

Armenian Sisters Statement

We need a map of the world which shows every indigenous people and how they can be supported in their freedom struggle. For instance, how can indigenous Armenians get reparations for the billions of dollars worth of land and homes, and the murder of over half the Armenian population during the 1915 Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman Turks? Many of the survivors of the Turkish attempt to exterminate all Armenians don't have documents like deeds to their land and houses or birth certificates of their murdered relatives. Very few Armenians remain in their ancient Western Armenian homeland. It is hard to collect data there.

How can we find out how many Armenian children were abducted by the Turks and Kurds and don't know they are Armenian? How many Armenians were forced to convert to Islam and change their names and language? How many Armenian women were raped and forced to raise their children in the conquerors culture? How many Armenian women refused to marry Turks and were butchered or threw themselves over cliffs to avoid degradation?

The Turks deny the genocide and spend a lot of money sponsoring professors and politicians to promote a distorted history that erases the genocide and blames the victims. Besides the physical genocide there is also the cultural genocide. Ancient Armenian monuments are being desecrated and Armenian archeologists are not allowed to work in their ancient homeland. Even the sacred Armenian mountain, Mt. Ararat is under Turkish control.

Armenians have little hope of getting back the 90% of their land that was stolen by Turkey. Only under the other 10% is now the Republic of Armenia that recently gained independence from Soviet control. However Armenia is currently being blockaded by Azerbaijan and Turkey causing economic loss. Many Armenians have left Armenia to get jobs.

During the Communist regime part of Armenia, Nagorno-Karabagh (Artsakh is the Armenian name) was unjustly given to Azerbaijan. During Glasnost NK Armenians peacefully petitioned to rejoin Armenia, but Azeris murdered Armenians in Baku and Sumgait. The Armenians started a self-defense independence struggle and through great sacrifice and guerilla fighting regained part of their ancient homeland. Even though Nagorno-Karabagh (NK) Armenians won the battle for their self-determination and freedom from persecution by Azerbaijan ^{in 1991} no country recognizes the government of independent Nagorno-Karabagh. We ask all indigenous peoples to recognize the Nagorno-Karabagh government of the indigenous Armenians. We also ask all indigenous people to protest the blockade of Armenia and acknowledge the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

Today Armenians in NK are still being killed by snipers and mines. A generation of girls in NK have a hard time finding husbands or having children because so many Armenian men were killed fighting against Azeri attack. Armenians who were forced by economics to flee to other countries are becoming assimilated and are losing their culture and identity.

We strongly protest that some governments & the UN are misclassifying Armenia as European. Armenia is an ancient Near Eastern culture and was never a part of Europe. Now many Armenians are being miseducated and don't realize they are light skinned people of color and not Europeans. They are disconnected from their homeland and don't identify as the indigenous descendants of the Armenians who have left their ancient homeland. Who is documenting the diminishing of indigenous peoples due to assimilation? Please include Armenia in all your indigenous events. Thank you.

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