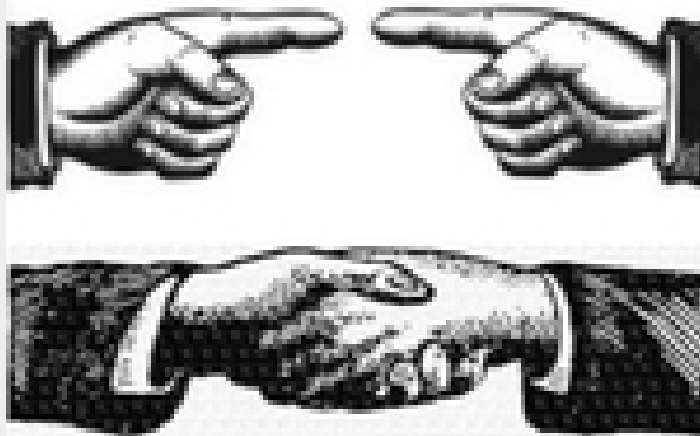


"RECONCILIATION": DEADLY MISCONCEPTION

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By **Vart Adjemian**, Fort Lauderdale FL, 7 April 2015

A recent incident at the Armenian Cultural Association of America (ACAA) "Hye Getron" in South Florida reminded me of "[The Case of Self-Reconciliation](#)" Keghart.com editorial (Feb. 20, 2015).

✘ The South Florida Armenian Relief Society (ARS) chapter was holding a dinner event on the occasion of Lent. The newly-arrived pastor delivered a speech about the significance of Lent and the Armenian religious and cultural traditions leading to Easter Sunday. It was an appropriate theme. However, he digressed from the topic and began talking about the Genocide and made statements about reconciliation, forgiveness and about making peace with the Turks. Attendants vehemently--and rightly so--objected to his remarks and observations.

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I have no idea whether the pastor was expressing his opinions and convictions or if he was influenced by the "Reconciliation-Industrial Complex"--a term coined by the Keghart editorial.

A number of recently formed organizations in Armenia, in other countries of the Caucasus and in Turkey are very active and vocal on this issue. To name a few: the Civilitas Foundation; the Caucasus Institute of Yerevan; the Eurasia partnership Foundation; and the Regional Studies Centre. They have a common purpose and motive under the broad umbrella of "conflict resolution in the Caucasus region".

What is alarming about these organizations are the following factors which should be scrutinized and viewed with skepticism:

- They are formed and run by high-profile, highly-educated people. Some of them have held positions

in the government of Armenia and come from respected academic circles.

- Some members of their boards or honorary boards (non- Armenian ones) are openly Genocide deniers and are pro-Turkey, pro-Azerbaijan or are affiliated with organizations that lobby and work

against the recognition of the Genocide.

- Their funding comes mainly from Western sources (U.S., U.K, Germany and Turkey).
- The main thrust of these organizations is to hold dialogues with Turkey and Azerbaijan, to reconcile,

make peace, walk away from Armenian rights and demands of Genocide recognition and reparations,

accompanied by a minimalist request for an acknowledgment and/or an apology.

On the eve of the Genocide Centennial, with the Pope's declaration, other favorable events and developments, plus mostly positive world-wide media coverage, these organizations are not acting in the interest of our cause and purpose. They are self-serving and have hidden agendas. What is scary is that they have begun to influence the psyche of impressionable Armenians.

There can be no Turkish-Armenian reconciliation without recognition of the Genocide and appropriate reparations. We need unity of purpose and not misconceptions and unacceptable, unrealistic ideas. We cannot and should not give up our rights.

