



Föderation der Dersim Gemeinden in Europa e.V.

Ma 1915 xo vira nêkerd! No dec yê ma pêrinano!

1915ը չմոռացանք: Այս ցավը բոլորիս ցավն է՝

Wir haben 1915 nicht vergessen! We remember 1915!

**From 'Tertelu Viren (first massacre)' to 'Tertelu Peen (second massacre)'
Some wounds do not heal with time...'**

The Armenian Genocide during a century of pain April 24 marks the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and 4th May, the 78th anniversary of the Dersim Genocide. These are the slaughter dates of two very close communities in Turkey. The Dersimers, who had fraternal and neighborly relationships with the Armenians living in Dersim, feel the pain of the Armenians as their own pain. The Dersimers feel the pain of the Genocide in their hearts. It is for this reason that the Dersimers call the Armenian massacre the 'first tertele' and their own as the 'second tertele'.

During the Genocide many Dersimer, protected and hid their ancient friends, the Armenians. More than that, they did not only provide them a refuge, but they also helped them to escape to Erzincan where they could be rescued by the Russians.

Before and after the establishment of the Turkish Republic, a racist mindset is persisting, trying to create one prototype of a citizen by slaughtering minorities who had a different religion, language, and culture. It has not yet faced neither the Armenian Genocide at its 100th anniversary nor the Dersim Genocide at its 78th anniversary. Not facing the mistakes of the past puts salt into the wounds; it does not allow the healing of the wounds and to put behind suffering and pain; the wounds continue bleeding as long history is not faced.

At the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we expect the Turkish Republic to take the necessary steps. We expect them to face the Armenian Genocide; facing history does not put down a State; to the contrary, it does glorify the country and increases its prestige. It makes reconciliation possible between the victims and the perpetrators, prevents social polarization and sensitizes against massacres.

At this 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we are bowing respectfully before the memory of our slaughtered Armenian brothers and sisters; their pain shall be our pain.

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On behalf of

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(European Federation of Dersim Associations)