



Press Release: Councilor Shelley Carroll's motion MM50.5 re Armeninan monument 04/02/14

FCTA Condemns the politically motivated attempt of Councilor Shelley Carroll (the motion MM50.5) to erect a monument commemorating the 100th anniversary of Armenian allegations re 1915 Ottoman events. Summary of the motion reads: "...the systematic extermination by the Ottoman Empire of its minority Armenian subjects. ...and the number of people killed has been estimated ...1.5 million... commemorated on April 24th ... Ottoman Government arrested over 200 Armenian community leaders...were sent to prison...most were summarily executed..."

All these claims are baseless. It is now a well established fact that there were about 1.1 Million Armenians in entire Ottoman lands then, according to credible Armenian church's own records. So, does it make sense that 1.5 million Armenians were killed in 1915? It has also proven now from Ottoman archives that out of 200 rebels arrested, only two died in prison out of natural causes. Rest were released, and none executed.

Lately, 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 "genocide denial" case. **The ECHR ruled that there was no general consensus on the Armenian case, given the historical research on the matter was 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** (click [here](#) for the original ECHR Press Release).

The ECHR stated that genocide is a legal concept and a crime defined by the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and without a verdict of an authorized International court, such as ICJ, genocide can not be used randomly to define historical events for political gains, as it will belittle genocide prevention efforts and significance of legally proven cases such as Holocaust and Rwanda. The UN position does not define the Armenian case as genocide (click [here](#) to see it), as there is no such legal verdict for that case.

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, (considering the facts) 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...**". No evidence that can stand up the tests for rules of evidence in a court of law has ever been presented and no court of law has declared the tragic events between Armenians and Turks during the First World War as genocide. Councilor Shelley Carroll *seems to have jurisdiction and authority* to determine 98 years later that 1915 events constituted genocide!

In WWI, there were 180,000 armed Armenian Tashnak volunteers fighting on Russian and France ranks with enemy uniforms against Ottoman forces to support enemy, according to the records of Paris peace conference, for securing a share of looted Ottoman territories. More Muslims/Turks than Armenians died in this inter-communal conflict. Commemorating the deaths of one party by erecting monument, and ignoring the deaths of other side portrays a distorted picture of the events and sounds like propaganda, which is unfair and against the very spirit of Canada's multicultural mosaic. The Canadians of Turkish origin will eventually make sure that the truth will prevail at the end one way or another, no matter what.

Sincerely,

The Federation of Canadian Turkish Associations EC

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