

Genocide - penalty and apology

Dr. Salihe Salihu

Abstract

Demonstrations during the 1981 in Kosovo signaled that the Albanian issue within the former Yugoslavia had not been resolved and that there was a frozen conflict that then erupted throughout Kosovo. Albanian demonstrators demanded their rights to improve their existential conditions. The response of Yugoslavia's government was a violent action against the Albanians in order to exterminate these demonstrations and to hide existing problem in front of the international community. Violence and terror against Albanians tacitly continued until the situation of Kosovo Albanians was newly internationalized during 1998-1999. The silence was broken during the years 1998-1999 when Serbia committed atrocities of genocidal scale against the Albanian population.

In these circumstances, during the late twentieth century, the Western world hesitated and was still not unified for the manner of how to stop genocidal actions in Kosovo. The Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Kofi Annan, reacted against this hesitation and call for the UN to rise to the level of its responsibilities and to come to its defense of justice and protects peace (Salihu, S. 2020: 67). Kofi Annan also demanded the punishment of this genocidal acts and underlined that "... the perpetrators of mass murder and ethnic cleansing cannot be allowed to go unpunished ... non-punishment is unacceptable to the UN ..." (Salihu, S. 2020: 74).

During a long time, Serbia implement one systematically program of deportation of Albanians, and these genocidal methods were used in Kosovo but all these genocidal atrocities remain unpunished. The spring of 1981 was the momentum to correct the injustices against the Albanian people but instead the opposite happened, violence and genocidal methods increased and became as norm of Serbia's action on Kosovo against Albanian, until the end of the war during the year 1999s.

Additionally, the background of this existing evidence, there are many other arguments for the international community to take into account and to demand punitive action against genocide and to force the perpetrators to apologize to the victims. Punishing the perpetrators of genocide and forcing them to apologize will not bring any a resurrection of the victims, but at least as prevent measures and to stop in a timely manner the mass extermination of any people or ethnic, racial or religious group, and in the future nowhere not to repeat the case of Kosovo.

Keywords: Genocide, Punishment, Apology.

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