

UNITED ACTION LEADS TO VICTORY

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✘ Editorial, 26 November 2013

Starting in [May 2013](#) and for the next four months Keghart.com, along with local Armenian and Alevi **✘** groups launched a campaign, including a petition, to halt the erection of a Turkish monument in Brantford, a city 60 miles west of Toronto.

Perhaps assuming that he could surreptitiously raise a fake monument honoring "Turkish" internees in Canada during the First World War without the knowledge of the Armenian and Alevi communities, the Turkish consul-general Ali Riza Gunay had been lobbying the mayor of Brantford, frequently visiting the city and making friends to advance his project. Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdogan was supposed to cut the ribbon at the unveiling of the monument.

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But thanks to quick and collective action by the Armenians and the Alevis, the monument plan crumbled. Following individual and collective investigations by the two groups, it was revealed that the internees buried at the Brantford Mount Hope cemetery's "Muslim corner" were not Turks or Muslims. They were Alevis, a persecuted religious minority in Turkey.

Seeing his monument had turned into a dust, Mr. Gunay made a second attempt...to have a modest plaque instead. That also bit the dust. The evidence that the people buried at the cemetery were not Turks was rock solid. The story had also become an international story, thanks to dissemination by the Armenians and the Alevis. While Keghart dedicated three editorials to the farce, Canada's Alevi newspaper, "Yeni Hayat", dedicated a whole issue to the controversy. One of the newspaper's headlines read: "[Leave Our Dead Alone!](#)"

The collective action against the Turkish false monument was another example which demonstrated that when we act collectively our chances of success increase significantly.

While individually and collectively Armenians prepare special projects for the 100th commemorations of the Genocide, they should expect counter measures...high-priced promotions, glossy programs, public and "scholarly" events, documentaries, ersatz and phony news

stories...manufactured by denialist Ankara and its PR agents. Every city with a sizeable Armenian community should be prepared for the Turkish propaganda gimmicks which will predictably deny Turkey's crime and even brazenly blame Armenians for their tragedy.

Committees should be on the ready to take on the Turkish falsehoods. We have to be pro-active rather than wait for Turkey and its agents to vomit their lies and then respond at short notice. We should have qualified people who would swiftly expose Ankara lies and pounce on the games Turkey likes to play. We know their boilerplate lies. They have been parroting them for a couple of generations. Counteracting Ankara's lies should not be difficult. All we have to do is be prepared.

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