

The Genocide in the Holy City

By Udara Soysa, Royal College, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Earlier, people came in the “Wandhana Road” to see the Buddhists’ eight holy places in Sri Lanka, but during the late 1980’s it was not so. People saw the burning dead bodies all over the road. People were horrified as they very well knew that their missing sons and daughters might be there in this, and some were even concerned about their missing husbands, brothers, and friends.

The holy city is now a city of a mass funeral. The holy place of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura is not anymore a holy place for the people during the late 1980’s with the horror striking their villages.

It all started near the SRI MAHA BODHI with eighteen dead bodies, burning with the hands and legs tied. Then soon another fifteen, and it went on in a most horrible manner, and a notice was there from a group called the “Yellow Cate”, claiming responsibility for the massacre. “Yellow Cate” and “Black Cate” brought a huge terror in the minds of people those days.

One lady came near another three burning bodies, and she started crying and fainted near the burning bodies realising that the body belongs to her own son and his two class mates. The students were good friends from a village near Anuradhapura, seven miles away from the main city, and they were getting ready for their SSC exams for the first time. Their hopes were in their minds to go to a better school after getting good results from the exams. They were having group studying sessions. Parents were always remarking that the three must have been triplets in a past life as they were so close together all the time.

With the exams getting close, they had the thought of getting blessings from the SRI MAHA BODHI; even the terror didn’t bother their plans to visit the place and get the blessings. The evening is coming with the sun hiding himself as it’s not ready to witness what is about to happen. A group of armed men appeared from the dark in front of the three. The three were shivering with the sight of the guns aiming towards them.

“Sir...., we just came to worship the place sir; please don’t harm us sir; we are innocent sir.” The helpless voices didn’t touch the hearts of the heartless men.

“Idiots, get into the truck; we will do the worshipping; get in the jeep before I bang your heads,” was the answer; they were locked inside. The men were looking for more hunts, but they could not wait longer, so they went to see their head men with the thought of pleasing him with the victims they just found.

It was few hours before they reach the main place, the men emptied a couple of alcoholic drinks bottles and some cigarettes, and getting ready for their bite.

“OH, so we got some tough birds tonight, huh;” the big man from the place slapped the tall boy with a great effort. “You better confess before it gets too late.” The man was growling like a dog with rabies.

“Sir, we are innocent; we came to get the blessings sir; please release us sir;” the boys were pleading, but nothing touched the man’s cold heart.

“Aha, I will give you the blessings you want my darling,” said the man as he got his pen and was inserting it inside the right ear of the second boy, and the boy was crying like anything as he could not tolerate the pain. The treatment was also given to the right ear and the other men also followed their master. The second boy was having two pens inside, one in the right ear and one in the left ear; the man was asking some questions while doing the inserting far deep and since he didn’t get the answer, he slapped the ears and both the pens went inside. The boy was almost half killed, fainted blood everywhere and his ears were completely destroyed, and the pain was unbearable to express.

His pals had to face the same fate, and the left outs of the burnt pens were found inside their skulls. This is a true story of the terror our country faced during the 1989-1992 period, our country which was a heaven in the earth was a live hell at that time during the political violence. This is dedicated to all the innocent youth who sacrificed their lives during that period of time. Brothers, indeed you are not dead; you live in the hearts of the people!



Samadhi Buddha

The Genocide in Ukraine 1932-1933

Researched by Anna Sukhonos, Sasha Amosova, Sergei Tkachenko,
Maria Yakovenko, Anna Protsenko, Dima Sharov, Stas Alekseenko,
Roma Romanenko, Vlad Chelnik, Zhenya Tkachenko

Teacher: Zoya Rodionova, Kirovograd Collegium, Ukraine



Ann Sukhonos

“Book of Grief”

Chapter 2

Famine in Ukraine

Authors: Stalin Regime

Written :1932-1933

Genocide is the most severe, terrible, the ugliest creation of the human civilization, the forms of which have become the most malicious in the XX century.

Speaking about Genocide we usually mean the crimes of the Nazis against the people of the occupied countries especially the Slavic people and the Jews; or it goes about the “cultural revolution” in China under Mao Tse Dung ruling; or we speak about Pol-Pot destructive policy against the people of Kampuchea.

But the XX century saw one more case of Genocide, which could set an example to at least the latter two ones.

In the previous issue of the HGP magazine *An End To Intolerance*, together with our readers, we opened the first chapter of the “Book of Grief”, which was entitled Babyn Yar. Now we propose to turn over some more pages of our book.

That Stalin terror raged at the beginning of the 30s of the XX century in Ukraine.



Picture by Ann Sukhonos



Picture by Ann Sukhonos

Black light above the black earth.

Two thirds of the territory of Ukraine is occupied by the extraordinary rich soils - black soil. And in the thirtieth of the 20-th century the percent of it was even bigger than it is now. Our ancestors founded the oldest agricultural civilizations in Europe. From those times growing wheat has become one of the main occupations for Ukrainians.

Rich black soil, moderate climate allowed our ancestors to provide themselves with the products and food enough for their living. That had generated a certain type of people, who lived on their customs and did not envy others.

Kirovograd (our native town) has always been in the centre of Ukraine, Kirovograd region

is a broad territory of the steppe zone spreading between the Dnieper and the Southern Bug Rivers. This land is famous for its vast wheat fields, shady orchards and scores of rivers and rivulets

Researches, which were carried out have shown, that the local state archives almost have no items of information about famine. But it has appeared that they exist. Thus up to the recent times the scientists were deprived of the opportunity to investigate and to announce the reasons, circumstances and consequences of the famine in Ukraine in the years of 1932-1933. All this prevented from getting the answer to the question - why famine could happen on the rich soils of Ukraine.

Survivors Speak

A Life Story

That year of famine I was 11. It was a terrible and dreadful year for grown-ups, but it was more frightful for children. I was ill because of starvation. So I can tell you something from my own experience.

We were three friends: Olga, Mariyka and me. Mariyka was the first who became very weak. Death of starvation took her parents and then her brother. Because she was very cold in the house she hardly reached school and there she lay down in the classroom. When Olga and I entered we saw her dead. I remember a pose she had, clothes, bright green small comb and her bare feet. But I can't renew the memory about my emotional experience. Feelings of fear and excitement never come to me again.

(The examples of children's lives in the year of famine say that hunger blunted their feelings crippled their hearts. The only feeling of hunger was predominant over the others in a child's psychology.)

I also remember the boy who died of starvation. I saw him every time when I was sent for milk to the farm. When I passed the dyke I stopped and looked at him. Flies on his face, clothes, and his posture retained in my memory but what about emotions...

My mother told me a few stories. Here they are. A woman from our village had eaten two of her children. And one man (his name was Fedir Antonenko) cut a part of his son's body and ate it. The boy was crying and in a few hours he died. Soon he died of starvation himself.

I'm sure it wasn't so because of a crop-failure. And it is well-known now that starvation was artificial. I remember well the day when two fellows came and took all the food and grain we had.

How did we survive? Beans were preserved somehow. Father took the mother's dowry to the town and exchanged it on flour.

Ekaterina Beznischenko Village Bohodarovka.

One of those, who survived was Ekaterina Ivanovna Beznischenko. She was born in a big family in the country Bohodarovka. Her family had rich housekeeping: cows, horses, oxen. There was even smithy and apiary near the house. They also had all important household equipment, their own mill and of course their farm.

Ekaterina's grandfather had always said that the soil had been the most valuable thing, which the person had. And they worked very hard on their soil. Nothing presage terrible destiny. But the Soviet power came, collectivization of agriculture and dispossession of the "kulaks" began.



People in leather jackets both days and nights burst into peasant's farmsteads. Tipsy, laughing very loudly they took out everything: bread, clothes, utensils, rolls of homespun linen. They stab through and through the whole yard with hooks in order to find gram...

They took out everything and left seven children to die of famine. There was such a terrible picture everywhere. Even the whole families perished. There was nobody sometimes to bury them. Ekaterina Ivanovna and her sister Evdokiya went to "kolkhoz" in order to find work. The girls had no clothes, were always hungry, but every day they went to collective farm's field to weed the beet.

Their parents swollen from the permanent undernourishment, brought to them skilly-sometimes like soup, cooked of goose-foot and something else. Ekaterina's grandparents died from emaciation. And children, when the normal food appeared, had terrible stomachaches...

At the end of 1933 the life began to return to norm



Vladimir Samoilkuk Studnitsya village

In 1932-1933 we lived in Gumanne village near Vinnitsa. My father was a school principal. There was a field and everything grown there was the property of the school workers. That field rescued us from starvation. In spring the peas were sowed. One day my father went to the field and came home very sad.

- There are no peas. - He said
- But where is it? Asked my mother
- Hungry people have eaten it at night

I studied in the first form. Practically every day someone died. When the teacher asked us about them we said: died, lost, went for a walk and didn't come back.

At the end of the summer my father and I went to my grandmother's. We took our cart and went to that village and on our way for about 60 miles there were only corps. Big green flies were on their faces...

Zina Rovenets Smolino village.

1933 was the year of death. A lot of people died at that time. One man buried

his child and when he came home from the cemetery he found out that his other child died. He had nothing to make another coffin of. He buried him rolled in cloths. I can't say any more because my heart is broken.

Vasil Kucherenko Tovmach village.

I was 9 in 1933. That spring didn't bring joy to my native village Tovmach, Shpola region: famine raged in Ukraine. Nobody had any food, we eat everything: the oak bark, the leaves of the trees, acacia flowers. People got sick from such food even more than from being hungry and they died. Some of the villagers could be seen outside, walking on their thin legs, others couldn't leave their homes. They got swollen and they could only stay in bed, waiting for the death. There were neither cats nor dogs in the village; the mice hid themselves or had left for other places; the sparrows were afraid to fly nearer to the houses as people caught them and eat them.

I lived together with my mother, my elder brother went away. In spring of 1933 when I could walk together with my mother we went to the fields to look for potatoes, which was already rotten and it couldn't be boiled only baked.

Soon I couldn't walk and stayed in bed all day long, thinking about nothing. I didn't feel hungry any more, the death was near. My mother was sitting next to me, dark-skinned with her hands on her knees, crying. She, who had given me life, couldn't save me. I fell asleep.

Suddenly I felt somebody waking me up. I opened my eyes and saw my mother and my elder brother standing next to my bed. My

brother was giving me a piece of rye bread. I smelled it and felt I was losing conscience. My mouth ached but overcoming the ache I began to eat the bread. When I finished I asked for more but they promised to give some more the next day.

Then I asked to be allowed to hold a loaf of bread in my hands and to smell it and my brother gave it to me. I kissed the bread and unwillingly gave it back to my brother. He hid the bread in the basement of the next to us house, the owners of which had already died.

The bread brought by my brother saved our lives.

Child's monologue

Composed by Sasha Amosova

My mother has yesterday told me something
That cow was taken from Gavriilo-uncle.
Some men took his wife to the Special Soviet
‘Cause she had been crying so loudly yet
Accepting sick uncle as a matter of fact.
In the house his eight little children were left
They asked for the dinner, they asked for the bread
The youngest was one and nine was the eldest
The baby was crying two nights and was whining
Gavriilo had buried him then in the evening
Long time alive people were speaking about
How many dead men he had buried-a crowd
And those who took uncle's wife to the Soviet
Decided not keep her and feed her with bread
‘Cause it wasn't favorable for the chiefs
To give her some water and give her some bread
So she went then home and there she saw
The dead on the bench-it was Gavriilo
And aunt Gavriiliha was crying till night
And saw on the table in pale candle light
Newspaper was lying "Sovetskaya Rus"
And Lenin on portrait had sarcastic look
When aunt Gavriiliha was tired of weeping
She found a cord and suicide was committed.

Warning

The real catastrophe for the Ukrainian people was the famine of the years of 1932-1933. The result of it was the depopulation of some regions. Historians even can't name the real number of sacrifices of the famine. From their point of view, at that time about 7 million people died in Ukraine. Those people didn't give the birth to their children and in their turn they didn't have any grandchildren. In this way the Ukrainian nation has lost several dozens of millions of people.

The nation, that doesn't remember its past, is doomed to endure it one more time.

American philosopher
George Santayana



Picture by Ann Sukhonos

What should be done today in order the tragedy which took place 60 years ago never would happen again? The main thing is not to forget; the main thing is to remember and to leave this memory for the forthcoming generations.



American President and Wife Visit Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp

Rachel Tydings, Cold Spring Harbor High School, New York

Last summer in May, 2003, President George W. Bush and his wife, First Lady Laura Bush, visited Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, situated near Krakow, Poland, while on his European tour. At the museum, saw the mounds of shoes and hair, and even went inside a gas chamber. Bush, like so many other visitors to Auschwitz, saw firsthand the terrible places where the Nazis murdered innocent Jews from all over Europe.

After his visit, Bush forcefully said that his visits were, “a sobering reminder of the power of evil and the need for people to resist evil and a sobering reminder that when we find anti-Semitism, whether it be in Europe or anywhere else, mankind must come together to fight such dark impulses.”

Throughout his presidency, Bush has returned again and again to the theme of evil. “The death camps remind us that evil is real and must be called by name and must be opposed. All the good that has come to this continent—all the progress, the prosperity, the peace—came because beyond the barbed wire there were people willing to take up arms against evil.” For the many Jews, the concentration camps of the Holocaust are the prime examples of evil.

Interestingly, Bush is only the second American president to visit Auschwitz, a death camp where 1.5 million prisoners perished. And although this visit fit into his larger agenda of the fight against evil and terrorism, Bush’s visit had important meaning for Jews. This visit occurred during turbulent times – an era in which anti-Zionism, anti-Semitism, and anti-Americanism is rising. By visiting Auschwitz, Bush confirmed his dedication to these three causes and showed the world that he wanted to honor, remember, and sanctify the horrors of the Holocaust. In a part of a speech in a meeting with the President of the Republic of Poland, Aleksander Kwaoeniewski, Bush stated, “Today, I saw Auschwitz,

the sites of the Holocaust and Polish martyrdom; a place where evil found its willing servants and its innocent victims.” As he said in remarks to the press after his visit, “May we always remember.”

In the past months, the conflict between the Israelis and

Palestinians has escalated into a terrible war ridden with terrorism, suicide bombings, and innocent losses of life. Because of suicide bombs and the targeting of civilians by Palestinians, the Israeli army has been forced to respond. And, while there have been some instances in which the Israeli Army mistakenly killed civilians; those incidents have been just that – mistakes and accidents. Yet, many critics of Israel around the world have begun to compare the Israeli

army to the Nazis – an incredible comparison considering that the Nazis exterminated six million Jews in their concentration camps during

World War II. But, this horrible comparison is still ringing true. In many ways, the United States has made efforts to disprove this horrible myth, and one way in which the United States has done so was by reiterating its remembrance of the Holocaust. In his closing words to the President of the Republic of Poland, Bush concluded, “And history asks more than memory, because hatred and aggression and murderous ambitions are still alive in the world. Having seen the works of evil firsthand on this continent, we must never lose the courage to oppose it everywhere.”

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President George W. Bush and Mrs. Bush place a rose at the end of the railroad tracks at the Birkenau concentration camp in Poland, Saturday, May 31, 2003. White House photo by Paul Morse.

War Crime Trial Testimony Online

By Erin Flanagan and Caroline Laverriere, Cold Spring Harbor High School, New York

In November of 1945, the first international war-crimes trials, The Nuremberg Trials, began. These eleven month long trials were set up by the Allied Powers (the United States, France and Russia), at the end of World War II, in Nuremberg, Germany. The trials were established to punish Nazis for the horrific war crimes that they committed, including the murder of six million European Jews during a period of ten years.

The trial included different phases. The first step was the creation of rules for the trial agreed upon by the allies. The defendants were given the right to defend themselves by presenting evidence and bringing witnesses; however, there was no jury. Furthermore, the defendants, after the evidence was presented, were allowed to make statements on their own behalf. The second step in the process was indictment. This occurred when the charges against the defendants were presented. They included conspiracy against peace, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The last phase was the presentation of the defendant's case. After their case was presented, a final judgment was ready to be made.

Twenty-two Nazis were tried, all of whom pleaded innocent. Out of the twenty-two men, eleven were sentenced to death; three were acquitted, and the rest were imprisoned for some amount of time.

Harvard Law School, located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, has approximately one million pages of information relating to the Nuremberg Trials, and has decided to post it on the Internet. These documents include trial transcripts, briefs, document books, evidence files, and other papers. The



Nuremberg Trials: looking down on the defendants' dock. Courtesy of the National Archives and Research Administration (NARA), www.archives.gov

documents relate to thirteen trials of accused war criminals, which began in 1945 and continued to 1949. These historic documents will be preserved online for millions of people to view. The idea is that the papers will serve as a constant reminder of the Holocaust, and the torture that innocent people were subjected to. To view the Nuremberg Papers, visit <http://www.nuremberg.law.harvard.edu>.

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