

## **"Memory is the Future"**

### **The International Committee for the Righteous of Armenians**

#### **Rationale**

The remembrance of those non-Armenians who helped the Armenian people before, during, and after the [1915 Genocide](#) ensures that the narrative written about mass murder and deportations will not be only that constructed by the aggressors or re-invented by current apologists. The voices of non-Armenians who witnessed the tragic events of 1915-1923 save from oblivion the memory of the first Genocide of twentieth century.

#### **Who are the Righteous?**

A 'Righteous' person is a humble person, one who thinks according to a universal morality based on the rights of all men.

A 'Righteous' person is someone responsible for even single act of humanity with regards to a victim from ethnic, religious, political, or social group which is at risk for Genocidal persecution.

A 'Righteous' person, often at his own personal risk and with full knowledge of the evil which may befall him, sides and assists the victim.

A 'Righteous' person, when acting on behalf of the oppressed, knows no homeland, no religious affinity, and no political affinity.

A 'Righteous' person acts not only to save human life, but also works to secure refuge for victims of persecution. He may intervene through governmental institutions, find safe havens, document for the public record atrocities, witness trials of crimes against humanity, and procure humanitarian aid.

A 'Righteous' acts to repatriate victims to their homeland and to compensate them for their losses.

A 'Righteous' person thinks on his own and combats conformist mentalities which dehumanize victims.

A 'Righteous' person fights for memory and against collective amnesia.

A 'Righteous' person, in his very affinity with victims, preserves human dignity. Weak and wicked people are often capable of Righteous acts.

A 'Righteous' person, unlike the hero or the saint who work towards an ideal, finds in himself the motivation for action.

A 'Righteous' person does not anticipate heroic acts; he may side with the aggressors until he finds within himself the courage to oppose evil.

A 'Righteous' person stands outside the veil of ideology, which allows political and economic exigencies to justify crimes against humanity, and sides with the suffering.

#### **Scope of the Committee**

- 1) Research to designate the Righteous of the Armenians
- 2) Transport and internment of ashes or hearth from the graves of the Righteous to the Wall of the Genocide Memorial at Dzidzernagapert. [\[Click for the films\]](#)
- 3) Planting a "Garden of the Righteous" in collaboration of the Armenian Tree Project, at Dzidzernagapert.
- 4) Awarding of an annual prize in memory of a 'Righteous' person and the funding of dissertation research on the Righteous in collaboration with the Fondazione Stefano Serapian.

5) Presenting to the Parliament of the Republic of Armenia a program for remembering the Righteous of the Armenians.

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The International Committee for the Righteous of Armenians is based at the Museum of the Genocide at Dzidzernagapert outside of Yerevan in Armenia