



Ludwig Boltzmann Institut
Kriegsfolgenforschung



Botschaft der Republik Armenien in Österreich
Ավստրիայում Հայաստանի դեսպանություն
Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Austria

PRESENTATION BY
ANNA ASTVATSATURIAN-TURCOTTE
PORTLAND, USA



Monday, March 12, 2018, 19:00.

Festsaal des Alten Rathauses, Wipplingerstraße 6-8, 1010 Wien

The 20th Century is marked by multiple conflicts and instances of ethnic cleansing and war that forcibly moved masses of people across regions. The last 100 years of the Astvatsaturian family's history is a perfect example of how these events, when not addressed or acknowledged, repeat, tear apart communities, and disintegrate the fabric of the culture. In the recent 100-year history, mass atrocities were committed directly against this particular family three times.

Anna's grandfather survived the Genocide of Armenians in Ottoman Empire as a child. He fled with his sister to Baku where the extensive pogroms took place in 1918 against ethnic minorities, including the Armenian population. These mass atrocities were largely forgotten by the international community.

Decades later Anna's grandfather returned to Baku for work, where the Armenians largely contributed to building of the city, its many industries and lived there for generations. By the end of 1980s, however, the same anti-Armenian rhetoric rose as the Armenians of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of Soviet Azerbaijan), expressed their will for self-determination through peaceful demonstrations and applied to the legal procedures actual for that time.

In 1989, when Anna was 11 years old, her family once again escaped the killings of Armenians – this time in Baku - and fled through Armenia to the United States, settling there and contributing to Armenian cause as a member of Diaspora. In 2015 she won her first political election by a landslide as her city's City Councilor.

Mrs. Astvatsaturian-Turcotte speaks on refugee issues worldwide. In 2012 she published "Nowhere, a Story of Exile", a book she wrote at 14 years old while settling in USA as a refugee. It is based on her diary entries of the last months spent in Baku during the ethnic cleansing campaign and the years spent as a child refugee.

The events that took place in her childhood would not have occurred if the tragedies of her grandfather's childhood had consequences and were addressed properly by the international community.