

THE GENOCIDE RECOGNITION NETWORK Athens, the 9th of December 2016

Press release

With great success and a large participation of people who attended, filling the conference room of the "Antonis Tritsis" Cultural Centre of the City of Athens, despite the adverse conditions (general strike), the Genocide Recognition Network held an event on Thursday the 8th of December, titled: "Rafael Lemkin and the Rights of Humanity." On behalf of the Network the Coordinator, Dr **Antonis Pavlidis** welcomed those present. He particularly addressed the circumstances which led to the foundation of the Network, and pointed out the Network's priorities and strategy, as well as the importance of organizing this event.

From the participating organizations the following welcomed those present:

Arto Shemal on behalf of the Armenian National Committee, **Panagiotis Gkatzolis** on behalf of the Federation of Greek Refugee Associations, **Athena Sotiriadou** on behalf of the Pontian Federation of Greece and **Kyriakos Batsaras** on behalf of the Pan-Hellenic Union of Assyrians. They all referred to the great importance of actualizing the event and they additionally emphasized on the need for the unity of the nations who have suffered Genocides to be established. The two main speakers continued thereon.

Vasilios Alexandris, President of the Athens Bar, Association, after referring to Raphael Lemkin's life, in a concise and documented manner he analyzed both the 1948 UN Convention, as well as similar legal articles and documents, which are associated with the great humanist.

Nikos Lygeros, Strategic Advisor, thoroughly analyzed the importance and the substance of the work of Rafael Lemkin and his contribution to the future of Humanity, characteristically stating that Lemkin worked having his attention focused toward the future, and that his main concern was, that there should be a cost for the perpetrator.

The resolution of the event, which was read publicly from the Coordinator, journalist **Pantelis Savvides**, was approved unanimously.

The following day, i.e., the 9th of December, a five member delegation from both the Network, and organizations which participated in the event, composed of **Antonis Pavlidis**, Coordinator, **George Varytymiadis**, representative of the Pan-Pontian Federation of Greece, **Yannis Athanasiadis**, President of the Pan-Macedonian Confederation of Greece, **Serko Agampantian** from the Armenian community, and **Kyriakos Batsaras**, President of the Pan-Hellenic Union of Assyrians, visited the Parliament House in order to deliver the resolution of the event.

The President of the body initially accepted the delegation, which informed, in regards to the event, and thereon submitted the resolution, requesting that it should be distributed to all political parties of the parliament, and to additionally be read out in plenary before the order of the day, on the occasion of the 9th December been defined by the United Nations as the international day of remembrance for the victims of Genocide.

The proposal for a "Worldwide Union of Genocide Victim Peoples - and All Caring People - On Behalf of a Right to Life of All People (R2L)" was originally developed by Israel W. Charny and was presented at an International Conference "Three Genocides, One Strategy," in Athens in September, 2010.

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