**Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day**

April 24, 2017

**Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day**, also referred to as Armenian Genocide Memorial Day, is a public holiday in the Republic of Armenia observed on April 24. It is also commemorated by the Armenian diaspora throughout the world.

The Armenian Genocide took place in the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. On April 24, 1915, about 250 Armenian intellectuals were arrested in Constantinople. Among them were journalists, editors, clergymen, lawyers, physicians, politicians, and teachers. Most of them were deported.

These arrests initiated systematic extermination of Armenians by the Ottoman government. The total number of people killed as a result of the genocide has been estimated at approximately 1.5 million. The Armenian Genocide is considered to be one of the first genocides in modern history.

Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day was formally adopted as an official day of remembrance in the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1988. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, it was declared a public holiday in independent Armenia.

On April 24, thousands of people gather at Tsitsernakaberd (the Armenian Genocide memorial complex) in Yerevan to honor the memory of the victims by laying flowers at the eternal flame. Similar ceremonies are held in other Armenian cities and towns.