

## Governor Lucey of Wisconsin in Proclamation

**MILWAUKEE, Wis. —** Governor Patrick J. Lucey signed a proclamation April 17 declaring the week of April 24-30, 1973 as **ARMENIAN MARTYRS WEEK**, in recognition of 1 1-2 million Armenians massacred by the Turkish government in 1915 and 1 million other Armenians who were forcibly expelled from their homes in historical Armenia.

The event was widely publicized in issues of **Milwaukee Sentinel** and **The Capital Times**, of Madison.

In his proclamation, Governor Lucey recognized the historical Armenian adherence to Christianity and the fact that the Armenians were the first nation in the 20th Century to be the victims of genocide. Subsequent to the signing of the proclamation, Representative Harout O. Sanasarian (D-Milw.) gave more details concerning what took place during the 1915 persecution. He said that the murdering of 1 1-2 million Ar-  
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GOVERNOR PATRICK LUCEY, standing before the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin, presents his Proclamation on "Armenian Martyrs Week" to the Rev. Sempad Der Mikhsian, Pastor of St. Hagop's Armenian Apostolic Church of Racine, as Racine AYF member Harry Kalvonjian, who played an important role in bringing about the signing of the Proclamation, stands by.

## Genocide Week Events in Wisconsin

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menians was a planned extermination perpetrated by the Turkish government.

Sanasarian outlined the repressive measures of the Turkish government against the Armenians.

—Imposition of an oppressive "war tax" on Armenians residing in the Turkish empire.

—Confiscation of all items from the Armenian community which might resemble weapons.

—In the guise of confiscating weapons, searches were undertaken and systematic looting took place.

—Armenian soldiers in Turkish labor battallions were murdered in remote areas. (Armenian men had been declared unfit to serve as anything but laborers in the Turkish Army.)

—All males between the ages of 12 and 45 were arrested, taken outside of their respective communities and murdered on the spot.

—All remaining Armenians, old men, women and children, were deported to the desert in northern

Mesopotamia. On the way, the caravans were attacked by any who chose to do so, including Turkish troops, civilians, and Kurdish tribesmen. Women were attacked, raped, and murdered. Children were butchered on the spot.

—Eventually, some deportation camps were set up in the desert. Even then, women were still abducted, children kidnapped, and wholesale butchery continued on a grand scale.

—Those who could, fled the camps to Syria and Lebanon.

Sanasarian added that, of course, all Armenian property was confiscated either by the Turkish government or Turkish citizens. Irreplaceable church relics were destroyed, and members of the clergy systematically eliminated.

Also in recognition of **ARMENIAN MARTYRS WEEK**, it was announced that Armenians from the Milwaukee and Racine communities were to donate blood at the Milwaukee Blood Bank during the week of

April 24 through 30. Harry A. Donoian of 1009 N. Jackson St., chairman of the committee sponsoring the blood drive, said that the drive was being sponsored by Armenian Americans in the Milwaukee and Racine areas, seeking to bring to the attention of the American public the first instance of genocide in the 20th Century.

He said also the blood was to be donated to the American Red Cross in appreciation for the efforts the Red Cross extended to Armenians during the time of the massacre.

Gov. Lucey's Proclamation read:

"WHEREAS, April 24, 1915, commemorates the forceful deportation of two and one half million Armenians and the deliberate and planned genocide of the Armenians by the Turks; and

"WHEREAS, more than one and one half million Armenians were so massacred and murdered by the Turkish government plan and decree, and

"WHEREAS, this martyrdom, brought about by the Armenian adherence to Christianity and their general cultural and educational advancement and accomplishment made the Armenians to become the first nation in the 20th century to be the victims of genocide; and

"WHEREAS, American citizens of Armenian descent join other Armenians scattered throughout the world in observing and commemorating the 58th anniversary of those massacres paying tribute to the memory of those who gave their lives in the cause of religious and political freedom; and

"WHEREAS, we as Americans have always cherished the rights of human beings to be free and have the blessings of liberty guaranteed to us under our Bill of Rights and the Constitution;

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK J. LUCEY, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 24 through 30, 1973, as **ARMENIAN MARTYRS WEEK** in the State of Wisconsin and urge all citizens to be aware of this observation."

**PHILADELPHIA A.R.F.**  
**ARMENIAN**  
**WEEK**  
**ATLANTIC**  
**CITY**  
**JULY 15-22**  
**1973**

**PRICES FOR WEEK**  
(7 nights and 8 days)

\$92.00 per person  
(double, no meals)

\$140.00 per person  
(double, meals)

**PRICE FOR WEEKEND**  
(2 nights and 3 days)

\$33.00 per person  
(double, no meals)