



ARMENIAN genocide W A L K

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of Philadelphia

agcphiladelphia@gmail.com

www.armeniangenocide100philly.com

Commemorating 100 years Since the Armenian Genocide Centennial Philadelphia Armenian Genocide Walk 2015

WHAT: On **Saturday, April 18, 2015**, the **8th Annual Philadelphia Armenian Genocide Walk** will take place, providing an opportunity for the entire Philadelphia community to gather to commemorate the **100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide**, and educate the public on Turkish denial of the atrocities committed against the Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1918.

Hundreds will gather at **Independence Visitor's Center** in Historical Philadelphia and walk through the streets to rally and bring attention to the cause. At the conclusion of the walk, a special Centennial program will be held on the lawn of the **Independence Visitor Center**. This year's keynote speaker will be **Phil Holtje of the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center**.

The walk will take place rain or shine. For the program, in-door arrangements have been made in the **Liberty View Ballroom** inside of Independence Visitor's Center in the event of rain. If rain is forecasted for April 18th, please visit www.armeniangenocide100philly.com for further details and the latest updates. The event is free and open to the public.

The Armenian Genocide Walk will complement various other events and efforts by the Armenian community (and supporters of the Armenian community such as local universities and churches, other ethnic communities who have also been subject to genocide, etc.) in March and April leading up to Armenian Martyrs Day on April 24th, including a **billboard to be posted on I-76** at the Spring Garden exit to raise awareness of the issue.

WHERE: Independence Visitor Center
Liberty Ballroom: 1 N. Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106
Lawn: Market side, between 5th and 6th Street
<http://www.phlvisitorcenter.com/>

WHEN: Saturday, April 18th, 2015, from 12:00pm to 3:00pm

LINK: Visit www.armeniangenocide100philly.com for event information for the portfolio of Armenian Genocide Centennial events as well as the walk.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Facebook: [facebook.com/AGWPhilly](https://www.facebook.com/AGWPhilly)

Armenian Genocide in today's news:

Amal Clooney takes on Armenian Genocide in European Court:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/armenia/11341003/Amal-Clooney-takes-on-Armenia-genocide-case-in-European-court.html>

Rock Band **System of a Down** launches "Wake up the Souls" Tour to promote Armenian Genocide Recognition –to include concert in Armenia:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/features/system-of-a-down-serj-tankian-armenian-genocide-new-album-20150108>

Kim Kardashian talks Armenian Genocide Recognition:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/kim-kardashian-talks-people-acknowledge-armenian-genocide/story?id=23654881>

Responsibility Conference on March 13-15, 2015, in Times Square, brings human rights activists, journalists, and writers together to discuss Genocide Recognition, including **Alexander Dinelaris, 2015 Oscar**

Winner for Best Original Screenplay for Birdman

<http://responsibility2015.org/>

Important relic for Armenian Genocide displayed at **White House** Visitor Center:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/armenian-orphan-rug-to-go-on-display-at-white-house-visitor-center-in-november/2014/10/15/287a598e-54a9-11e4-892e-602188e70e9c_story.html

South Dakota becomes **43rd state** to recognize Armenian Genocide:

<http://armenianweekly.com/2015/02/26/south-dakota/>

Starbucks apologies for offensive ad in advance of Armenian Genocide Centennial:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/20/starbucks-offensive-ad-armenia-genocide>

Links:

More information on Genocide Centennial: <http://armeniangenocide100.org/en/>

More information on Philadelphia Genocide Events, and Walk: <http://www.armeniangenocide100philly.com/>

More information on Armenian American activism in the US Government and grassroots efforts:

www.anca.org

About the Armenian Genocide Walk & 100th Anniversary:

The Armenian Genocide Walk Committee is comprised of representatives from area Philadelphia Armenian churches and organizations. The committee has worked tirelessly over the past eight years to develop a meaningful and special opportunity for the Philadelphia Armenian community to come together annually to make an appeal for justice. The walk in previous years has brought together Pennsylvania political representatives, prominent authors and activists, and other ethnic communities, like the Greek community, which share a similar history of massacres at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

This year the Armenian community is commemorating the 100th anniversary of these atrocities. Philadelphia's five Armenian churches and various organizations have formed the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of Philadelphia. In addition to the walk, the community has planned various events during the months of March and April. For more information, visit www.armeniangenocide100philly.com.

About the Armenian Genocide:

The Armenian Genocide – 1915-1918 – 1,500,000 Deaths

The Armenian Genocide was the systematic killing of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire during and just after World War I. It was implemented through wholesale massacres and deportations, with the deportations consisting of forced marches under conditions designed to lead to the death of the deportees. The total number of resulting Armenian deaths is 1.5 million. It is widely acknowledged to have been the first genocide of the 20th century, and it is the second most-studied case of genocide after the Holocaust. The starting date of the genocide is conventionally held to be April 24, 1915, Armenian Martyrs Day, the day when Ottoman authorities arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. Thereafter, the Ottoman military uprooted Armenians from their homes and forced them to march for hundreds of miles, depriving them of food and water, to the desert of what is now Syria. The majority of Armenian diaspora communities were founded as a result of the Armenian Genocide. The Republic of Turkey, the successor state of the Ottoman Empire, denies the genocide and goes to great lengths to conceal the events, including desecrating historical Armenian churches and monuments in Turkey, disrupting academic conferences and public discussions of the Genocide, and attempting to exclude the Armenian Genocide from American textbooks.

In 2015, the Armenian Diaspora and the international community will unite to commemorate the centennial of this crime against humanity and to honor its victims and survivors. The Armenian Diaspora and leaders across the world will call on Turkey to formally recognize the horrors its nation committed against Christian-minority Armenians as "genocide."

About the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust:

On August 22, 1939, in preparation for the impending invasion of Poland, Adolf Hitler said to Reichmarshal Hermann Goering and the commanding generals at Obersalzberg:

"Our strength consists in our speed and in our brutality. Genghis Khan led millions of women and children to slaughter - with premeditation and a happy heart. History sees in him solely the founder of a state. It's a matter of indifference to me what a weak western European civilization will say about me.

I have issued the command - and I'll have anybody who utters but one word of criticism executed by a firing squad - that our war aim does not consist in reaching certain lines, but in the physical destruction of the enemy. Accordingly, I have placed my death-head formations in readiness - for the present only in the East - with orders to them to send to death mercilessly and without compassion, men, women, and children of Polish derivation and language. Only thus shall we gain the living space (Lebensraum) which we need. **Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"**