



**International Institute for Genocide
and Human Rights Studies**
(A Division of the Zoryan Institute)

PRESS RELEASE

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Conference on the Treatment of the Armenian Genocide in National and International Law

The Journal of Law and Public Policy at the University of St. Thomas and the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute) are jointly organizing and sponsoring a conference on the "Treatment of the Armenian Genocide in National & International Law." The conference will bring together legal specialists with a variety of expertise in national (Turkey, US, Britain) and international law and genocide. The event will take place on February 5th, 2010 at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis with the participation of the Cafesjian Family Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation.

Despite various tribunals to prosecute war crimes and crimes against humanity since (WWII, Nuremberg, Rwanda, Yugoslavia, Cambodia, and the establishment of the International Criminal Court in 2002, little progress has been made on the punishment and prevention of the crime of genocide. It has been argued that this relative ineffectiveness has contributed over the years to the emboldening of those who would consider perpetrating genocide. Darfur is one example that is still ongoing and there are no guarantees that others will not follow.

This situation will only worsen with the tripling of the world's population since WWII. The shrinking of the resources to sustain life, and the chasm between the few that have and the many that have not, will increase the risk of intra-national and international conflict, including genocide.

This conference will draw attention to how one case of genocide, the Armenian case, has been treated in national and international law, and how its manipulation strengthens the hands of deniers and undermines the international legal regime intended to prevent genocide.

The conference hopes to raise awareness among policy makers to strengthen the legal framework so that all cases of genocide are treated with justice and that politics do not obstruct the application of the law nationally and internationally.

The conference will take place from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Schulze Grand Atrium at the School of Law at the University of St. Thomas.

The International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute) is dedicated to the study and dissemination of knowledge regarding the phenomenon of genocide in all of its aspects to create an awareness of it as an ongoing scourge and promote the necessity of preventing it.