

"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.

Trustees

Giuliano Vassalli, former Minister of Justice, past President of the Constitutional Court, Italy

Gaghik Harutunian, President, Constitutional Court, Armenia

Laurenti Barseghian, Genocide Museum Director, Yerevan, Armenia

Fedrej Sarkissian, President, Academy of Science, Yerevan, Armenia

Hrant Avedissian, Director, History Institute, Academy of Science, Yerevan, Armenia

Gaghik Baghdassarian, Ambassador Republic of Armenia in Italy

Raymond Kevorkian, Director Nubarian Library, Paris, France

Alexis Govciyan, President, Comitè 24 Avril, Paris, France

Claude Mutafian, Historian, University of Paris, France

Ara Sarafian, Historian, Gomidas Institute, USA

Hilmar Kaiser, Historian, University of Bochum, Germany

Agopik Manoukian, President, Unione Armeni d'Italia, Milan, Italy

Richard Hovanissian, Historian, University of Los Angeles, USA

Alice Kelikian, Historian, University Brandeis, Boston, USA commissioner for the preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, Washington DC, USA

Carolyn Mugar, Armenian National Insitute, Washington DC, USA

Gabriele Nissim, Historian, Milan, Italy

Carlo Massa, Film maker, Milan, Italy

Henry Morgenthau III, Writer and Journalist, Boston, USA

Antonia Arslan, Professor, University of Padua, Italy

Gabriella Uluhogian, Professor, University of Bologna, Italy

Boghos Levon Zekiyian, Professor, "Ca' Foscari" University of Venice, Italy

Yves Ternon, Doctor, Historian, Paris, France

Misha Wegner, Architect, Roma, Italy

Sibyl Wegner Stevens, Writer, United Kingdom

Ardavast Serapian, President, Stefano Serapian Foundation, Milan, Italy

Matthew Spender, Writer, Sculptor, Siena, Italy

Umberto Galimberti, Philosopher, "Ca' Foscari" University of Venice, Italy

Pietro Kuciukian, Unione Armeni d'Italia, Milan, Italy

Board of Directors

Laurenti Barseghian

Gaghik Baghdassarian

Raymond Kevorkian

Carolyn Mugar

Alice Kelikian

Ardavast Serapian

Pietro Kuciukian

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