قرن من العنف التركي من مذابح الأرمن إ »»»»»»»»»»

> *Adly Mahmoud Mansour, the acting President of Egypt, is the head of the Supreme Constitutional Court. He has declared in his twitter account that Egypt will recognize the Genocide of the Armenians. Below is well know columnist Karam Said's article in Albawabh News. See translation following the text in Arabic.*

مذبحة الأرمن

Egypt to Acknowledge Armenian Genocide

By Raymond Ibrahim, 17 August 2013

Possibly as a response to Prime Minister Erdogan's Islamist-led government of Turkey — which, like its U.S. counterpart, has been condemning and threatening Egypt for trying to liberate itself from the yoke of the Muslim Brotherhood — Veto news agency reports that,

> *Egypt today decided to sign onto the international document recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Said Egypt's interim president, Adly Mansour, on his twitter account: "Our representatives at the United Nations will sign the international document that acknowledges the Armenian Genocide, which was committed by the Turkish military, leading to the deaths of one million."*

Sadly, inasmuch as Egypt moves in the right direction, so, too, does the United States — which was once the leader of freedom and human rights — condemn and attack it, under the Obama administration.

> *Adly Mahmoud Mansour, the acting President of Egypt, is the head of the Supreme Constitutional Court. He has declared in his twitter account that Egypt will recognize the Genocide of the Armenians. Below is well know columnist Karam Said's article in Albawabh News. See translation following the text in Arabic.*

مذبحة الأرمن

Egypt to Acknowledge Armenian Genocide

By Raymond Ibrahim, 17 August 2013

Possibly as a response to Prime Minister Erdogan's Islamist-led government of Turkey — which, like its U.S. counterpart, has been condemning and threatening Egypt for trying to liberate itself from the yoke of the Muslim Brotherhood — Veto news agency reports that,

> *Egypt today decided to sign onto the international document recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Said Egypt's interim president, Adly Mansour, on his twitter account: "Our representatives at the United Nations will sign the international document that acknowledges the Armenian Genocide, which was committed by the Turkish military, leading to the deaths of one million."*

Sadly, inasmuch as Egypt moves in the right direction, so, too, does the United States — which was once the leader of freedom and human rights — condemn and attack it, under the Obama administration.

مذبحة الأرمن

تقرير: كرم سعيد

في خطوة غير مسبوقة أعلنت القاهرة عن توقيعها على الاتفاقية التي تدين أحداث إبادة الأرمن التي ارتكبها الأتراك (الدولة العثمانية) في 24 أبريل 1915، ويأتي الموقف الجديدة للقاهرة اتساقاً مع سياستها التي ترتكز على إعلاء حقوق الإنسان أولاً، ورداً على توغل تركيا في الشأن المصري، ومحاولتها المستمرة تدويل الشأن المصري ثانيًا.

والأرجح أن العنف الممنهج والمجازر البشعة التي ارتكبتها الامبراطورية العثمانية بحق الأرمن خلال وبعد الحرب العالمية الأولى، لم يكن الأول من نوعه، فقد سبقته سلسلة طويلة من الممارسات القمعية ضد أبناء الولايات التي كانت تقع في كنف الامبراطورية العثمانية آنذاك.

على صعيد ذي شأن فإن تركيا الحديثة لم تتطهر بعد من عفن القمع الذى لا يزال يمسك بتلابيب أجهزتها وساستها، وكان بارزاً، هنا، أن استخدام القوة المفرطة في فض التظاهرات السلمية في ميدان (تقسيم) باسطنبول قد كشف عن تراجع شعبية حزب العدالة والتنمية وكشفت عن سوءات هذا الحزب الذى طالما حاول القفز عليها عبر التدخل في شأن دول الجوار تارة أو الترويج لمساومات مع قضايا داخلية مزمنة مثل القضية الكردية تارة أخرى.

غير أن محرقة الأرمن المعترف بها على نطاق واسع تعتبر من جرائم الإبادة الجماعية الأولى في التاريخ الحديث، وثاني أكبر قضية عن المذابح بعد الهولوكست.، إذ تم قتل وإبادة ما يقرب من مليون ونصف المليون نسمة إضافة إلى عمليات الترحيل والتهجير القسري لعدد آخر من السكان.

المثير أن خطة استئصال الأرمن كانت معد سلفاً، لاسيما بعد أن أقدمت الامبراطورية العثمانية آنذاك على توقيع معاهدة سرية مع المانيا، تنص على تغيير الحدود الشرقية للإمبراطورية لضم ممر للوصول إلى القوميات المسلمة في روسيا.، وهو الأمر الذى تطلب بالأساس ضرورة تسريع اقتلاع وجود أبناء الشعب الأرمني من المنطقة المعنية.

وفى سياق تبرير المخطط التركي، ادعت الدولة العثمانية بليل أو من وراء ستار أن روسيا قامت بإثارة الأرمن الروس القاطنين قرب الحدود الروسية العثمانية، فبدأت بتحريضهم وإمدادهم بالمال والسلاح والقيام بتدريبهم في أراضيها وتشكيل الجمعيات المسلحة مثل جماعة خنجاق وطاشناق وغيرها من الجماعات المسلحة، كما روجت تركيا لدور بريطانى في دعم هذه المنظمات، لاسيما وأنها كانت تريد تفتيت الامبراطورية العثمانية التي وقفت نداً قوياً لها في الحرب العالمية الأولى.

إن شبح المذبحة الأرمنية لا يزال يقلق مضاجع تركيا حتى الآن حيث ترفض الاعتراف بالمذبحة، وتنفى وقوع المجازر التي ارتكبها الأجداد، غير أن الأمم المتحدة ومن خلفها المنظمات الأوروبية وتلك المهتمة بحقوق الإنسان نجحت في إعادة الزخم للأزمة الأرمنية، وبدا ذلك في اعتراف عشرين دولة رسميا بمذابح الأرمن بأنها إبادة جماعية.

في هذا السياق العام تأتى الخطوة المصرية بالاعتراف بمذابح الأرمن، لتنصف من جديد قضية إنسانية تحاول قوى دولية المتاجرة بها مع أنقرة، وتغض قوى أخرى الطرف عنها فلا تلقى بالا بقيم الإنسانية ومرتكزاتها التي تقوم على حق الحياة واحترام الآدمية.

The Armenian Massacre

.Report: Karam Said, Translated by MA

In an unprecedented step, Cairo announced the signing of the Convention, which condemns the events of the Armenian genocide committed by the Turks (the Ottoman Empire) on April 24, 1915. Cairo's new position is consistent with its policy, which is based on the upholding of human rights firstly, and in response to the incursion by Turkey in the affairs of Egypt, and the ongoing attempt to internationalize the Egyptian affairs secondly.

It is likely that the systematic violence and gruesome massacres committed by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians during and after World War I was not the first of its kind. It was preceded by a long series of repressive practices against the provinces which were located within the confines of the Ottoman Empire at the time.

Modern Turkey did not purify herself after the musty repression, which still holds the grips of its agencies and politicians. What was striking here is that the use of excessive force to break up peaceful demonstrations in Taksim Square in Istanbul has revealed the decline in popularity of the ruling Justice and Development Party and the mischief of this party, which has long tried to sometimes jump on them through intervention in the neighboring countries and sometimes promote temporary bargains with internal issues such as the Kurdish issue.

However, the holocaust of Armenians recognized widely considered one of the first crimes of genocide in modern history, and the second largest cause of the massacres after the Holocaust. Nearly a million and a half million people were killed and exterminated, in addition to the deportations and forced displacement of a number of other residents.

Interestingly, the plan to eradicate Armenians was prepared in advance, especially after the Ottoman Empire at the time signed a secret Treaty with Germany, which stipulates changing the eastern borders of the empire to include corridor to reach the ethnic Muslim in Russia. This in itself was a matter requiring essentially the need to accelerate the uprooting of the Armenian people from the region in question.

In the context of justifying the Turkish plan, the Ottoman Empire claimed at night, or from behind a curtain, that Russia had instigated the Russian Armenians living near the Russian-Ottoman border and began to agitate then and provide them with money and weapons, and to train them in their territory and form armed associations, such as the Hunchak and Tashnak groups as well as other armed groups. Turkey also alluded to a British role in supporting these organizations, especially since they wanted to break up the Ottoman Empire and stood as a strong adversary during the First World War.

The ghost of the Armenian massacre continues to worry Turkey to date, for Turkey refuses to recognize the massacre, and denies the occurrence of the massacres committed by the ancestors. However, the United Nations and, after her, those European organizations concerned with human rights have succeeded in restoring the momentum of the Armenian crisis, and this became evident through twenty countries which officially recognized the Armenian massacres as genocide.

In this general context, the Egyptian move to recognize the massacres of Armenians comes to do justice once again to a humanitarian cause, which international powers are trying to trade with Ankara, while other parties ignore it and do not care for humanitarian values and their principles that are based on the right to life and respect for mankind.

Egypt's Largest Independent Daily Newspaper Recognizes Turkey's Genocide Against Armenians

By Appo K. Jabarian
Executive Publisher / Managing Editor
USA Armenian Life Magazine

August 17, 2013

Turkey's posturing in the Muslim world and especially Middle East suffered yet one more serious political blow last week when Mr. Essam Kamel, Editor-in-Chief of "Veto" Egypt's largest independent daily newspaper wrote a scathing editorial condemning Ottoman Turkey's genocidal dark past.

Mr. Kamel went on to criticize Turkey's continued denial of the genocide against Armenians; and for having committed countless other atrocities and injustices against former subject peoples of the Ottoman Empire.

In my capacity as Managing Editor of USA Armenian Life Magazine, I wrote Mr. Kamel an email in both Arabic and English languages thanking him and saying: "Please accept my heartfelt gratitude

for writing such a powerful article and for showing courage and integrity in addressing the historic facts of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by Ottoman Turkey."

No later than couple hours he responded: "Greetings, genuine appreciations and then some. The position we adopt is consistent with the most basic principles of humanity. Whatever the Ottoman Empire did in Egypt is specifically in line with its mistreatment of the peaceful Armenian people. And what they did against your ancestors is beyond description and your struggle for international recognition is honorable and we share your struggle with all the means available to us. It's our honor to do so. Please accept my sincere greetings."

In his regular column titled "Landmines—Detonated by Essam Kamel," the Editor-in-Chief of "Veto" Egyptian newspaper wrote: "The Egyptian government has the right to hesitate in acknowledging the massacres of Armenians by the Turkish forces due to the high incitement of Asitana (today's Ankara) as this acknowledgement will have bad repercussions on the Egyptian-Turkish relations. This Egyptian hesitation will not stop me, the signer below — to acknowledge the genocidal collective massacres suffered by the Armenian people throughout their history during the era of Ottoman Empire, which (successor Turkey) here comes again (to Egypt) with the support of the fascist brothers (of Muslim Brotherhood)."

Quoting famous Egyptian historian Dr. Mohammad Refaat Al Imam, Mr. Kamel underlined: "As Dr. Refaat said, the Armenians are the people whom the Ottoman Empire called 'Millet Sadiqa' ('The honest community') for their loyalty and fidelity to the country and the Sultan. But despite all this, they were the most persecuted group of people in the world that was subjected to genocide throughout all their history because of their struggle for their rights. Like the Egyptian saying goes, "Nihayat khedmatel-ghaz alka)" (which means to say "not just one episode of tragedy but an endless chain of persecutions were befallen on Armenians" – so Armenians weren't just stricken once but they got slaughtered, looted and killed in the streets like nobody else in the history of the Ottoman Empire. There was a whole Army called "Firak Al Khayala Al-Hamidia" ("Hamidian Horse Rider Units") named after the Sultan Abdel Hamid who executed not just hundreds but actually thousands in the streets and the genocidal massacres did not occur away from the view of the world, but it was witnessed and known by everybody."

He added: "Some of the chapters of the Armenian tragedy that was recounted in the history books and was known afterwards, was a result of the famous rebellion in Sassoon in 1894 when the massacres against the defenseless people started October 13 of the same year and lasted until November 30 of the following year where more than 100 thousand people died and more than half a million Armenians were rendered homeless. The city of Raha alone suffered gruesome massacres on 28 and 29 of December, 1895 where 3000 Armenians were burned and died in the streets. Around 117 years ago, specifically on 26 August, 1896, and after being fed up and frustrated with the situation, a group of Armenian youth who belonged to the Tashnaq party took over the Ottoman Bank in Asitana (Constantinople – modern day Istanbul) and took hostages. They offered to release

the hostages if the Ottoman Empire would promise to ameliorate life for Armenians and would recognize their rights. When the Ottoman Empire failed to control the situation, Russia helped solving it by offering the combatants to leave the country in a French ship and guaranteed their safety on condition that the Ottoman Empire improves the life of Armenians. As the Armenian youth were getting onto the ship, the Sultan and Turkish units were committing massacres against Armenians in the streets to the extent that they killed the entire Armenian population of ('Kassem quarters') 'Hay Kassem Basha' and the ('Jewish Quarters') 'Hay al Yahoudi'."

He further wrote: "These are some of the aspects of Turkish Genocide against Armenians, as the Turks were never civilized. They never maintained a heritage of illumination. They didn't follow the (Islamic) religious tenets of love and tolerance, but they were tools for sabotage, destruction and killings. They were always known for that and that's what we witnessed in our country (Egypt). When they were occupying our country, they plundered our wealth, they cursed our country and spread hatred and ignorance among our people for the whole period of what they called the Ottoman Caliphate (Succession) (Al Khilafa Al-Othmania)."

Mr. Kamel concluded lambasting Turkey: "That's what the (Turkish) state is attempting — helping and supporting Mohammad Morsi to come back to power and once again to rule us and take over our country and plunder our wealth in the name of religion just like they did before. Religion is never about what they are doing."

Shedding light on Turkey's black pages of massive and systematic Armenian annihilation, he noted: "Whoever follows the facts on Armenian massacres is very aware of the humanitarian tragedy that surrounded a nation that until today is still insisting on its identity. And whoever reads the dark history of the Turks and their Empire will know very well why Erdogan is supporting the terrorist brotherhoods. And whoever reads what the Armenians went through will definitely acknowledge the collective genocide that Turkey perpetrated against a defenseless people."

Soon after embattled President Morsi's fall from power Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan made no secret of being wary of Muslim-Brotherhood-backed Mohammed Morsi's fall and of Egypt's non-Islamist opposition gaining regional momentum, much like the Arab uprisings. Mr. Erdogan's radical Islamist meddling in Egypt's internal affairs has antagonized large segments of the Egyptian society all the way from the streets to the highest echelons of the most populous Arab state.

It seems that Mr. Kamel's commentary acknowledging the Armenian Genocide comes at a time when public discussions in Egypt have been multiplying and popular consensus has been fast building in support of official recognition of Armenian Genocide.

Obviously it's not a matter of "if." It's a matter of "when" Egypt will set a morally healthy example in Asia and Africa ushering in a new era free of imperial neo-ottoman Turkish presence in Egypt and the region.

Egypt also stands to regain her leadership role in the Arab world by keeping Erdogan's fascist Islamist-backing Turkey at bay, setting the stage for Pan-Arab nationalism's victory over Turkish-backed misguided Pan-Islamism.