

24. April 1915 – 2015

100. JAHRESTAG DES VÖLKERMORDES AN DEN ARMENIERN



**“WE ARE ALL
ARMENIANS!”**

Thousands of people of all nationalities in Turkey shouted out this slogan during the funeral procession of Armenian journalist Hrant Dink who was cowardly killed in a street of Istanbul on 19th January 2007. He was a man of courage who gave everything – even his life – for the solidarity of peoples. He was a member of the Armenian community which consists of a few thousands of genocide survivors’ still living in Turkey after the genocide in Western Armenia during the First World War. Despite all harassment and repression, despite all hostile prejudgments against Armenians provoked by the ruling powers and all persecution and oppression by the Turkish state, he lived and struggled with Turkish and Kurdish people in Turkey. He was a white hope for establishing a bridge for new solidarity between the Armenian people and the Turkish and Kurdish peoples being complicit in the Genocide of the Armenians.

The “Deportation of the Armenians to nowhere” ordered by the Ottoman-Turkish authorities in 1915 was in reality nothing else than genocide which was organized and executed by the state against the Armenian nation. The attack that would ruin the life and culture of Armenians in Western Armenia was started on 24th April in 1915. Some brave resistance by the Armenian communities, such as on “Musa Dagh”, Moses Mountain, did however not stop the massacre machine of the Ottoman Empire. The then government of the “Committee of Union and Progress” (Ittihat ve Terakki Cemiyeti) and the Ottoman army managed to provoke and instigate Turkish and Kurdish people to pogroms during their mass killing actions against Armenians.

Chauvinism and religious hatred against non-Muslim minorities, Christians, especially Armenians, were whipped up among the Muslim population. The state encouraged them to kill their Armenian neighbours and to looting their belongings. The Muslim people were in many cases complicit participants in the expulsion of the Armenian people. Very few Turkish and Kurdish workers showed courage to assist the Armenian people in these days of Genocide. Turkish and Kurdish workers were complicit and involved in the genocide crime against the Armenians and now they have to confront their historical complicity.

The “Turkish Republic” which was founded following the collapse of Ottoman Empire took over Western Armenia which was already “cleansed from Armenians”. Many of those who had first degree liability in genocide crime were promoted to high ranks in the “new” Turkish republic. The fact that there had been so many “new rich people” in West Armenia was based on the plundering of Armenian possessions. Regarding the “Armenian issue” the only new in the new Turkish republic was the fact that an important percentage of an autochthonous population of Anatolia was terminated and the historiography of the new state was based on the denial of this genocide. Armenians who had survived the genocide have still remained to be subject to racial discrimination, persecution and pogroms. Despite all that, Hrant Dink who was fully aware of what had happened to Armenians tried to establish an understanding of peace between the Turkish-Kurdish people and Armenians. Hence the Turkish state was supposed to acknowledge the truth of genocide to-

gether with its results and to face up to its history by giving up its politics of denial without any reserve. A prerequisite for doing so was that Turkish and Kurdish people should have recognized their complicity and should have forced the Turkish state to confess the truth of the genocide committed. Based on his power of speech and his brave actions Hrant Dink was struggling to condemn the genocide first of all in the conscience of the people involved in it and to convince "the Armenian people to be prepared to forgive". These opinions are the legacy of Hrant left to us. He was brutally murdered just because he defended these thoughts.

His funeral was the best answer given by all the people protesting in the funeral march against this assassination: "We are all Armenians!" For the first time in the entire history of Turkey, hundreds of thousands of people manifested their sorrow, their hatred of the murderers and their reaction to the continued existence of the genocide.

We, communists from Turkey/Northern Kurdistan and Germany, say "We are all Armenians" on 100th anniversary of the Genocide of the Armenians in Armenia on 24th April 2015.

We, as communists from Turkey/Northern Kurdistan, declare being ashamed of the fact that Turkish and Kurdish people have been responsible and co-perpetrators in genocide. We are ashamed of and apologize for the fact that our precursors, communists of Turkey, were not in a position to stop this Genocide. We are ashamed and sorry that for decades previous generations of communists have not opposed the denials and lies of the Turkish state. Only very few, such as Ibrahim Kaypakkaya, a communist and spearhead for the liberation of all peoples in Turkey, have clearly brought up the massacres against the Armenian people as a historical fact.

We call on our peoples: Now it is time to face reality. Now it is time to face our responsibility and complicity in the genocide. Only in this way there can be peace between peoples. Now it is time for people to talk to each other. We know that "once people start talking to each other they will be quick to agree".

We, communists from Northern Kurdistan and Turkey, demand from the Turkish state which is a successor of the Ottoman State the following:

The Genocide must be immediately recognized, unconditionally and with all consequences!

- Full equality before the law for the Armenian community in Northern Kurdistan/Turkey;

- Struggle against all kinds of anti-Armenian racism and chauvinism and prohibition of these crimes.

- Right to return to homeland for all the contemporary relatives of those Armenians who were deported, killed and forced to leave their homelands.

- Giving back all the possessions of Armenians which were plundered or full compensation.

- Reimbursing Armenians for their possessions that were confiscated by the Turkish State.

- Right to separation for Western Armenia.

- Explaining the true historical facts about the genocidal politics of the Turkish rulers in state-run schools.

- Reimbursement of the Armenian possessions whose current heritors cannot be identified to the Armenian Republic.

- Immediate opening of the border between Armenia and Turkey; developing of neighbourhood relations and cooperation with the Armenian Republic!

Only by unconditionally carrying out the above mentioned demands solidarity of peoples can be established with the Armenians in Turkey, diaspora and Armenia.

The Turkish/Ottoman ruling classes and their state are guilty of the genocidal crime against Armenians who lived in the Ottoman territory during the First World War. Moreover, all the imperialist powers, especially Germany, which were involved in the First World War, are in some way responsible for this genocide. Some military generals from the former German Empire, which was a war ally of the Ottoman state, were in leading positions of the general staff of the Ottoman army. **German Imperialism is genuinely responsible for the genocide against Armenians.**

Deliberately the term of Genocide was not used in the German Parliament when a decision was issued concerning the 90th anniversary of the genocide in 2005. Hence the German state wants to save the German Empire from its responsibility and involvement in this Genocide. We, as communists from Germany, demand that the state of the Federal Republic of Germany **must immediately recognize the genocide**, unconditionally and with all consequences, and fulfill all the obligations including reimbursement that derive from these.

April 2015



North Kurdistan/Türkey
www.ydicagri.com
ydicagriganetesi@gmail.com
phone 0090 212 62067 57



Germany
www.trotzalledem.tk
trotzalledem1@gmx.de
responsible H. König, Kafkastr. 56, 50829 Köln/Germany