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Sarkozy urges Macron to recognize the genocide of the Assyro-Chaldeans

While France officially recognized the Armenian genocide in 2001, the former president calls on the state not to forget the massacre of 250,000 Christians between 1915 and 1918 by the Ottoman Empire.

By Marion Mourgue

[Le Parisien](#) (27.02.2024) - This Tuesday, the former President of the Republic Nicolas Sarkozy delivered a major speech in support of this community of some 40,000 members present on the national territory.

On the occasion of the Grand annual dinner of the Assyro-Chaldeans of France, organized this Tuesday, February 27 in Paris, the former President of the Republic Nicolas Sarkozy delivered a major speech in support of this community of some 40,000 members present on the National territory. The Assyro-Chaldeans continue to demand official recognition by France of the genocide of over 250,000 of their ancestors perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1918. And this, as other European countries have already done.

"Today the Armenian genocide is recognized. Justice has been served to the dead. The genocide of your ancestors is still not recognized by our laws," declared Nicolas Sarkozy from the podium in front of more than 150 guests, including parliamentarians from all sides. "You demand this official recognition of the misfortunes of your people. My presence among you is the mark of my complete support for this recognition," continued the ex-president who had already taken a stand in 2011, then at the Élysée, against "religious purges". And to insist again, this Tuesday evening: "Half of a population disappearing in a few months is not a massacre, as History is punctuated by it, it is a genocide, planned and orchestrated. »

"The government must decide and the President of the Republic must do so"

Precisely a year ago, senators LR Bruno Retailleau, present in the room, and Valérie Boyer, tabled a proposed resolution for France to recognize this genocide. A text then largely voted on by the upper house. Today, Nicolas Sarkozy, who calls himself a "Christian by training, culture and heart," is urging the French state to go further.

"This resolution which directly challenges the government therefore awaits a response," the former president firmly pointed out. "The Armenian genocide was recognized in 2001, it has been twenty-three years and this long wait has lasted too long. It is time that the equality in death and misfortune of the Armenian and Assyro-Chaldean peoples is finally recognized. The government must pronounce itself and the President of the Republic must do so," said Nicolas Sarkozy, adding that the Assyro-Chaldeans could "count on his support to tell him so".

An "essential" recognition for all Eastern Christians who aspire to regain their lands. "Our duty is to tirelessly defend the right of Christians to live at home," concluded Nicolas Sarkozy, much applauded, calling for "awakening consciences." Before heading to the Élysée where the state dinner was held in honor of the Emir of Qatar.

Note: In charge of this HRWF project: Nail Beth Kinne, member of the board

A Catholic Church attacked during the mass in Istanbul: one dead

HRWF (30.01.2024) - On 28 January, during a Sunday Mass, two masked assailants attacked the Santa Maria Catholic Church in the Büyükdere quarter of Sariyer district of Istanbul. 52-year-old Tuncer Cihan was killed in the shooting.

It was reported that during the attack, around 35 to 40 people were in the church, who threw themselves on the ground after the shooting began. The reason of the attack was unknown.

Police raided 30 locations and detained a total of 47 people as part of the investigation into the attack.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said shortly before midnight that two men he described as members of the Islamic State extremist movement had been arrested. One of the terrorists is from Tajikistan, and the other one from Russia.

The Islamic State group soon claimed responsibility for the attack.

On 3 January this year, 25 suspected Islamic State members were arrested across Turkey, accused of plotting attacks on churches and synagogues, according to state-run Anadolu Agency.

The church was founded and is run by an Italian order of Franciscan friars. The construction of the church began in 1864, and it was opened to worship in 1866.
