

CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE TO DISCUSS TURKEY'S INDUSTRY OF DENIAL

MAHWAH, N.J. – In commemoration of the centennial of the Armenian Genocide, the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies will host a conversation between Ragip Zarakolu and Nanore Barsoumian on “The Denial Industry in Turkey.” The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at Ramapo College of New Jersey on Thursday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Trustees Pavilion.

The discussion will explore the deception, distortion and intimidation that have characterized the Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide. It will examine how, inside and outside of official government channels, efforts have been made to discredit the truth about the systematic and organized campaign by the Ottoman Empire and Turkish nationalists in the years 1915-1923 to eliminate the Armenian population.

Ragip Zarakolu, director and owner of Belge Publishing House, has been the subject of harassment from the Turkish authorities for his writings on issues of social injustices and has been imprisoned several times for refusing to abandon his campaign for freedom of thought. Currently, he is appealing a conviction of “insulting the state” for publishing a Turkish translation of British author George Jerjian’s book, *The Truth Will Set Us Free: Armenians and Turks Reconciled*.

Nanore Barsoumian is the editor of the *Armenian Weekly*. Her writings focus on human rights, politics, poverty, environmental and gender issues. She has reported from Armenia, Nagorno- Karabagh, Javakhk and Turkey.

For more information, visit the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at <http://www.ramapo.edu/holocaust/> or call 201-684-7409 to reserve a seat for the event.

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions. It is sometimes viewed as a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor’s degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.