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LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL HOSTS 92ND REMEMBRANCE OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

In a ceremony in Council Chambers, Council President Eric Garcetti joined religious, community and elected leaders from Los Angeles' Armenian community and local Armenian schoolchildren to commemorate the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

"We gather in memory of the first genocide," said Council President Eric Garcetti, whose outreach to the Armenian community has formed a cornerstone of his service and included a trip to Armenia to initiate a Sister City relationship with the capital city Yerevan. "Today it may feel long ago, but to think of the 3,000 years of culture and history preceding the calamity of 1915 that it tried to wipe from the earth makes us realize that it is part of our present, and that it calls us to remember it today."

"It is important that the next generation of truth tellers is here with us today," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "Denial of the genocide is an attempt to instill fear in the hearts of all those who treasure truth. The first condition of justice is recognition of the gravity of the evil done."

"Today's remembrance by the City of Los Angeles to honor the memory of those who perished in the Armenian Genocide will not only keep us all united in our remembrance of the 1.5 million lost souls," said Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church. "It will also help us teach the new generation to prevent injustice and intolerance and will renew our respect for all of humanity."

"I appreciate the Los Angeles City Council's recognition of the Armenian Genocide and its demand for justice for its victims," said Assemblymember Paul Krekorian. "Unless we are devoted to renouncing bigotry and intolerance, the world will never be free of the horror of genocide."

"We call for the recognition of this crime and its wider repudiation by those who continue to lurk behind a wall of silence," said Armen Liloyan, Consul General of the Republic of Armenia. "International recognition of the Armenian genocide is not an end in itself. Our responsibility is to speak up against the present and future use of genocide as a political tool by states. This full chamber today is testimony that we are not alone in our quest for truth and justice."

Father Muron Aznikian from the Armenian Apostolic Church of America; Mayor Pro Tem of Rolling Hills Estates Frank Zerunyan; Andrew Kzirian, Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee of America; Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Councilmember Wendy Greuel; Councilmember Bill Rosendahl; and Councilmember Dennis Zine all contributed to the remembrance.

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