

# California State University, Fresno

CSU

ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM  
Fresno, California 93740



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## ASA Sponsors Kouymjian Lecture Tour

The Armenian Students' Association will be sponsoring a series of lectures by Dr. Dickran Kouymjian to be held in various communities during the month of April. As part of the celebration of the ASA's

75th Anniversary, the committee has coordinated the lecture tour in conjunction with the 70th year commemorating the Armenian Genocide. Dr. Kouymjian was a participant in Paris last April at the Perma-

gent Tribunal's session on the Genocide of the Armenians - a session which resulted in the clear determination by the Tribunal's members that an act of genocide was committed by

## Kouymjian

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the Young Turk rulers of the Ottoman state against the Armenian nation, and that the present Turkish government shares responsibility for the recognition of that genocide and its consequences.

Dr. Dickran Kouymjian was born in Roumania and grew up in Chicago, and later Wisconsin. He is married to Angèle Kapoian, a teacher, research scholar, and author, and they currently reside in Paris. Dr. Kouymjian received his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin in History and Culture, his M.A. in Arab Studies from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and his Ph.D from Columbia University in Near East Languages and Culture

with a major concentration on Armenian Studies and a minor in Arabic, Turkic, and Persian cultural history. In addition, Dr. Kouymjian has studied at Harvard University, American University in Cairo, Egypt, and Ecole Pratiques des Hautes Etudes, Paris, specializing in various aspects of Near East cultures. He is currently Professor of Armenian History and Art and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno.

His other work experience has included Director of the Armenian Department at Haigazian College, Beirut, Director of Armenian Studies at American University of Beirut, and Instructor of Near Eastern History and Art at American University in Cairo, Haigazian College, American University of Beirut, and American College in Paris. In 1976, Dr. Kouymjian

was a consultant on a UNESCO mission to Libya working with their department of antiquities on ancient coins.

Dr. Kouymjian has held membership in many professional societies, among them, Middle East Studies Association, American Historical Society, Armenian Numismatic and Artifacts Society, and the Society for Armenian Studies. He has published numerous articles and books, and has presented lectures to different societies and academic groups.

The topic for his upcoming tour will be "The Destruction of Armenian Historical Monuments as a Continuation of the Turkish Policy of Genocide." Lectures are scheduled for New York (April 14), Syracuse (April 15), Worcester (April 16), Boston (April 17), Norwalk, CT (April 18), Providence (April 19), and Philadelphia (April 21).

## ASA To Sponsor Anniversary Lectures

The Armenian Students' Association is setting a precedent by jointly commemorating its 75th anniversary and the 70th year marking the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. The Board of Trustees and the Central Executive Committee will be offering a series of lectures on the "Meaning of the Genocide in 1985." Special emphasis will be placed on the powerful verdict given against the Turkish state in April, 1984 at the conclusion of the session on the Armenian Genocide by the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal in Paris.

In order to provide as wide and dynamic a discussion as possible, the Armenian Students' Association has asked Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Professor of Armenian Studies and Director of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno, to address its various branches throughout the month of April. Prof. Kouymjian testified at the

Permanent Tribunal on the subject of "The Destruction of Armenian Monuments as a Continuation of the Turkish Policy of Genocide." Parts of his testimony will be illustrated by slides of Armenian churches which have suffered deliberate destruction. Dr. Kouymjian, will also speak on the meaning of Genocide today and address such questions often raised as "Are Armenians too obsessively caught up with the Genocide, and shouldn't they focus more on positive aspects of their history and culture?"

In choosing to celebrate its 75th anniversary in this manner, the Armenian Students' Association is promoting in the community a high level of discussion on both immediate and eternal problems of Armenia's unusually long and rich history. In addition to supporting countless Armenians in their pursuit of university studies through its annual

scholarship and loan programs, the Armenian Students' Association also honors outstanding individuals in the Armenian-American community with various awards. Branches in Boston, Detroit, Fairfield County, New York, Philadelphia, Providence and Greater Syracuse have combined their efforts since the beginning of the century and are grateful to those who have helped in maintaining such high pursuits of achievement.

Lectures have been scheduled for New York, Syracuse, Worcester, Boston, Fairfield County, Providence, and Philadelphia. More details on each of Dr. Kouymjian's appearances will be given at a later date. Those who have questions or would like further information on this ASA lecture program may contact the Armenian Students' Association, P.O. Box 6947, Providence, RI 02940.

## Turkey now Turns to Cultural Genocide to Complete Extermination

BY AVEDIS DEROUMANIAN

*This is the concluding section of the previous articles covering the two-day session of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal held in Paris April 13-14.*

### Turkish Monopoly on "Truth"

Tribunal secretary Mr. Gianni Tognoni stated the Turkish Embassy had been invited to send representatives but the Tribunal had been supplied with only booklets and reports. In fairness to the Turks Mr. Tognoni read sections in detail. To this writer they were a rehash of the official propaganda line distributed in this country, alleging that only the Turkish position, only Turkish statistics, only the Turkish point of view was valid. Anything to the contrary - including the testimony of U.S. ambassadors and official reports in the national Archives - was either fake, biased stories by Christian missionaries, or outright lies.

Noteworthy were Turkish claims that eastern Asia Minor - corresponding to the territory outlined by President Wilson - was never an Armenian homeland, that Turks had been there first, that the Ottomans never persecuted Armenians, never massacred them, never tried to exterminate them but had tried merely to "relocate" them for their own safety, it would seem much as Germany's Jews were "relocated" to gas chambers in Auschwitz. Poor Ottoman Turkey was being maligned by artful deceivers of the truth which obviously remains a perpetual Turkish monopoly.

Sessions of the Tribunal were pleasantly interrupted by the unexpected appearance of

Yilmaz Guney, the brilliant Kurdish Director of "Yol" a movie widely shown in the U.S. depicting Turkish life and conditions, particularly its prisons where torture has been institutionalized. Mr. Guney read a statement describing not only current repression of Kurds and Kurdish rights, but also, he indicated, the beginnings of a genocidal course against the Kurdish presence. We shall have more to say in another article as we have a copy of Mr. Guney's speech.

Prof. J. Verhoeven of Belgium read an extraordinarily clear and concise analysis of what constituted genocide in fact and how the ordeal of the Armenian people under Ottoman persecution fitted into that category. We considered it a priceless legal document to serve as background for any further presentation of the Armenian case whenever definitions and procedures established by the various United Nations commissions are pursued. The text of Prof. Verhoeven's statement is found in our first article which established the juridical context of the work of the Tribunal.

### Extraordinary Slide Show

The final presentation was unforgettable. If a picture is worth a thousand words the colored slides of Dr. Dickran Kouymjian, Professor of Armenian history and art at California State University, Fresno, showing current Turkish efforts at cultural genocide of Armenian churches, monuments and architectural gems was worth millions. We had never seen anything like it - the brilliant photography, the matchless ex-

position, the "before" and "after" (current scenes of destruction) sequences were so extraordinarily vivid and telling that they brought tears to our eyes. "It is a continuation of the Turkish policy of genocide," Dr. Kouymjian said, "and this time there is no Ottoman regime to blame it on. It is the work of post-war genociders in power today who, in an effort "to complete the genocide by removing forever any association of the Armenian people to the newly sequestered lands [real historic Armenia] are trying to rewrite and revise history. It is a continuation of the Ottoman-directed genocide. Nothing less. Armenian monuments are marked for total destruction as were our people."

Dr. Kouymjian's presentation lasted nearly 30 minutes. No oral testimony had commanded such rapt attention during the two-day session and it brought to a fitting climax the testimony of scholars and research historians. Surely, this viewer thought, as the Turks are now systematically exterminating these gems of our once living culture we must consider them nothing less than descendants of the genocidal Turk. This fact should be proclaimed to the world-at-large, not limited to viewers in restricted circles. Some elements of our State Department would be well advised to view how genocide is being carried on under their noses, instead of swallowing the self-righteous boloney doled out by paid and unpaid Turkish agents and by revisionist pseudo-historians engaged in sanitizing the sordid record of the Ottoman regime.