



23 April, 2014

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*Press Release: Immediate release*

*RE: Say NO to Motion MM50.5 at City Hall*

FCTA, on behalf of more than 200.000 Canadians of Turkish/Turkic origin, strongly rejects the politically motivated motion MM50.5 submitted by Councillor Shelley Carroll to erect a structure re Armenian allegations of 1915 Ottoman events labelling as "genocide for the following reasons:

The term "genocide" is a definitive incriminating appellation, a legal and formal determination term adapted in 1952, aiming to punish. As such, it is related for and directed towards criminal prosecution in courts of competent jurisdiction. It cannot be decided absent competent legal and judicial process, nor can it be decided except in courts of competent jurisdiction, invades national sovereignty of nations, if used against without such due process followed. What we are facing here with the Armenian statute case is also an invasion of national sovereignty of a nation: a Canadian political entity at some level, by erecting a structure in public places, is attempting to invade sovereignty of Turkey by accusing her with an unproven criminal act. This is not moral, fair and Canadian way.

1915 Late Ottoman events has not been proven yet to constitute a "genocide" for almost a century now, in either legal terms (by any legitimate International/UN courts, such as ICJ) or in historical terms (as there is no consensus among credible scholar worldwide), and hence accusing of a nation with the most severe crime against humanity carelessly will undermine the related UN institutions (their existence and authority), and might have unimaginable consequences, re the legitimacy of the existing court verdicts on real genocide cases (Holocaust, Rwanda, Bosnia, etc.) and such future cases.

This is an ongoing political issue between Turkiye and Armenia for a century, and Armenian lobbies are using all the illegitimate means (except for the legitimate legal due process) to spread "genocide" allegations as part of their 2015 plan within Western parliaments, to put pressure on Turkiye into bowing to their expansionist policies to create Greater. That is why Armenia is refusing to sign border agreements with its neighboring countries Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia as of today. Canada should not be dragged into such century old regional conflicts by recognizing one sided claims and lose its reputation of neutrality.

This statute will definitely cause continuous tension between Armenian and Turkish communities, the way an Alexander Great statue in Danforth area causing tension between Greek and Macedon communities for years due to a disputed naming issue. This statute, if erected, or erected with a criminally accusatory name such as "genocide", will have yet another further divisive effect among the diverse communities of Toronto (Canadians of Turkish and Armenian origin) rather than uniting them, which goes against the spirit of multicultural mosaic we are trying to build in Canada.

Such structure will irritate government of Turkey and its people, and will further negatively affect diplomatic and economic relations between two NATO allies (Turkiye and Canada), at a time when Canada is looking to repairing its relationship with Turkey, an important emerging market (G20 member) within one of the most strategic regions of the World, during a time that Canada is demanding to open free trade with Turkiye (negotiations are ongoing as of today).

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), overturned a Swiss Court decision on December 16, 2013, re the Turkish Labor Party Chairman Dogu Perincek's case, ruling that there was no general consensus on 1915 late Ottoman events, given the historical research on the matter still being open to discussion and debate, and that no conclusions could be drawn or assertions of objective and absolute truths be made about validity of the genocide allegation of Armenian side (click [here](#) for the original ECHR Press Release).

England, the only country that tried 140 high rank Ottoman officials in Malta Tribunal by examining all the evidences, just soon after 1915 events when Ottoman capital was occupied by Allied forces for more than a year, with all the archives and the witnesses were freely accessed, haven't agreed yet that Armenian case was a genocide, as of today.

The Memorandum dated April 29, 2008 from the Chair of the Genocide Curriculum Review Committee to TDSB, stated: "...the study of history must be based on the evidence and the quality of the critical assessment of that evidence. No legislature, in Canada or elsewhere, has jurisdiction to legislatively determine the past..." TDSB is expected to take this neutral advice into consideration.

We do not deny the tragedy occurred in the First World War. However, that tragedy was experienced by all nations participated at the war. Turks were ethnically cleansed, massacred, relocated, and faced similar famine and disease. It is not just and moral ignoring losses of one community and recognizing selectively another. Armenian lobbies are dragging Canada into centuries old regional political conflicts by tirelessly campaigning on political jurisdictions to adapt their one-sided "genocide" recognition claims. It is not for Canada's interest to lose its neutrality by taking side in a political dispute and win enemies at on of the most strategic regions of the World unnecessarily.

We need to stop this unjust and unfair attempt for sake of Canada's future harmony, right now, right here at City Hall. Otherwise, the seeds of hatred, animosity, bullying and harassment among young generations will be sown and the future harmony and peaceful coexistence in this city and country will be irreparably damaged.

Sincerely.

The Federation of Canadian Turkish Associations EC