

TIME TO PLAN FOR A NEW PROJECT

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 **Avedis Kevorkian**, Philadelphia, PA USA, 15 March 2016

Most of the following essay was written in 2014 and is being only slightly modified.

Why it wasn't submitted anywhere, at that time, is because I realized that I was expecting too much from the Armenians, and that I had better wait to see if my surmise that the Centenary observances would be a big nothing was right (It was) and that this might be the next project for the Armenians.



I began:--

Although it would appear that the Armenians are going to set off a fire-cracker and not a magnificent fireworks to mark the Centennial of the start of the Armenian Genocide, it is likely that the Turks are not going to let go to waste the millions they have spent buying editors, buying politicians, stimulating their whores to deny history.

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Therefore, it is up to the Armenians who care about the forthcoming Centenary to mount their own campaign against what will be a Turkish onslaught of lies.

I propose (Yes, I am proposing again), that the Armenians campaign, with everything they write or speak, to accuse the Turks of Vericide--the Killing of Truth.

If we make an effort, we may succeed in coupling the words "genocide" and "vericide" with the Turks.

Let every letter we write to counter another Turkish lie begin with "In another example of Vericide, . . ."; or "The recent statement by is another example of Turkish Vericide, because. . . ."

Even though letters to the leading Turkish apologists at the White House and Foggy Bottom are useless, letters should be sent to them and they should always include the term "Vericide" in one way or other to let them know that they, too, are committing "vericide." The same, of course, to Members of Congress and to the Media.

Having made the point at the beginning of the letter, the body should include the truth or a counter-fact.

It is unlikely that the Turks and their apologists will try to counter the Vericide campaign because it will contribute to the Armenian effort.

For instance, just recently a so-called "scholar" published a report that denied that Raphael Lemkin ever referred to the Armenian genocide much less used the Armenian experience as the basis of his coining the word "genocide" and striving to make it a "crime against humanity." It does not take much for a lie like that to gain acceptance, and vigilance is needed.

Oddly, at about the time that scurrilous "research" was published, so, too, was an interesting research paper by an Armenian who delved into the (neutral-during-World-War-One) Swedish archives and discovered that Swedish diplomat [Hjalmar Branting](#) who, in a speech before the French, Russian, Belgian, and Italian ambassadors about the Armenian massacres, used the word "folk mord"--in effect, "genocide," in Swedish--raising the question as to whether Lemkin may have known about the Swede when he coined his word. But, it matters not. What is important, here is yet another arrow in the Armenian quiver.

If editors use such letters, it is possible that others may take up the use of the word "vericide" for their own pet peeves--and, thus, give the word universal acceptance. In fact, come to think of it, it is even possible that the Turks will use the word "vericide" because they have used the word "genocide" when it suits them--against Israel, for instance.

At this point, I eliminate the original ending, and now add the following:

There was a vast difference between the excellent actions of governments and publications and writers about the Centenary and what the local communities did--very much a nothing, based on the news coverage, or lack of it, including the one in Washington in which the Bobsy Twins conducted a Badarak. The reason, of course, was that the planning should have started in 2010 with special Centenary Committees formed and really ambitious programs agreed to, rather than the virtual repetition of what had been done previously. But, that is now old news.

The Armenians have a new target. The Republic of Turkey will mark its centenary in 2023, and His Royal Highness and the Supreme Greatness and the Chief Sultan of Sultans and Chief Caliph of Caliphs (or whatever he is calling himself nowadays) Recep Tayyip Erdogan has grandiose plans, including being around and as the Chief Pooh-bah.

We saw the recent opening of his magnificent 1100-room Presidential Palace--larger than any

residence of any world leader. Recently, news items appeared that he was planning the construction of the world's largest airport--no doubt in anticipation of the world beating a path to his door in 2023.

What is also in the works, is the world's largest museum--covering just slightly more than two football fields--to be called, with Turkish modesty, "The Museum of Civilization," in which Turkey will be depicted as the logical and natural inheritor of the culture, the civilizations, and the peoples who have inhabited the Anatolian Plateau over the past 10,000 years. (For the record, those who have inhabited the Anatolian Plateau have been the Armenians, the Assyrians, the Carians, the Cilicians, the Cimmarians, the Colchians, the Commagene, the Georgians, the Greeks, the Hattians, the Hittites, the Hurrians, the Iberians, the Kurds, the Luwians, the Lydians, the Mitahni, the Persians, the Phrygians, the Romans, the Scythians, the Seljuk Turks, the Urartians.)

And, it is this that the Armenians must target. Of these inhabitants of the Plateau, over these years, only the Armenians, the Assyrians, the Greeks, and the Kurds are still there (in however diminishing numbers) and who also have the distinction of having been the victims of Turkey's record of inhumanity. What the Turks do about these four peoples will be interesting. Will their existence be acknowledged? Will their contributions be acknowledged?

For instance. In the magnificent Macmillan "Dictionary of Art," 37 pages are devoted to Armenian art and only seven to Turkish art (and of that seven some are of questionable attribution!). How much of that rich heritage will the Turks devote to the Armenians, and how many will they usurp for themselves? The day after the Museum opens is too late for the Armenians to cry "Foul!"

But, if the Past is Prologue, what the Armenians, at least, do, should be more interesting. And, can be effective, if planning starts now, not in mid-2023.

What better way than to strive to label the Turks as master of Vericide?

