--the table creaked beneath the weight of Armenian delicacies. Nothing about those Sunday afternoons reflected the dark, unspoken details of an earlier life in another land.

It wasn't until Balakian was in his mid-20s that he learned his own grandmother was a survivor of the Turkish extermination. She lost her husband, aunts, siblings, nieces, and nephews during the forced march into the Syrian Desert. There was no international outcry against the genocide, no interference from world powers, and--afterward--no recompense for the survivors.

In Black Dog of Fate, Balakian recounts his own awakening to the horrors perpetrated on his people, demanding that the Turkish government formally acknowledge the massacres. His powerful book stands as a cautionary tale, urging us to remember history lest we be forced to repeat it.

The Forty Days of Musa Dagh

Franz Werfel

Passage to Ararat (Hungry Mind Find)

Michael J. Arlen, Clark Blaise (introduction)

WWW

WWW

WWW

WWW

Armenian websites with
more information on the
Armenian Genocide:
www.armenian-genocide.org
www.cilicia.com
www.ayfwr.org

Get involved!

Go to www.algore2000.com and have your voice be heard. Go to the bottom of the page where Vice President Al Gore, candidate for US presidency in the year 2000, asks visitors what issue they think is very important. In the space provided for "other," type in ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RECOGNITION and submit.

AYF Active

AYF Youth Corps

The AYF Youth Corps was established in 1994 to provide Armenian youth in the Diaspora with an opportunity to visit Armenia and Artsakh and become a positive physical presence in the homeland by working on youth related projects.

Youth Corps is a unique program that offers its participants the chance to have a once in a lifetime experience that will undoubtedly change their lives forever. The Youth Corps program seeks to create and strengthen bonds between Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora.

Participants travel to Armenia and Artsakh where they visit historical sites such as Etchmiadzin, Sardarabad, Keghart, Karni, Khor Virab and Kantsasar. During their time in Karapakh the Youth Corps participants live among the villagers and experience the "village life." Throughout their time in Artsakh, the participants and the villagers work together on construction sites and rebuild and renovate a school or a campsite. However these structures are not the only things that are built; friendships and emotional ties among the group and with the villagers will remain with the participants for the rest of their lives.

The program needs contributions from the Armenian community to help make the trip more affordable for all Armenian youth. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Youth Corps program or how to contribute, contact the AYF office at (818)507-1933 or e-mail YouthCorps@ayfwr.org.



AYF Summer Camp



AYF summer camp is comprised of six one-week sessions of camping for 120 campers each session at an 11.5 acre camping facility located in Southern California's Angeles National Forest near the city of Wrightwood.

AYF camp was established in 1977. Since then it has served as a place where young Armenians from all over the world between the ages of eight and sixteen can come together and get acquainted with Armenian history and culture and make friendships with other young Armenians.

AYF camp also offers college-aged Armenians the opportunity to be counselors. Campers and counselors at AYF camp can participate in a wide variety of activities such as basketball, softball, volleyball, hiking, arts and crafts, singing, canoeing and dancing.

If you are interested in being a camper or counselor at AYF camp call the office at (800)773-2932 or e-mail camp@ayfwr.org.

Dozens Apply to ANC Leo Sarkisian Internship

Over two dozen applications were received last month for the Armenian National Committee of America Leo Sarkisian Internship program. Named after the late ANC activist, the program is one of the most productive summer activities available to the Armenian youth. The six week program runs at two sites concurrently: Boston, Massachusetts, and of course, Washington, DC.

The mission of the internship program is to provide leadership development opportunities for Armenian students committed to serve the Armenian American community on the local, national and international levels.

During the course of the program, participants receive hands on experience in grassroots lobbying, media relations, and issue advocacy. Interns also have the opportunity to meet with members of congress and attend important conferences on Capitol Hill. They also attend seminars delivered by prominent individuals on the history and current status of the Armenian lobby.



Look At Me

Look at me

Do you see that among the shadows, my face, too, has
become nameless

And I, just a recent memory of my forefathers' struggles
Am lost in the spaces of intolerable injustice

Look at me

Don't you care that I, that nameless face
That one who has died a thousand deaths, and my voice is
still not heard

My people slaughtered, I have shed tears to you in prayer
But you have shunned me without avail

Don't you see that the soil of my land sifts through my
fingers

And settles many miles away,
Still I remain trapped by these prison walls

Don't you care that I have tasted the evils of destruction
That my heart bleeds from the weight of oppression,
And I am suffocated by your unbearable indifference?

Now look at me again
I am strong and unbreakable
I have discovered that I, too, have power
My power is rooted in my indelible pride
Pride flows like a river and penetrates my country
It is the pride of our people and our heritage
It is the strength in our liberation.

And now it is your turn
As I look at you I see that you have come to understand
You recognize my face emerging from the darkness,
And your tears flow like delicate flower petals
That scatter and settle on the tombs of the dead,
In one swift gesture you take my hands in yours
And slowly bow your head to me in silent prayer.

by Nora Garboushian

**Break the wall of silence.
Stop the cowardly denial.
End the conspiracies.**

Be a part of the postcard drive calling on the president of the United States to recognize the 1915-1923 killing of 1.5 million Armenians as Genocide perpetrated by the Turkish government.

Clinton must stop his denial of the Armenian Genocide and urge today's Turkish government to also face up to the historical facts.

Call 818.507.1933 for more info.

Isn't it time that the President of the United States speaks out publicly on the Armenian Genocide?



"There is not a truth existing which I fear, or would wish unknown to the whole world."

-Thomas Jefferson

If you want to learn more about Armenian history, politics and culture...
If you want to be more involved and active within your Armenian community...
If you want to meet and make friends with other young dedicated Armenians...

Then join the Armenian Youth Federation

818.507.1933 - www.ayfwr.org