

Parliament of Sweden
Inquiry of member of parliament Hans Linde (Left party)
To the Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt (Moderate Party)

About the genocides in Turkey

It is with great joy that I received the news that the Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk will receive the Nobel Literature Prize. It is extra gratifying because he, as a Turkish writer, has taken the blade out of his mouth and written about the genocides of the Armenians during the Ottoman Empire 1915 – a genocide that also struck the Syrians/Assyrians, the Caldeans and the Pontians.

The Left Party has at several occasions during the last years motioned and asked questions to the Foreign Minister about the genocides 1915 on the country's minority groups. The year 2000, the Swedish Parliament declared in a report that the Turkish state must recognise the genocide of the Armenians and open the Ottoman archives to independent researchers.

The Turkish state tries to avoid these types of natural demands. Turkey has tried to forbid speaking of and writing about the happenings of 1915 as genocide, despite that everything accounts for the definition of genocide. The French National Assembly has recently granted a law motion that it will be illegal to deny this genocide. This will probably cause a big debate and hopefully work as pressure point on Turkey to recognise the Turkish state's pre-history.

I would like to ask the Foreign Minister what initiatives does he intend to take so that Turkey will recognise the genocide that took place in the Ottoman Empire on Armenians, the Syrians/Assyrians, the Caldeans and the Pontians in 1915?

Stockholm, October 13th 2006

Hans Linde (v)