

Hamburg, 25.04.2005

Dear Dr Jaschke,

I take this opportunity, Dr. Jaschke, to comment on the "Abendveranstaltung - Das Pogrom vor 90 Jahren (1915) Die Armenische Frage bleibt Offen" to take place soon, (27 April 2005) at the Katolische Akademie, Hamburg. You are one of the speakers beside Ralph Giordano from Köln and Erzbischof Karekin Bekdjian of Köln.

Armenian issue, as stated in the headline of the programme, does really remain open. It is open because, there are very strong, unjustified, unfair arguments against the Ottoman practices with regard to the relocation of Armenians from Anatolia to Syria.

I think everyone agrees on one fact that, there are at least two parties of each dispute, disagreements or conflicts. Yet on that very issue i.e. Armenian issue there has always been one party who speaks, accuses and condemns, that is the Armenian side, Armenian allegations, Armenian thesis or Armenian proofs, almost for the last 90 years. No right of speech accorded to the other side of the dispute or disagreement. "Accept it, else no way out!" This is not the way out, that is to say, the way for attaining pacific solutions to the disagreements, conflicts. No issue, problem can be solved through such a bullying mentality. Only one Side's opinion, assessments are being forwarded, explained and valued. No right of defence for the other Party? The attorney is also the judge before an almost uniform, unquestioning, overly self-righteous public or listeners. How under such circumstances the truth, if that is impossible to reach, the maximum achievable truth, could come to some light?

The same, I am afraid, will occur at the "Abendveranstaltung" on the 27th of April, where you are one of the speakers, as was the case last year.

Mr Ralph Giordano's solipsistic approaches and his views on the Armenian issue are well known. He has even created a documentary film in the line of Armenian allegations. The views of Erzbischoff Karekin Bekdjian will naturally reflect the views of only one side, one party. As declared views of the Vatican is well known on the matter, and no speaker has been called to voice the other side's, that is the Turkish side's views and assessments, the absent will be freely and severely rebuked, accused and condemned. It is obvious that such an approach is not conducive towards harmonious living of peoples and neighbours, nations and communities yet undermining the regional, even global peace. It cannot be also argued that they are in harmony with the tenets of a religion whose main philosophy is underlined in "thou shalt love thy neighbour - love thine enemy". That is why, I presume, such an important issue will end unfairly, through monologues, and thus Armenian issue will "continue to remain open".

Should the organisers of this meeting had shown the wisdom to invite a speaker of the other side i.e. Turkish who would explain the events of 1915s, he would probably put forward, depending on many documents, that the Ottomans had no designed or pre-meditated intention of killing her Armenian citizens because of their race and religion. He would perhaps speak of Ottoman-Armenian friendship of 800 years in Anatolia beginning from the time of Byzantium under whom the Armenians suffered most, and the Seldjuks with whom they started to live in harmony and happiness in Anatolia which continued through the Ottomans until the last years of the 19th century. He would perhaps tell the audience about Russia who coined the word "Eastern Question" for its imperialistic designs at the Berlin Conference following the Crimean War, and the Russian ambitions for Eastern Anatolia, together with their desire to reach

the warm seas of the South, through Dardenelles. He would then underline the importance for the Ottomans of the 1st world war in which she had to fight at 9 fronts not to lose the last chance of its existence, and how, in extreme poverty, the decision of regretful "relocation of Armenians" were taken.

Dear Dr Jaschke, how the Armenian Question does not remain open, when the Armenian inscription on the monumental sculpture's pedestal, sponsored mainly by the Armenian Apostolic Church reads: "If our children forget this much evil, let the whole world condemn the Armenian people". Such a hate! Hatred? Is this Christian philosophy?

We must think of posterity. They should not live in endless wars of the past 1000 years. We must strive for enlightenment of people, create a peaceful free world of free minded people with free consciences. Yet to achieve this we must discuss, talk, listen to all shades of opinion.

Greetings and best wishes, Dear Dr Jaschke.

Yours,

Ülkü Bassoy