

12 July 2015

Hon Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Wellington

NEW ZEALAND (m.mccully@ministers.govt.nz; cc: t.groser@ministers.govt.nz,
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Dear Hon Minister

New Zealand's Hypocritical Stance at the UN Security Council

On 9 July 2015, Gerard van Bohemen, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, delivered a UN Security Council briefing on the genocide of 8,372 Bosnian Muslims. It is entirely appropriate for New Zealand to remind the world of such atrocities and for NZ to recognise them, so tragedies like this hopefully never happen again. However, it appears to me that in making the following statement it is a shamefully hypocritical stance.

New Zealand deeply regrets that the efforts that we and others made over a considerable period to try to ensure that this commemorative event would be marked by a united Council did not prove possible... The United Nations and this Council failed many victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, not least those in Srebrenica.

If New Zealand is to state that it is regrettable that a lack of unity failed to mark a commemorative event recognising genocide and that this fails the victims, then I would be remiss if I didn't point out that New Zealand itself failed to attend the centenary memorial of the Armenian Genocide on 24 April. I was deeply ashamed that day, sitting only a few rows behind the Honourable French President, to see representatives even from the USA and UK mark with deep humility the sadness we felt, and respect for the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Then I read New Zealand's statement preaching to the world about honesty.

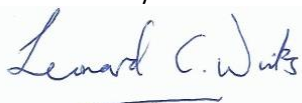
But let us also be honest enough to admit to each other and to ourselves that the only guarantee of preventing the horrors witnessed at Srebrenica from happening again is if we as Member States live up to the Charter commitments we took on as a condition of joining this organisation. We all – all members of the United Nations – have to own this responsibility, irrespective of race, colour, creed or history, or state of development. This is fundamental to our common and shared humanity.

Again, the stench of hypocrisy is evident. At no time did you treat my sincere requests for New Zealand to be honest and 'own its responsibility' as part of the Allied invasion of the Ottoman Empire by recognising the Armenian Genocide. I'm sorry to say but I felt that your belated correspondence wasn't even honest as to the real reasons for your non-attendance at Yerevan. In most people's view, New Zealand simply went along with its old colonial master like we did at Gallipoli, as if we'd learnt nothing from that tragedy. We certainly didn't take responsibility *irrespective of race, colour, creed or history*. It is no secret that the UK appeases Turkey because it wants to retain access to Turkey's Incirlik Airbase. Clearly, the killing of millions of people is less important than 'strategic interests'.

So on the one hand we preach to the world about human rights, the sanctity of human life, and the need to be united and honest. However, on the other hand we are shamefully blind to the suffering of 1.5 million Armenian Christians butchered by the Ottoman Turks. It was a religious-based extermination campaign that was the 'final solution' (just like Hitler's), and part of a merciless, systematic destruction of Christians for centuries – not just during WWI.

In light of what I am saying (and I'm sorry to be persistent but I care about our reputation), I'm respectfully asking again Hon Minister: please recognise the Armenian Genocide like 28 nations do (and the Assyrian and Greek Genocides).

Yours sincerely



Len Wicks, Author of *Origins: Discovery* (<http://originsdiscovery.com>)