

Genocide, Holocaust and Crimes Against Humanity

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Genocides are remembered on April 24th each year. The nations and races that suffered such terrible scars in their history hold memorial events to remember the tragedy that befell their friends or their ancestors. Universal Peace Federation - UK held an event to remember the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and the 41st anniversary of the Kurdish Genocide on the University of Sulaymaniyah in Qaladze. Charlotte Simon spoke passionately about the genocide of the people in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kurdish survivors of genocidal attacks by Sadaam Hussain gave testimonies of their experiences. Fay Sandler spoke of the Holocaust and its effect on the Jewish community. At the conclusion several spoke from the audience about a number of cases of Genocide including Bosnia, Rwanda and Sikhs in 1984 in India.



Speakers included:

Margaret Keverian Ali: Director, UPF

Garen Arevian of the Campaign for the Recognition of the Armenian Genocide (CRAG) spoke of the need for recognition of the responsibility for the Armenian Genocide by Turkey.

He praised the Kurds for their prompt apology in 1922 for their role in supporting Turkey in the genocide of the Armenians. Germany also recognised their own role in the Armenian genocide. He explained that the population of Armenians in Turkey in 1914 was about 2.2 million. He added that only 100,000 Armenians live in Turkey today.

Arevian was grateful that there had been some progress in the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The admission of the German role in advising Turkey was heartening. He was also happy to hear the words of the Pope.



Mrs Charlotte Simon: Founder of Mothers of Congo from the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) shared about the suffering of the Congolese people because of greedy leaders and complicity with the feeds the world with minerals, she explained. 1300 minerals can be found in the Congo. 85% of the worlds coltan can be found in DRC. This is used in Mobile Phones, Laptops and other high tech equipment, developed nations of the west.

She explained that the killing was still continuing to this day. She asked, "What man can rape a baby? How is it possible? Is that really a man? It is worse than the animals." Systematic rape of a community has been used to ethnically cleanse the Congolese from the areas rich in minerals in the east of the country, she explained.

She denounced the interference of DRC's eastern neighbours saying, 'Even now there are invasions from regular soldiers or proxy militias from Uganda and Rwanda.'

Robin Marsh: Secretary General, UPF shared about the principles underlying the Universal Peace Federation. In particular the slogan 'Humanity is One Family Under a Loving God' implies that we have a common responsibility to God to care for our other family members in different parts of the world. He explained that Father Moon, the founder of UPF, had practised forgiveness in extreme circumstances. He had forgiven a Japanese torturer and helped him to find safe passage back to Japan when the war finished.

Living for the sake of others extends to one religion living for the sake of another religion, one region living for the sake of another region or one race living for the sake of another race. Thus the responsibility to protect is a noble ideal even though it is difficult to implement. The awareness of trends towards genocidal actions to a minority by a majority community should be

There were several testimonies by Kurdish survivors of gas attacks in Halabja and massacres by Saddam Hussein's forces. The painful stories of those who had lost whole families because of a gas attack of their village of the concentrated systematic, extermination of Kurds in a particular area or town was harrowing to hear. This is the 41st year of the genocidal massacre in the University Sulaymaniyah in Qaladze. highlighted so that international pressure can be brought to bear on that situation.