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Politics

Moscow will host Armenian Genocide – Crime Against Humanity rally

2011-04-21

The rally aims to condemn the 1915 massacres and demand Turkey’s official recognition of the Genocide. The event is initiated by Russian- Armenian Union and the Union of the Armenians of Russia. Russian parliamentarians, leaders of Russia’s national Diasporas, representatives of analytical institutes will participate.

The event was coordinated with Moscow Municipality.

RA Ministry of Diaspora

European Union of Exiled and Expelled People secretary general to visit Artsakh

2011-04-23

At the meeting the parties focused on bilateral cooperation issues, as well as the protection in the Azerbaijan’s Armenian refugees’ interests.

UEEP delegation will leave for Karabakh following a visit to Memorial to Genocide Victims on April 24.



The RA Ministry of Diaspora held a press conference in response to T. Poghosyan’s unsubstantiated “allegations”

2011-04-19

During the press conference, the speakers touched upon Executive Director of the “One Nation, One Culture” Foundation Tamara Poghosyan’s “allegations” against the RA Ministry of Diaspora and the Foundation’s board of trustees and brought up concrete facts denying Poghosyan’s phony, unsubstantiated “allegations” the purposes of which are “to blackmail and to defame”.

Making references to RA laws, as well as the charter of the “One Nation, One Culture” Foundation and the protocols of the board of trustees’ sessions, RA Deputy Minister of Diaspora Stepan Petrosyan addressed Poghosyan’s “allegations” made from different podiums and revealed the fact that those “allegations” were nonsensical and unfounded.

“The “allegations” that Tamara Poghosyan made as an innocent lambkin are false. They are like empty balloons and their purpose is to blackmail and defame,” said the

RA Deputy Minister of Diaspora, adding that the ministry hadn't responded to T. Poghosyan in the past, rest assured that it wasn't worth responding to "allegations" that lacked supporting facts.

Petrosyan mentioned that the real reason why Poghosyan caused uproar was because chair of the "One Nation, One Culture" Foundation's board of trustees, RA Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan had not allowed inefficient spending of funds from the state budget to prevent misuse, but Poghosyan is trying to distract the public's attention from falsehood through the uproar that she has caused.

As an example, the RA Deputy Minister of Diaspora brought up the fact that, according to an agreement with the "Ovation" organization, Poghosyan had agreed to pay 25 million drams for technical services and staging for concerts held during the six days of the performing arts program within the framework of the "One Nation, One Culture" Festival. The RA Ministry of Diaspora studied the issue and found out that that price was incomparably higher than the price in the market. As a result, the organization was paid 18 million dollars and Poghosyan's demands to pay the amount that she had said were ignored.

Petrosyan also presented details on another case of misuse on the part of Poghosyan. The latter had demanded a 2.7 million dram tip for fulfilling her obligations during the six days of the performing arts program. Poghosyan had also demanded similar amounts for the foundation's employees the majority of which are her relatives (sister, niece, etc.).

"It is impossible to pay tips to that extent in Armenia. Poghosyan has turned the Foundation into a family business by hiring her relatives," Petrosyan added with indignation.

Petrosyan viewed Poghosyan's working style as inadmissible. He emphasized that as head of the Foundation, Poghosyan has only spent the funds that the government allocated and hasn't tried to implement programs through funding from other sources, which is foreseen by the Foundation's charter. According to the legislation, the Foundation's administrative-managerial expenditures may not exceed 20 percent of the Foundation's budget. However, Poghosyan allocated a major part of the 18.6 million drams envisaged by the 2009 program to the fund for the salaries of the

Foundations' employees without a decision taken by the board of trustees. Poghosyan also confirmed the list of employees and wages for 2010 without a decision by the board of trustees.

The deputy minister stated that there cannot be any corruption at the RA Ministry of Diaspora and that the ministry always tries to do everything possible to rule out risks of corruption when working with any organization.

Member of the “One Nation, One Culture” Foundation’s board of trustees, Executive Director of the “Hayastan” All-Armenian Fund Ara Vardanyan added that by exceeding her powers, Poghosyan conducted an election for audits, set wages and confirmed the structure-something that the board of trustees is competent of doing, not the executive director.

In closing, Petrosyan added that the RA Ministry of Diaspora has not given any program order to the “One Nation, One Culture” Foundation for 2011 and Chief of Staff of the RA Ministry of Diaspora Firdus Zakaryan has filed a lawsuit against Poghosyan for defamation and besmirching the good reputation.



Philanthropist Sarkis Bedoian awarded with Diaspora Ministry medal

2011-04-19

The students' annual visits to Armenia is the courtesy of a philanthropist Sarkis Bedoian. During their visit, the students familiarize themselves with the heritage of their historic motherland, also participating in events commemorating the Genocide victims.

Mr. Sarkis Bedoian was awarded with Diaspora Ministry medal for significant contribution to the social activities in Armenia and Diaspora.



Diaspora Ministry responds to money laundering accusations

2011-04-18

Earlier, the executive director of One Nation, One Culture foundation Tamar Poghosyan accused the Ministry of a money laundering attempt.

“The Diaspora Minister disallowed the money allocated by the state budget to the Foundation from being spent in unproductive manner,” the Deputy Minister said, explaining the cause of Ms. Poghosyan’s claims and the stir that raised.

As Petrosyan stated, Ms. Poghosyan concluded an AMD 25 million contract for stage services within One Nation, One Culture festival framework.

Upon looking into the matter, the Ministry discovered the indicated sum exceeded the market price greatly. An amount of AMD 18 million was transferred to the organisation providing the services. Ms. Poghosyan, however, demanded for the sum, stipulated by the contract, be paid.

Also, Ms. Poghosyan issued an additional AMD 2,8 million bonus for her own services, the Deputy Minister said.

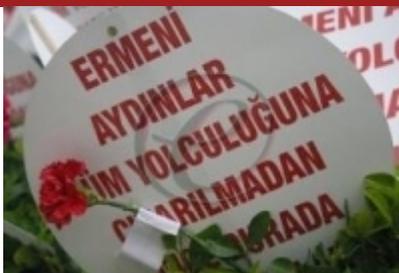
Diaspora News

Romania commemorates Armenian Genocide victims

2011-04-24

Bucharest’s Armenian Church hosted a liturgy for the innocent victims of 1915 tragedy, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony attended by representatives of the Roman Eparchy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Union of Armenians of Romania.

As the Armenian Ambassador to Romania noted at the ceremony, “the international community’s position on Armenian Genocide issue and the protest of democratic community will force Turkey into recognizing the Genocide.”



Istanbul hosts rally to commemorate Genocide victims

2011-04-24

As a source from Istanbul told PanARMENIAN.Net reporter, police is guarding the demonstrators from possible attack of nationalists. The rally has been organised for the second year in a row, with no incidents reported last year. The rally participants are holding the photos of killed Armenian intellectual elite representatives: Zohrab, Daniel Varuzhan, Siamanto, Hrant Dink.

Minsk’s Armenian community commemorates Armenian Genocide victims

2011-04-24

Representatives of the Armenian Embassy in Belarus participated in the event, hosting over 200 people.

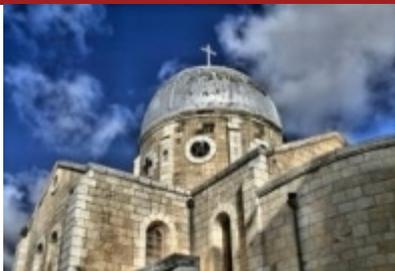


Simon Ainejian: countries worldwide must follow Cyprus’ example in recognizing Genocide

2011-04-24

As the Gibrayer (Cyprus Armenians) website editor-in-chief Simon Ainejian told a PanARMENIAN.Net reporter, the action participants will march through the center of the capital city to stop at the memorial to Armenian Genocide victims, where His Grace Archbishop Varoujan Hergelian will deliver a speech.

Mr. Ainejian urged the countries worldwide to follow Cyprus’ example in recognizing the Armenian Genocide.



Jerusalem Armenians demand Turkey’s recognition of Armenian Genocide

2011-04-24

As Georgetta Avakian, head of Hay Dat Jerusalem Office told PanARMENIAN.Net the wreath laying ceremony was followed by a march to Turkish Embassy in Israel where rally participants demanded recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Over 200 Jewish and Armenian people participated in the action.



Beirut to host events dedicated to 96th anniversary of Armenian Genocide April 24-25

2011-04-24

Aztag Beirut-based newspaper editor Shahan Kandaharian told a PanARMENIAN.Net reporter that the event is initiated by the ARF Dashnaktsutyun, Hunchakian and Ramkavar parties.

"Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, His Holiness Aram I and Armenia’s Ambassador to Lebanon Ashot Kocharyan will address the event. On April 25 the Armenian embassy in Beirut will organize a range of events to commemorate the Genocide; films will be screened, an exhibition will be opened. Members of the

Lebanese parliament, diplomats, representatives of public organizations and media are invited to participate in the events," said Kandaharian.

Spain commemorates Armenian Genocide victims

2011-04-24

As he noted, on April 24, every Spanish city inhabited by Armenians held commemorative events for tragedy victims.

Georgia's Armenian community holds protest rally in front of Turkish Embassy in Tbilisi

2011-04-24

Recently, Georgia's Armenian community addressed the president and parliament of Georgia with a request to discuss the issue of the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The letters with a request to initiate a draft law were sent to the country's president, heads of parliamentary groups, as well as Georgian MPs of Armenian origin.



AAE: international community is no longer ready to bury fact of Genocide in oblivion

2011-04-23

"96 years have passed since the Genocide of the Armenian nation, and however, even today Armenia, the Armenian nation and each Armenian citizen living in various parts of the world suffer from the grave consequences of that monstrous crime committed by the Turkish statehood.

Today it is indisputable fact that international recognition of the Armenian Genocide has reached the focus of its development. Progressive mankind and world-wide public opinion proved by means of their decisive steps that they are no longer ready to bury in oblivion this crime committed against mankind.

There have been official declarations about it in the Parliaments of Greece, Lebanon, Uruguay, Cyprus, Argentina, Russian Federation, France, Senates of Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Vatican, Nederland, Slovakia, Poland and Canada. In 1987 European Parliament adopted a resolution concerning the political settlement of the Armenian Question. It was mentioned in that resolution that the events taking place on the territory of Ottoman Empire are Genocide. During the last decades Jimmy Charter, Ronald Reagan, Presidents of the USA, have made calls for the

recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Before being elected the President of the USA George Herbert Walker Bush, George Walker Bush and Barack Obama have directly spoken about the Armenian Genocide. Similar resolutions have already been adopted also by the legislative bodies of more than 40 states of the USA.

Development of this procedure shows that the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the international society is inevitable.

It is strange that in the second decade of the 21st century we still witness the reality that some state figures defending Turkey, acting as friends of the Armenian nation, advise not to struggle for the sake of the recognition of the Armenian Genocide motivating that such activity would arouse the old wounds, remind the terrible events of the past and hinder the establishment of friendly relations with the neighbours.

However, all conversations on the occasion of the defense of human rights would be false if that great crime committed against the Armenian nation would be over in silence for the sake of momentary political, economical and other interests, and the heirs of a whole nation's executioners would be under any kind of patronage.

As far as the Armenian Genocide has not been recognized by some states and its consequences are not liquidated, such states should be reviewed as participants or partners of the crime. That is why that Turkey has logically absolutely opposite position towards the Armenian population of the Nagorno-Karabakh in difference to the issue of self-differentiation of Kashmir and in case of Cyprus it conducts policy opposite to the will of international community. Only repentance of the Turks and unanimous estimations of the international society and condemnation of the realized Genocide can serve as guarantee that Turkey will not again start the settlement of its political issues by means of genocide.

Only in that way Turkey can prove itself and the whole world that it is no more considered a criminal state.

A sign of not restarting criminal Turkish policy towards the Armenians can serve also the factor of Turkey's refusing from military-political alliance with Azerbaijan and the policy of 15-year-lasting policy of blockade of Armenia.

If Turkey stretches hand to the Armenians, its hand can not be painted with the blood of the Armenian nation's ancestors.

The recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the international society following France and Russia, and first of all by the USA, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and especially the Federal Republic of Germany is of great importance not only as a rightful and just approach to the Armenian nation but also for annihilation of crime towards the whole mankind.”

Armenians of Cyprus organizing march to commemorate Genocide

2011-04-23

The march will be concluded with a commemoration at the Genocide Monument on Armenia Street. Archbishop Varoujan and the Armenian MP Vartkes Mahdessian will address the memorial.

We continue this struggle for justice and human rights without feelings of hatred towards the Turkish people. Our struggle is aimed against the Turkish Government that continues the policy of Genocide by denying it, the Armenian community of Cyprus said in a statement.



Over 1500 Armenian community members hold “Obama, Keep Your Promise” rally

2011-04-22

When addressing the crowd that gathered in front of the studio gates, System of A Down frontman and human rights activist Serj Tankian urged protesters to face the gate and by raising their right fist continuously repeat “As President, I will recognize the Genocide,” a familiar campaign promise made by then candidate Obama during the 2008 presidential race.

In his remarks, Tankian thanked the demonstrators and explained that the gathering was not just for the Obama Administration's broken promise about the Genocide, but also to echo collective disappointment in all the campaign promises that the president has not kept. Tankian highlighted that justice and human rights must prevail and urged the community to continue its activism and press ahead.

Community activist Hovan Tashdjian addressed the crowd in Armenian and reiterated

the community's disappointment in the failure for the Obama Administration to adhere to its promises, while pointing out that the Turkish government, which Obama seeks to appease, is still pursuing the very policies that led to the Genocide.

Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region Board chairman, Andrew Kzirian informed the protesters that his organization had sent a letter to Obama asking him to lay a wreath at the Montebello Armenian Martyrs' Monument during his Los Angeles-area visit. Kzirian explained that the ANCA-WR received a form letter back from the White House claiming a conflict in the president schedule.

Almost all local channels were broadcasting live from the venue, and led their afternoon broadcasts with the news of the protest and interviewed organizers about the purpose of the protest, Asbarez reported.



Community unites for Armenian Genocide Commemorative Week in Australia

2011-04-22

Archbishop Aghan Baliozian of the Armenian Apostolic Church, ANC Australia Executive Director Varant Meguerditchian and Keynote Speaker Professor Robert Kaplan were joined on stage by Scott Morrison MP, who is the Federal Shadow Minister for Immigration (representing the Leader of the Federal Opposition Tony Abbott MP), Victor Dominello MP, who is the NSW Minister for Citizenship (representing NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell MP), NSW MLC Sophie Cotsis, who is the Shadow Minister for Citizenship (representing the Leader of the NSW Opposition John Robertson MP), NSW MLC David Shoebridge representing the Greens and Independent NSW MLC, Rev. Fred Nile.

All political guests from major and minor parties who took to the stage reaffirmed the historical reality of the Armenian Genocide and committed to personally advocate for Federal government recognition of the Armenian Genocide. These commitments were greatly appreciated by the near 1000 members of the Armenian-Australian community who had gathered at the commemoration.

Armenian Genocide Commemorative Week began on Friday 15th April, with a commemoration for Western Sydney's Armenian-Australian community, where ANC

Australia Political Affairs Director Vache Kahramanian spoke about the importance of grassroots activism and collective strength. He was joined at the Western Sydney commemoration by students and scouts who contributed with cultural performances in front of the 300-strong audience at the Panoyan Armenian Cultural Centre.

The following day, more than 200 Armenian-Australians gathered at Deakin University to hear Dr Donna Lee Frieze deliver the keynote speech at Armenian Genocide Commemoration in Melbourne. Frieze, who spoke about International Jurist Raphael Lemkin, was preceded by cultural performances and video presentations.

Meanwhile in Sydney, another 150 members of the Armenian-Australian community attended the City of Ryde memorial at the plaque erected by the Council in Meadowbank.

On Tuesday 19th April, over 250 Sydney Armenians were present at the Prayer and Wreath Laying at the Armenian Genocide monument in the Peace Garden of the NSW State Parliament House. The Wreath Laying Ceremony was followed by the Australian Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (AIHGS) Armenian Genocide Commemorative Lecture.

Once again, the unity and resolve of the Armenian-Australian community was demonstrated during Armenian Genocide Commemorative Week which attracted a combined audience of approximately 2,000 people throughout Australia.

Media coverage of the Armenian-Australian community's drive for recognition of the Armenian Genocide was also substantial. The drive for Armenian Genocide recognition by the government of Australia and the government of Turkey was covered on SBS national radio, The Weekly Times and The Northern District Times.

ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIA



U.S. Congressman Royce to conduct Armenian community briefing in August

2011-04-22

During the meeting, Assembly Board of Trustees Member Lisa Kalustian thanked Congressman Royce for

his steadfast support during his tenure in Congress. Kalustian, along with Assembly Board Member Peter Kezirian, SCRC Members Margaret Mgrublian and James Melikian, and the Assembly's Western Region Office Manager Aline Maksoudian reviewed key priorities, including funding for Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, ceasing military aid to Azerbaijan, and U.S. affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, among other issues.

"I was very impressed with Congressman Royce's depth of knowledge and keen interest regarding our issues," stated SCRC Member Margaret Mgrublian.

"It was heart-warming to learn of his deep commitment to human rights, stemming from his father's military service in Normandy during World War II, and the photographs he took after American soldiers liberated the concentration camp in Dachau, Germany," added Mgrublian. Congressman Royce reiterated his continued support for robust funding to Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, expressed serious concerns regarding Azerbaijan's ongoing war rhetoric and indicated that he would continue to be a leading voice in Congress regarding U.S. affirmation of the Armenian Genocide.

"We look forward to working with Congressman Royce in his capacity as Caucus Co-Chair and welcome his continued commitment and passion for human rights issues," stated Lisa Kalustian.

In addition, Congressman Royce also accepted the Assembly invitation to conduct a community briefing during the August Congressional recess. The Assembly will work closely with his office to coordinate schedules and the venue.



Hague hosts rally to commemorate 96th anniversary of Armenian Genocide

2011-04-20

Several hundred people, including the representatives of the lower house of Netherlands parliament, participated in the event.

Further, the demonstrators continued the rally at the Turkish Embassy in Hague.

Armenians of Czech Republic will commemorate Armenian Genocide victims

2011-04-20

In the evening of April 24, Prague municipal library will host a commemorative event organized by the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Armenian community of the Czech Republic.

Among commemorative events series are: a liturgy at Prague's St. Elias' Church, an exhibition of Armenian and foreign painters at GH Art Gallery.

The city of Jihlava will host a commemorative liturgy in Armenian church to be followed by an event entitled In the Name of Peace, Ozer Prague-based Armenian magazine reported.

Netherlands' Armenian community marks 10th anniversary of Van Sunday school

2011-04-19

As Armenian Ambassador to Netherlands Dzyunik Aghajanyan noted, the activities of the Armenian community promote preservation of national culture and traditions in the country.

Representatives of Nijmegen Municipality and Armenian organisations participated in the event, Armenian Foreign Ministry press service reported.



Athens hosts traditional procession to commemorate Genocide victims

2011-04-19

Further, a protest rally in front of the embassy was launched. With Armenian flags and posters condemning the 1915 massacres in their hands, the rally participants demanded the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, Armenian Foreign Ministry press service reported.

London to host procession in commemoration of Armenian Genocide

2011-04-18

Representatives of the Armenian community of London, embassy employees and students are expected to gather in Oxford Street for a procession to mark the 96th anniversary of the Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire.



Armenian community of France accuses Sarkozy of treachery

2011-04-18

The letter says: “As a Frenchman of Armenian origin, as a son of a father, who suffered from the Genocide and went through World War II, I write to express my indignation, along with other French Armenians, over the leaked diplomatic cable that prompted your unwillingness to support the bill envisaging criminalization of the Armenian Genocide denial.”

“The letter you addressed to the Armenian community on April 24, 2007 read that freedom of speech does not mean freedom to rewrite history and deny historical facts. However, several weeks later your diplomatic adviser hurried to set Turkey at ease. Thus, 500 thousands of French Armenians fairly accuse you of treachery... Anyway, on the threshold of the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Armenians of France are still calling on you to keep your pledge,” it says.

Society

The Financial Times: butchery reached demonic levels in Diyarbakir

2011-04-18

He keeps his focus on eastern Anatolia and Russia’s southern borderlands, where before 1914 a constant flow of revolutionaries, terrorists, spies, merchants, students, bandits, smugglers, army deserters, pilgrims and nomads moved back and forth between the empires. In these regions a combustible mix of Armenians, Assyrians, Caucasian Turks, Circassians, Cossacks, Greeks, Kurds and Tatars lived in intermingled communities, The Financial Times says in Decline and Fall article.

"Once the empires were at war, the temptation for policymakers in St Petersburg and Istanbul to destabilise the enemy by stirring up each other’s minorities proved irresistible. Russia sensed an opportunity to bring about the Ottoman Empire’s final dismemberment; the Ottomans, having lost more than one-third of their territory and one-fifth of their population in the Libyan and Balkan wars of 1911 to 1913, concluded that a much more aggressive approach was required to save their state.

The war caused intercommunal tensions in the borderlands to boil over as both Russian and Ottoman forces committed atrocities against civilian populations. The most notorious example was the Ottoman deportations and massacres of Armenians in 1915, an operation that Reynolds, in his book’s finest chapter, describes with judicious attention to the immediate military context and the broader historical background.

In some locations such as Diyarbakir province, he writes, “the butchery reached demonic levels”. Reynolds says the most authoritative study of the statistical data indicates that a minimum of 664,000 Armenians died, or about 45 per cent of prewar Anatolia’s Armenian population, but he qualifies this by observing that some scholars calculate the death toll at up to 1m," the article says.

Culture



Raymond Kévorkian’s newest book to be presented in Pasadena

2011-04-23

With this new release, the renowned historian Raymond Kévorkian provides an authoritative account of the origins, events and consequences of the years 1915 and 1916. He considers the role that the Armenian Genocide played in the construction of the Turkish nation state and Turkish identity, as well as exploring the ideologies of power, rule and state violence. Crucially, he examines the consequences of the violence against the Armenians, the implications of deportations and attempts to bring those who committed the atrocities to justice.

"This is the most comprehensive book to date on the Armenian Genocide of 1915. In this detailed account, Raymond Kevorkian describes the process which drove 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire to their deaths", states the French daily newspaper Le Monde.

Kévorkian offers a detailed and meticulous record, providing an authoritative analysis of the events and their impact upon the Armenian community itself, as well as the development of the Turkish state. This important book will serve as an indispensable resource to historians of the period, as well as those wishing to understand the history of genocidal violence more generally.

Raymond Kevorkian is a historian who teaches at the Institut Francais de Geopolitique, University of Paris-VIII-Saint-Denis. He is the Director of AGBU Nubarian Library, and the author of numerous works on the history of modern and contemporary Armenia and Armenians. He has also authored the two-volume publication, “The Armenian General Benevolent Union – One Hundred Years of History”.

Turkish choral society with Armenian singers nominated for 2012 Nobel Peace Prize

2011-04-18

Yılmaz Ozfırat, president of the Antakya Civilizations Choral Society, said the choral society includes people from different ethnic, professional and religious backgrounds.

The Choral Society performs both Turkish and Armenian folk songs, Zaman paper reported, Zapan reported.

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded since 1901. It is awarded to both individuals, as well as organizations can be