

REMARKS BY MRS. RAKEL DINK
Armenian Assembly of America
National Gala

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Distinguished Members of the Armenian Assembly of America and Dear Friends,

We, as the new branches of the trees that were cut in 1915, have grown throughout the years with deep pain. However, with every pain we suffer, we try to reach the ultimate level of our humanity. With the support of Jesus Christ, we sail towards the future without forgetting our past, without letting it overshadow our future, while being more conscious and proud. While suffering with our sorrow, we are trying to love, forgive, laugh, live and let live, and by learning from our mistakes.

My husband had always defended the fundamental rights and freedoms and tried to reach others' hearts with his unique style. He used to make people remember the suffering of the past, telling people to empathize with others, to try to understand and share their pain. He did this with enormous courage, perseverance, excitement and love. He tried to think, express and write freely.

He also had different dreams for the Armenians of the world but he was murdered by the very people, who insisted not to understand the essay in which he was trying to express this very dream. He dreamed that Armenians would rebuild their culture by looking forward to the future rather than the traumas of the past, and direct all their energies towards this.

Armenia is a vast sea and we, who are living abroad, are lakes who are connected to it through streams. These streams must always be kept open, so that we can persevere.

Dear friends, the genocide resolution is on the agenda in this country once again. I'd like to ask what is being voted there? Even the members, who do not want the resolution to pass, acknowledge that it was genocide which our ancestors had been through. So, what are they actually voting for? Will the things that live in our body and soul so deeply be "real" with the approval of the Members of Congress? Or "unreal", if not passed?

They say that it is genocide, but they do not put their signatures on it. Why? Because they, the politicians, have other hidden agendas. They had their own agendas in 1915 and also in the 1940s. They dealt with Rwanda the same, as with Darfur today.

However, Jesus Christ says, "Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No!'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

They look at our pain with a viewpoint of profit and loss. And what do the Armenians expect from those who look at their suffering in this point of view? In my opinion, Armenians should focus on flourishing and developing the Armenian culture and bring it to humanity, rather than trying to establish their existence by exhausting their emotions on the political table.

Dear friends, you care for and support my dear husband, Hrant Dink, by honoring him. We, of course, feel very pleased for that. But, even more rewarding for us will be to see that his ideas and vision are embraced and followed, just as the love people feel for him.

Thank you.