



Commemorating the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide

Worldwide Reading on 21st April, 2015

The appeal is signed by:

ALBANIA Lindita Arapi **ALGERIA** Yahia Belaskri | Amara Lakhous | Boualem Sansal | Habib Tengour **ARGENTINA** María Teresa Andruetto | Ana Arzoumanian | Maria Cecilia Barbeta | Ariel Dorfman | Alberto Manguel | Eduardo Sguiglia **ARMENIA** Anahit Astoyan | Hagop Avedikian | Gurgun Gasparyan | Marine Karoyan | Nare Karoyan | Tigran Mansurian | Vahram Martirosyan | Hasmik Papian | Pargev Shahbazyan **AUSTRALIA** Pam Brown | Brian Castro | Peter Goldsworthy | Kevin Hart | Gail Jones | Herb Wharton **AUSTRIA** Josef Haslinger | Wolfgang Hermann | Gerald Jatzek | Elfriede Jelinek | Peter Stephan Jungk | Konrad Kuhn | Herbert Mauer | Birgit Müller-Wieland | Anna Maria Pammer | Martin Pollack **BELGIUM** Stefaan Van den Bremt | David Van Reybrouck **BELOUSSIA** | Vasyk Makhno **BRAZIL** Ricardo Azevedo | Rafael Cardoso | João Paulo Cuenca | Milton Hatoum | Reinaldo Moraes **BULGARIA** Georgi Gospodinov | Haralampi Oroschakoff | Tzveta Sofronieva **CAMEROON** Jean Claude Awono **CANADA** Paul Dutton | Agop J. 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Appeal for a worldwide reading on April 21st 2015

The international literature festival berlin (ilb) and the Lepsiushaus Potsdam are calling for a worldwide reading on 21 April 2015 - the day that marks 100 years since the beginning of the Armenian Genocide.

Several hundred Armenian intellectuals – poets, musicians, parliamentary representatives and members of the clergy – were arrested in Constantinople (today Istanbul) on 24 April 1915, and deported to the Turkish interior where most of them were murdered. It was the start of a crime against humanity. The extermination of the Armenians during World War One was the first systematically planned and executed genocide of modern times. More than a million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire died during this genocidal campaign.

The events took place before the eyes of the whole world and were clearly documented by German, Austro-Hungarian, Italian, American, Scandinavian, Armenian and Ottoman sources as well as by a great number of historical research projects. As early as August 1915, The New York Times reported on a methodically planned programme of ethnic cleansing and extermination which was unprecedented in history up to that time. The German Reich's government, which was allied to the Ottoman Empire, reached the same conclusions without undertaking anything against what was happening.

The Turkish political world denies the Armenian Genocide up to the present day, although the facts have been known for more than a hundred years. The Indian writer Arundhati Roy has spoken publicly about this scandal on many occasions, including at the 2009 international literature festival berlin.

A great number of Armenian voices were silenced in 1915 and in the years thereafter. Since then, others have become loud and have spoken out against forgetting, among them an increasing number of voices from the democratic Turkish civil society. In remembrance of the victims and in association with the demand for international recognition of the genocide, we are calling for a worldwide reading on 21 April 2015, with literary texts from Armenian authors, among them Varujan Vosganian, Zabel Yesayan, Siamanto, Daniel Varujan, Krikor Zohrab, Rupen Sevag, Komitas, Yeghishhe Charents, William Saroyan, Hovhannes Shiraz, Paruyr Sevak, Hakop Mntsurian, Silva Kaputikyan and Hrant Dink.



LEPSIUSHAUS
POTSDAM

For more information about the venues and times of the worldwide readings see www.worldwide-reading.com

15th international literature festival  berlin
9th – 19th September, 2015