



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

BERN EMBASSY

Dear guests,

We are here to commemorate our martyr, Mehmet Savaş Yergüz, who was serving in our Consulate General here in Geneva when he was brutally murdered. 37 years ago, we lost him to Armenian terror, disguised then as ASALA.

I thank you all for your participation in this ceremony of great meaning to us.

There is nothing at hand to bring our colleague back now. However, we are determined to cherish his memory in this city. We will seek ways to do this even more strongly. We once again wish God's mercy upon him.

Dear Friends,

Murder of our colleague is concrete and real, may be more than anything. When you talk to his family, you can still feel the grief in their eyes. You can touch their tears. There is nothing to argue. Since everything is evident, you can not create any fake illusions out of this grief.

However, we sadly observe that devising policies over the memories of the deceased is still relevant in the eyes of the Armenian circles for events of 100 years ago. It is understood that creating further dividing lines between neighbouring states and baselessly accusing our nation of a terrible crime is OK as long as it serves their interests.

We say NO!

We believe that a peaceful common future between Turks and Armenians can only be built on a solid basis through dialogue. We have taken resolute steps to this end for years.

Turkey is not running away from facing history. Our proposal to form a Joint Historical Commission to shed light on 1915 has been on the table since 2005. We are firmly committed to have the 1915 events researched and the true nature of events unveiled by impartial historians.

Unfortunately, we see that, Armenians are far from engaging in this process. Sadly, they continue to run a propaganda war with planned and systematic efforts.

However, at this stage, we are glad to see that the legal framework is with us. We all know that, according to the relevant judgments, including those of the European Court of Human Rights, the events of 1915 is a matter of legitimate debate. And denial of the so-called Armenian genocide is under the protection of freedom of expression and can not be punished.

Unfortunately, some circles are trying to manipulate sad events of the past. They are exploiting those bitter memories for their solely political aspirations. We regard the monument erected in Trembley Park as part of those aspirations. Let me also once more express our disappointment for some local politicians' handling of the issue. I can also share with you the hurt feelings of the Turkish community in Switzerland.

I am concluding my remarks by saying that we are here to build bridges, not to create animosities. We, the Turks, are reconciled with our past. We wish the same thing for others.

Thank you.

İlhan Saygılı

Geneva, the 9th of June 2018