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Killing Orders Lays Bare Orders for Armenian Annihilation by Turkish Government

By **Alin K. Gregorian**

Mirror-Spectator Staff

WORCESTER – Prof. Taner Akcam has been at the forefront of finding evidence confirming the Armenian Genocide and the role of the Ottoman central government in the murders for decades. His latest book, *Killing Orders: Talat Pasha's Telegrams and the Armenian Genocide*, is the latest volley he has launched to bring down the curtain of denial of the Turkish govern-



ment.

The book, published this week by Palgrave Macmillan, is an expanded with additional two new chapters available only in English-language

translation of his book on Naim Bey, which was originally published in Turkish last year.

In it, Akcam literally shows the orders from the central government to exterminate Armenians in various parts of the country. Many have referred to the book's explosive content which once and for all shows that not only the genocide happened but that it was done on orders of the central government, as an "earthquake" in the field of Armenian Genocide studies; see AKCAM, page 8



(AP PHOTO)

People pray next to the closed doors of the Holy Sepulchre Church on February 25

Israel Suspends Plan to Tax Jerusalem Church Properties

By **Nebi Gena**

JERUSALEM (AP) – Jerusalem's mayor on Tuesday, February 27, suspended a plan to impose taxes on properties owned by Christian churches, backing away from a move that had enraged religious leaders and led to the closure of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

In a statement, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said a professional team was being established to negotiate with church officials to "formulate a solution."

"As a result, the Jerusalem Municipality is suspending the collection actions it has taken in recent weeks," it said.

There was no immediate reaction from church leaders, and it was unclear whether the Church of the Holy Sepulchre would reopen.

Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and leaders of other Christian denominations closed the famed church on Sunday to protest an order by Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat to begin taxing their properties.

The church is revered as the site where Jesus was crucified and see HOLY SEPULCHRE, page 20

Wallenberg Foundation Decries Israeli Vote not To Recognize Armenian Genocide

By **Tamara Zieve**

JERUSALEM (*Jerusalem Post*) – The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation expressed "deep disappointment" in the Knesset's rejection of a bill to recognize the Armenian Genocide earlier this month.

Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely said that while Israel had sent a parliamentary delegation to the 100th anniversary event in Yerevan, it will not take an official stance on the matter, "in light of its complexity and diplomatic repercussions, and because it has a clear political connection."

The Raoul Wallenberg Foundation sent a letter on Thursday, February 22, to Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, with a copy to Hotovely and Yesh Atid leader Knesset Member Yair Lapid, who sponsored the bill. Edelstein called on the government in 2015 to change its stance, and in 2016 the Knesset Education Committee recognized the genocide.

However, any motion for official state recognition of the genocide has failed to go through.

"Regrettably, this voting down has been repeating itself, time and again, for the last few years, as a constant ritual" read the letter, signed by foundation chairman

NEWS IN BRIEF

Azerbaijan Distorts Reality over Khojaly

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Twenty two Members of the European Parliament MEPs representing the Club of Azerbaijan's Friends in the European Parliament have signed a declaration where nothing is mentioned about "genocide," or Armenians or Armenia. A day before the Azerbaijani mass media spread information that allegedly the European parliament has adopted a declaration over the "Khojaly events." Earlier, in a meeting with Azerbaijanis in the Georgian city Marneuli, President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili did not yield to the provocation of one of the participant young men, who asked the President to honor the memory of the victims of the so-called "Khojaly events" with a minute of silence. Azerbaijani media outlets note that the ceremony of the one-minute silence did not take place, instead Margvelashvili noted that he follows Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement process. "Georgia is against the escalation of Nagorno Karabakh conflict," he said.

Paylan Requests Explanation on Gov. Patriarchate Interference

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) – Armenian-Turkish Member of Parliament representing the People's Democratic Party (HDP) Garo Paylan has sent an inquiry to Interior Minister Sileyman Soylu regarding the Istanbul government's interference and obstruction of the Armenian Patriarchal election, Agos reports.

In the inquiry, Paylan said that in 2017, before the constitutional referendum, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had promised the Armenian community of Turkey to deal with the patriarchal election issue.

Paylan mentioned that Patriarch Mesrop Mutafyan is incapacitated due to severe illness, which was the reason of Aram Atesian's appointment as patriarchal vicar in 2010, however the appointment was against the rules of the Armenian Church. Although Archbishop Karekin Bekjian was elected as locum tenens on March 15, 2017 in accordance to the constitution and necessary procedures, the Istanbul Governor's Office sent a letter on February 5, 2018 to the patriarchate, claiming they only acknowledge Atesian.

"In the case when the Armenian community was waiting for the patriarchal elections to which it is entitled, state interference in the process both ignores our church traditions and causes despair within the community," Paylan said. In this context, he asked the interior minister on what grounds the state interfered in the patriarchal election process.

He also asked why the process was stopped and why the deputy governor used the term "so-called" when addressing the elected locum tenens.

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Demoyan on America

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Prof. Tessa Hofmann at the genocide memorial

Ecumenical Altars of Remembrance in Berlin

BERLIN – It was a bitter cold day in mid-February, with a strong wind that chilled to the bone. As we walked from the bus stop and entered the Luisenkirchhof III cemetery

By **Muriel Mirak-Weissbach**
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

through the huge gate, I thought about the women and children being deported from their homes in Ottoman Empire over a hundred years ago, and what immense suffering they must have faced as they wound their way through inclement weather, on their march toward death.

My guide and companion, Prof. Tessa Hofmann, was as warmly bundled up as I was, so we could go on walking up to the central chapel and beyond, with no fear of freezing. On the other side of the chapel, the path continued until we reached a facade of massive altars, which stretched out to the left and right in front of us. The three altars in the middle stood solemn and dignified, each with a cross of a different kind placed in the arch. The first altar on the left with its graceful *khachkar* must be the house of the Armenians; the next had a cross with arms of equal length to designate the house of the Greeks from Asia Minor, Pontos and Eastern Thrace; and the third displayed the cross of the Aramaeans, Assyrians and Chaldeans.

see ALTARS, page 5

see WALLENBURG, page 20



INTERNATIONAL

Ecumenical Altars of Remembrance in Berlin

ALTAR, from page 1

Placed between the first and second altars is a huge plaque with the names of these Christian communities, and the inscription: "Commemorate the victims of the Ottoman genocide 1912-1922." On the lateral wings of each of the Altars of Remembrance are icons of annihilation, scenes from the genocide. The design of the memorial was inspired by the principle of Christian medieval sacral architecture: "Unity in diversity." And the cross, in its several variations, stands as the universal Christian symbol of hope and resurrection.

On the ground in front of the ecumenical memorial are stone plates, inscribed with the names of the main places of origin of the victims. Sixty-eight such stone plates are planned, seven of which have been completed and bear the names of Bitlis, Diyarbakir, Edirne, Nusaybin, Smyrna, Trabzon and Van.

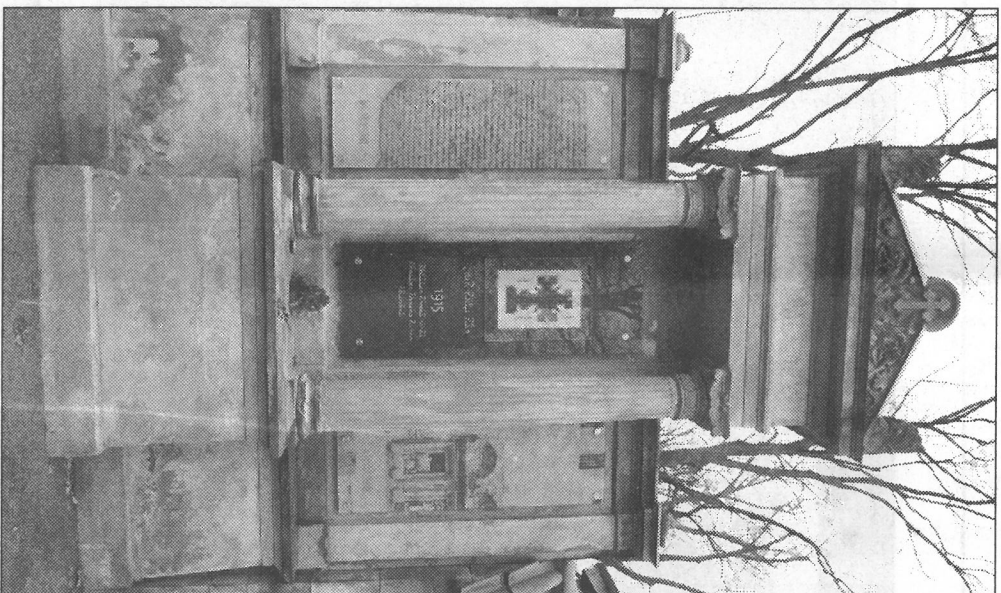


House of the Armenians

According to what communities lived there, the names are inscribed in Armenian, Greek and/or Aramaen. In the interstices between the larger plates are smaller, rounded stones, which may bear the name of an individual or family. Descendants of the survivors are contributing funds to honor their ancestors.

This memorial, the only one of its kind in the world, is intended to be an inclusive place for mourning, learning and reconciliation. A large, glass enclosed information board is to be erected along the pathway, to provide visitors with background information, texts and maps, on the genocide.

Tessa Hofmann has good reason to be proud of this memorial. It was largely through her efforts and those of her colleagues in the Förderverein für eine Ökumenischen Gedenkstätte für Genozidopfer im Osmanischen Reich (FÖGG) e.V. that the memorial came into being. And it is no accident



House of the Arameans

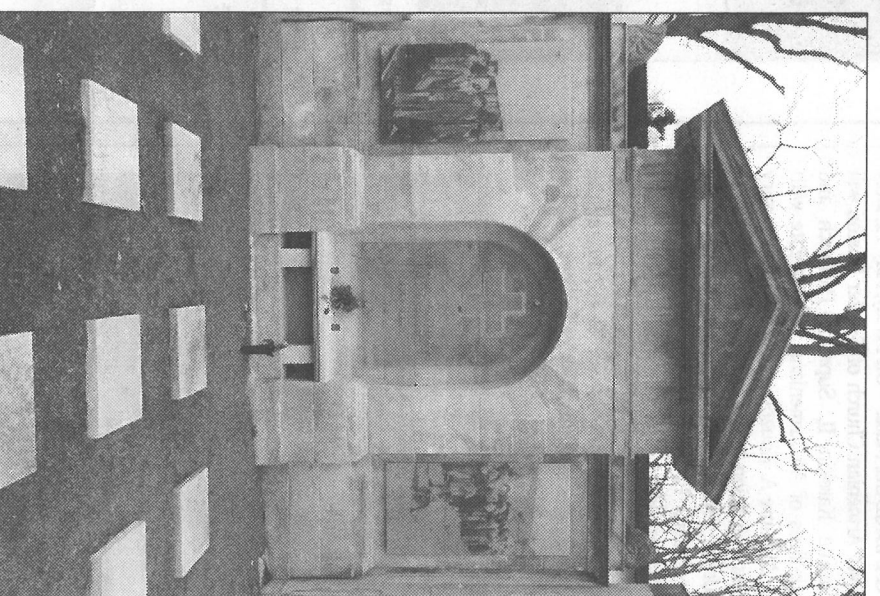
that she should have been among the founders: Hofmann is one of the earliest genocide researchers in Germany to have published scientific studies on the Armenian genocide. The author of numerous books and a professor, she has campaigned for genocide recognition, as chairwoman of the human rights organization, "Working Group Recognition - Against Genocide, for International Understanding" (AGA).

After looking into various possible sites and discussing the project with the relevant authorities, this location was chosen. In May 2012, the administration of the Protestant Luisenkirchhof III granted the FÖGG three former tombs for their permanent use and maintenance. Thanks to contributions of the state of Berlin (Land) and the German Foundation for Protection of Historical Monuments (Deutsche Stiftung Denkmalschutz), the altars were professionally restored. Financial donations by private persons made possible the transformation into a memorial.

Were there political difficulties in establishing such a memorial in Berlin? I could imagine protests emanating from Turkish quarters. They had tried to intervene, but too late. The FÖGG organizers were wise to operate in total discretion until the arrangement received official sanction from the authorities. They also took special care in formulating the name of the memorial, for example, in the designation "Ottoman genocide."

What is the FÖGG?

The association that is responsible for building the memorial grew out of an idea born at a scientific conference at the Berlin



House of the Greeks

House of the Greeks

lish the FÖGG, which was officially recognized in early 2012 as a charitable association. Politically unaffiliated, the FÖGG is however engaged in human rights, especially the prevention of genocide. Its statute specifies that its aim is to promote art and culture, and the Luisenkirchhof memorial is its main project. The memorial site is to provide a place for members of these communities to gather for commemorations and requiem services. In fact, as Hofmann explained to me, every year such events take place: on April 24th for the Armenians, on June 15th for the Syrians and September 14th for the Greeks.

Now the FÖGG is raising funds for a virtual memorial site on the Internet, which is already under construction. It will provide documentation on the contribution Christian communities made to their local or regional culture, and how they were destroyed. For more information on the initiative and how to contribute, see <http://www.genozid-gedenkstaette.de>

The Parikian Collection: A New Treasure Made Public

By Hrach Tchilingirian

LONDON — Eton College formally launched the collection of some 650 volumes of rare early Armenian printed books from the 16th to 19th centuries, bequeathed to the school by renowned British-Armenian violinist Manoug Parikian (1920-1987).

The event at Eton on February 20, 2018 coincides with the 350th anniversary of the printing of the first Armenian Bible by Voskan Erevantzi in Amsterdam in 1666, a limited edition of which is included in the Parikian Collection, with an impressive binding designed by the pre-eminent 17th-century Dutch bookbinder Albert Magnus.

Although acquired in 1988, the collection was catalogued nearly 30 years later — by Dr. V. N. Nersessian, former Christian Middle

East Section curator at the British Library and with the support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation — and is now available for researchers.

Over the decades, with his wife Diana (Carbut) (1927-2012), a well-known antiquarian bookseller and herself a musician, Manoug Parikian had assembled a valuable collection of early Armenian printed books. Upon his death in 1987, the collection was given to Eton College, where their two sons, Stepan and Levon, had been educated. It is said that London-born Diana, daughter of a chartered accountant, "always used the Armenian alphabet for the cost-coding of her books, something that may baffle the provenance detectives of the future but will stand as a hallmark of books of distinction in libraries the world over."

Manoug Parikian was born in Mersin, Cilicia (today Turkey) in 1920, but grew up in

Cyprus where the family escaped after WWII. He studied music in London at the Trinity College of Music (1936 to 1939) and made his solo debut in 1947 in Liverpool. He led a very successful career as a soloist in Britain and across Europe, the Middle East, Canada and the Soviet Union at the time. Parikian led the Liverpool Philharmonic (1947-48), London Philharmonic Orchestra (1949-57) and various other chamber orchestras. He also taught at the Royal College of Music (1954-1956) and at the Royal Academy of Music (since 1959), and is known for his many important recordings. As noted in his biography, Parikian "inspired many younger English composers to write major works for his instrument."

The Parikian Collection at Eton includes outstanding volumes "from the first half of the 17th century to 1850 and beyond," covering "the principal centres of Armenian

printing," explains Dr. Nersessian in his introduction. "Of particular interest is a small selection of 16th-century western publications, mostly in Latin, introducing the use of Armenian founts prior to the emergence of Armenian printing."

The launch at Eton College started with an exhibit of some of the rare books in the library, followed by a presentation on early Armenian printing by Dr. Gagik Stepan-Sarkissian. The celebration was crowned with a concert by the Chilingirian Quartet, led by Levon Chilingirian, Manoug Parikian's nephew.

Manoug Parikian's legacy certainly adds great scholarly and cultural value to the rich Armenian collections of manuscripts and rare printed books found in various British institutions, such as the British Library, Oxford, Cambridge, Durham universities and others.