

Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israel
Armenian Studies Program
Genocide Commemoration 2003



Genocide Commemoration 2003

Invitation

ARMENIAN STUDIES
Institute of African and Asian Studies
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

***AN EVENING IN COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE***

ON THE 30TH OF APRIL, 2003
AT 18:30

BEIT BELGIA, GIVAT RAM,
THE LIBRARY HALL.

This invitation also functions as an entry permit
to the University and Beit Belgia parking lot.

You are advised to come early for reasons of
security. Please present this invitation and your
ID papers at the University entrance.

Հայագիտութեան Մասնաբաժին
Երուսաղէմի եբրայական Համալսարան
Ասիայի եւ Ափրիկէի
Ուսումնասիրութիւններու ինստիտուտ

**ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ՑԵՂԱՄԱՆՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՅՈՒԹԱՏՈՒՆ**

Ապրիլ 30, 2003
Երեկոցեան ժամը 18:30-ին

Պէջս պէկեայ
Կիւա՛թ Բա՛մ Գա՛մբուս
Գրադարանի սրահ

Ձեզմէ կը խնդրուի որ այս
Հրաւիրագիրը ձեր հետ բերէք
անձնաթուղթի հետ միասին

לימודים ארמנים
המכון ללימודי אסיה ואפריקה
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים

ערב זכרון לשואה הארמנית

כח אדר תשס"ג
בשעה 18:30

בית בלגיה, גבעת רם
אולם הספריה

הזמנה זו מהווה אישור כניסה לאוניברסיטה
ולחניון בית בלגיה גבעת רם

נא להצטייד בהזמנה ובתעודת זהות

Genocide Commemoration 2003 Program

ARMENIAN STUDIES
Institute of African and Asian Studies
Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**AN EVENING IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**

YOU ARE INVITED TO COME AND HEAR THE LECTURES BY

- **Dr. Yair Auron** (The Armenian Genocide and the State of Israel)
- **Dr. Sergio La Porta** (“Towards the Light” Daniel Varujan 18?? – 1915)

GREETINGS BY

- **H.B. Torkom II Manoogian** – Patriarch of the Armenians of Jerusalem
- **Prof. Gabriel Motzkin** – Dean of the Faculty of Humanities
- **Mr. Tsoleg Momjian** – Honourary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Israel
- **Professor Michael Stone** – Professor of Armenian Studies, Gail Levin de Nur
Professor of Comparative Religion

BIBLE READINGS

- **Dr. Nira Stone** – Lecturer in Armenian Art
- **Fr. Theodore Zakarian** Principle of Sts. Tarkmanchats Secondary School

ON THE 30th OF APRIL, 2003
AT 18:30 p.m.

BEIT BELGIA, GIVAT RAM,
THE LIBRARY HALL

Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Institute of African and Asian Studies

Armenian Studies Program

Armenian Genocide Commemoration Evening
30 April, 2003

Order of Speakers

Reading from Scripture Ezekiel 37:1-4

Hebrew — Dr. Nira Stone

Armenian — Very Rev. Father Teodoros Zakarian

Words of Greeting

Professor Reuven Amitai, *Head of the Institute of African and Asian Studies*

His Beatitude, Torkom II, *Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem*

His Excellency, Mr. Tsolag Momjian, *Honourary Consul of the Republic of Armenia*

Professor Michael Stone, *Professor of Armenian Studies*

Lectures

Professor Yair Auran, *The Armenian Genocide and the State of Israel*

Dr. Sergio La Porta, *Daniel Varujan*.

Genocide Commemoration 2003

Presentations

May 2003

FOR RELEASE

‘MEMORY ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH, THE CALL IS TO LIFE AND LIVING’

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

-----JERUSALEM, Israel--- Over 75 participants – Jewish, Armenian, from Israel and abroad – participated in an evening commemorating the Armenian Genocide on 30 April, 2003. The event was presented by the Hebrew University Armenian Studies Program, a division of the Institute of Asian and African Studies, and held in the HU Givat Ram Faculty Club library hall. Present were His Beatitude Torkom II the Armenian Patriarch, His Excellency Mr. Tsolag Momjian Honourary Consul of Armenia and the Head of the Institute of Asian and African Studies Professor Reuven Amitai. Professor Michael E. Stone, director of the Armenian Studies Program, presided.

The evening was divided into three sections: Powerful readings of Ezekiel 37:1-14 in Hebrew and Armenian were followed by heartfelt words of greeting from Professor Amitai, His Beatitude Torkom II, Mr. Momjian and Professor Stone. Senior lecturer at the Open University of Israel and the Kibbutz College of Education Professor Yair Auron's intellectual address entitled "The Armenian Genocide and the State of Israel" and Dr. Sergio La Porta's dramatic interpretation of Armenian poet Daniel Varuzhan's (1884-1915) "The Light" concluded the evening.

In his remarks, His Beatitude expressed gratitude to the Hebrew University Asian and African Studies Department for its efforts in organizing the memorial event. He singled out Professor Stone, through whom, he said, the Armenian Studies Program has come alive, attracting students from both within and outside of Israel.

His Beatitude then offered a brief overview of the Armenian Genocide, which is commemorated on 24 April each year. On this date in 1915, hundreds of Armenian leaders were murdered in Istanbul after being summoned and gathered by the Young Turk government. The now leaderless Armenian people were to follow. Across the Ottoman Empire the same events transpired, resulting in the murder of one-and-a-half million innocent Armenians.

Turkish Gendarmes escorted the Armenians on death marches, during which they were raped, starved, dehydrated and kidnapped. Those who miraculously survived the marches arrived in the Syrian desert, Deir Zor, to be killed.

The Turkish government denies this genocide occurred.

"Thank God for the spiritual stamina of the Christian-Armenian soul," His Beatitude said.

As Professor Stone took the podium he was met with thunderous applause. His speech focused on the relationship between Judaism and Christianity and between the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust, a prevalent theme throughout the evening. Professor Stone cautioned that the common goal of remembering these atrocities - embodiments of the very worst of human beings - is not enough. "The call is to life and living," he said. "May the martyrs rest in peace."

Professor Yair Auran also related the Armenian Genocide to the Jewish Holocaust, but took his arguments one step further, stressing the need for Jews, and especially Israelis, to learn about the Genocide. Professor Auran said the Armenian Genocide is a topic that should be of special interest to the Jewish people, who experienced the same thing. "Recognizing the Armenian Genocide is of a major historical, moral and educational significance." He added that such recognition is essential "for the non-recurrence of similar instances in the future."

Auran, who is best known for his book *The Banality of Indifference: Zionism and the Armenian Genocide* (Transaction Publishers, 2000), described the attitude of the various Israeli governments to the Armenian Genocide as "characterized by evasiveness and denial." He related this to a combination of factors connected with Israel's relations with Turkey and the need to stress the uniqueness of the Holocaust. Auran said it is vital Israel "develop a greater sensitivity among our youth to the suffering of others and to strengthen universal, humanistic values which are an integral part of the Jewish tradition."

Dr. Sergio La Porta, lecturer in Armenian Studies at the Hebrew University, brought the evening to a close with his reading and interpretation of Varuzhan's poem, "The Light"; his dramatic opening was as powerful as the poem's Armenian and English readings.

"The week of Pesach witnessed God's deliverance of the Jewish people from their captivity in Egypt. Easter celebrated God's sacrifice of His only Son and His Resurrection for the redemption of humanity. In between these two joyful occasions of national and personal salvation – exactly after the one ended on April 23 and the other began on April 25 – rested the memorial for the one-and-a-half million Armenians who were murdered in the genocide of the Armenian people by the Turks," Dr. La Porta began. "The contrast between these events is stark and poses a problem whose dimensions encompass the spectrum of human understanding: How does a loving God allow this to happen? ... Varuzhan, who lived during the final stages of persecution and massacre leading up to the Genocide, was one who through his poetry was able to articulate that struggle which rages in the individual soul faced with such a traumatic state of being..."

The reading, which lasted nearly 20 minutes, left the audience awestruck and with the recognition that although mother Armenia and her children were murdered in the genocide, it is the challenge of the orphans who survived to insure a subsequent rebirth. Dr. La Porta said, "I hope and believe this poem can serve as an encouragement to

continue to create, to fight, to survive, and to walk along that path which, in the beautiful words of Varuzhan himself, has been opened by the crushing hammers of destiny.”

ABOUT THE HU ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

The Hebrew University Armenian Studies Program was founded in 1967. In recent years, under the leadership of Professor Michael Stone, it has grown into a thriving program, attracting many students from both within and outside of Israel. The program currently offers degrees at the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral levels.

Encouraging greater attendance, the program provides a number of fellowships: The Sam and May Rudin Foundation Fellowships allow Armenian priests to study at HU; four priests are currently learning under this fellowship. The Krikor Momjian Fellowships are granted to graduates of St. Tarkmanchats High School; the first recipient will begin studying at HU this year.

The Armenian Studies Program cooperates with community and academic establishments in both Jerusalem and Armenia. The program has close ties with the Armenian Patriarchate, Yerevan State University and the Institute of Archeology of the Armenian Academy.

.....
For further details contact:

The Armenian Studies Program

Phone: +972-2-588-3651

Fax: +972-2-588-3658

E-mail: JerusalemArmenian@h2.hum.huji.ac.il

Website: <http://micro5.mscc.huji.ac.il/~armenia>

Genocide Commemoration 2003

Pictures

'MEMORY ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH, THE CALL IS TO LIFE AND LIVING'

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



Greetings by Patriarch Torkom II Manoogian of Jerusalem



Discussion between Patriarch Torkom II Manoogian, Fr. Theodore Zakarian and Mr. Tzolg Momjian



Greetings by Prof. Michael E. Stone



Bible reading by Dr. Nira Stone



Lecture by Dr. Sergio La Porta



Prof. Reuven Amitai, Head of Institute of African and Asian Studies;
Mr. Tzolg Momjian, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia;
Fr. Theodore Zakarian, Principle of St. Tarkmanchats Secondary School, Jerusalem;
Prof. Michael E. Stone, Professor of Armenia Studies, Gail Levin de Nur
Professor of Comparative Religion;
H.B. Torkom II Manoogian - Patriarch of the Armenians of Jerusalem;
Dr. Yair Auron, Lecturer in the Open University;
Dr. Sergio La Porta, Lecturer in Armenian Studies;
Dr. Nira Stone, Lecturer in Armenian Art

Genocide Commemoration 2003

Press Releases

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

'MEMORY ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH, THE CALL IS TO LIFE AND LIVING'

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

JERUSALEM, Israel --- Over 75 participants - Jewish, Armenian, from Israel and abroad - participated in an evening commemorating the Armenian Genocide on 30 April, 2003. The event was presented by the Hebrew University Armenian Studies Program, a division of the Institute of Asian and African Studies, and held in the HU Givat Ram Faculty Club library hall. Present were His Beatitude Torkom II the Armenian Patriarch, His Excellency Mr. Tsolag Momjian Honourary Consul of Armenia and the Head of the Institute of Asian and African Studies Professor Reuven Amitai. Professor Michael E. Stone, director of the Armenian Studies Program, presided.

The evening was divided into three sections: Powerful readings of Ezekiel 37:1-14 in Hebrew and Armenian were followed by heartfelt words of greeting from Professor Amitai, His Beatitude Torkom II, Mr. Momjian and Professor Stone. Senior lecturer at the Open University of Israel and the Kibbutz College of Education Professor Yair Auron's intellectual address entitled "The Armenian Genocide and the State of Israel" and Dr. Sergio La Porta's dramatic interpretation of Armenian poet Daniel Varuzhan's (1884-1915) "The Light" concluded the evening.

In his remarks, His Beatitude expressed gratitude to the Hebrew University Asian and African Studies Department for its efforts in organizing the memorial event. He singled out Professor Stone, through whom, he said, the Armenian Studies Program has come alive, attracting students from both within and outside of Israel.

His Beatitude then offered a brief overview of the Armenian Genocide, which is commemorated on 24 April each year. On this date in 1915, hundreds of Armenian leaders were murdered in Istanbul after being summoned and gathered by the Young Turk government. The now leaderless Armenian people were to follow. Across the Ottoman Empire the same events transpired, resulting in the murder of one-and-a-half million innocent Armenians.

Turkish Gendarmes escorted the Armenians on death marches, during which they were raped, starved, dehydrated and kidnapped. Those who miraculously survived the marches arrived in the Syrian desert, Deir Zor, to be killed.

The Turkish government denies this genocide occurred.

"Thank God for the spiritual stamina of the Christian-Armenian soul," His Beatitude said.

As Professor Stone took the podium he was met with thunderous applause. His speech focused on the relationship between Judaism and Christianity and between the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust, a prevalent theme throughout the evening. Professor Stone cautioned that the common goal of remembering these atrocities - embodiments of the very worst of human beings - is not enough. "The call is to life and living," he said. "May the martyrs rest in peace."

Professor Yair Auron also related the Armenian Genocide to the Jewish Holocaust, but took his arguments one step further, stressing the need for Jews, and especially Israelis, to learn about the Genocide. Professor Auron said the Armenian Genocide is a topic that should be of special interest to the Jewish people, who experienced the same thing. "Recognizing the Armenian Genocide is of a major historical, moral and educational significance." He added that such recognition is essential "for the non-recurrence of similar instances in the future."

Auron, who is best known for his book *The Banality of Indifference: Zionism and the Armenian Genocide* (Transaction Publishers, 2000), described the attitude of the various Israeli governments to the Armenian Genocide as "characterized by evasiveness and denial." He related this to a combination of factors connected with Israel's relations with Turkey and the need to stress the uniqueness of the Holocaust. Auron said it is vital Israel "develop a greater sensitivity among our youth to the suffering of others and to strengthen universal, humanistic values which are an integral part of the Jewish tradition."

Dr. Sergio La Porta, lecturer in Armenian Studies at the Hebrew University, brought the evening to a close with his reading and interpretation of Varuzhan's poem, "The Light"; his dramatic opening was as powerful as the poem's Armenian and English readings.

"The week of Pesach witnessed God's deliverance of the Jewish people from their captivity in Egypt. Easter celebrated God's sacrifice of His only Son and His Resurrection for the redemption of humanity. In between these two joyful occasions of national and personal salvation - exactly after the one ended on April 23 and the other began on April 25 - rested the memorial for the one-and-a-half million Armenians who were murdered in the genocide of the Armenian people by the Turks," Dr. La Porta began. "The contrast between these events is stark and poses a problem whose dimensions encompass the spectrum of human understanding: How does a loving God allow this to happen? ... Varuzhan, who lived during the final stages of persecution and massacre leading up to the Genocide, was one who through his poetry was able to articulate that struggle which rages in the individual soul faced with such a traumatic state of being..."

The reading, which lasted nearly 20 minutes, left the audience awestruck and with the recognition that although mother Armenia and her children were murdered in the genocide, it is the challenge of the orphans who survived to insure a subsequent rebirth. Dr. La Porta said, "I hope and believe this poem can serve as an encouragement to continue to create, to fight, to survive, and to walk along that path which, in the beautiful words of Varuzhan himself, has been opened by the crushing hammers of destiny."