



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ
CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

1220, rue de Beauharnois, Suite 109, Montréal (QC) H4N 1J5 - chcsecret@gmail.com

March 3, 2017

**SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF THE PONTIC GREEK GENOCIDE AND
PROCLAMATION OF MAY 19TH AS GREEK PONTIC GENOCIDE
REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Dear Senator,

We are writing to you to express our support for the motion (Motion No. 158) introduced by Senator Merchant and seconded by Senator Housakos to recognise the Genocide of the Pontic Greeks and to designate May 19th as a Day of Remembrance throughout Canada, as well as, to ask you to support this motion.

The Pontic Greek Genocide falls within the meaning of Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948). The historical evidence of the time clearly indicates that the crime by the Ottoman Empire against the Pontic Greeks was genocide. Here are a few examples of the historical evidence:

On November 30, 1916, Austrian Consul at Amisos Kwiatkowski informed the Austrian Foreign Minister Baron Burian of the Turkish intentions to pursue the genocide. He wrote: "on 26 November Rafet Bey told me: 'we must finish off the Greeks as we did with the Armenians'...on 28 November. Rafet Bey told me: 'today I sent squads to the interior to kill every Greek on sight'. I fear for the elimination of the entire Greek population and a repeat of what occurred last year" [meaning the Armenian genocide].

Henry Morgenthau, U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire (1913-1916) wrote:
"The Armenians are not the only subject people in Turkey which have suffered from this policy of making Turkey exclusively the country of Turks. The story which I have told about the Armenians I could also tell with certain modifications about the Greeks and Syrians [Assyrians]. Indeed the Greeks were the first victims of this nationalizing idea".

George Horton, U.S. Consul and Consul-General in the Near East, including Smyrna (1911-1917 and 1919-1922) on page 194 in his 1926 book "The Blight of Asia" writes:
"In January 1916, the Greek deportations from the Black Sea began. These Greeks came through the city of Marsovan by thousands, walking for the most part the three days' journey through snow and mud and slush of the winter weather. Thousands fell by the wayside from exhaustion and others came into the city of Marsovan in groups of fifty,

.../2

The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.



CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS
ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ
CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

1220, rue de Beauharnois, Suite 109, Montréal (QC) H4N 1J5 - chcsecret@gmail.com

2/

one hundred and five hundred, always under escort of Turkish gendarmes. Next morning these poor refugees were started on the road and destruction by this treatment was even more radical than a straight massacre such as the Armenians suffered before.”

British Prime Minister David Lloyd George (1863-1945), speaking on Greek deportations in the House of Commons on August 4, 1922, declared:

“...tens of thousands of men, women and children have been deported, and tens of thousands have died. It was pure deliberate extermination. ‘Extermination’ is not my word. It is the word being used by the American mission...”

The historical evidence is clear. There can be no doubt that the actions of the Ottoman Empire were a “deliberate extermination” of Pontic Greeks. This genocide, the first of the 20th century, is one of the darkest moments in mankind’s history and one of the heinous crimes against humanity. This heinous crime was the precursor to the Holocaust committed by the Nazis against Jews, Roma and other peoples during the Second World War. The extermination methods used by the Ottoman Empire against the Pontic Greeks and the Armenians were adopted and refined by the Nazis. Over 353,000 Pontic Greeks were exterminated.

The Pontic Greek Genocide was part and parcel of the Armenian Genocide, which was recognised by the Senate of Canada with a motion (Motion No. 44) in 2002 and reaffirmed by the Senate in 2015.

We ask for no less and we urge you to pass this motion as we must not forget this brutal and heinous crime against our Greek ancestors and humanity. This will also help mankind prevent such crimes from being repeated.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis
President

The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.