

## **Patriarch Minassian's message to young people: “After the horror, yours is the new generation that will resist”**

"It's true that it was an attempt at extermination; it's true that one and a half million people were martyred for their Christian faith; it's true that they were forcibly deported to the deserts of Syria, where they were killed in ambushes, hungry, thirsty, mothers, children and babies. They were truly victims of this wickedness. And yet they were like an olive tree which, when it is old, allows a new tree to grow from its roots and bear fruit, fresh and tasty fruit." His Beatitude Raphael Bedros XXI Minassian, Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenian Catholics, addresses young people in a message released on 24 April, the day when Armenians in their homeland and in the Diaspora commemorate the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. "After the horrors and misery of the Genocide of 1915, you are the new generation, the children and grandchildren of the martyrs," reads the message. "You represent rebirth and development. The experiences of the past have made you stronger and wiser. You are the ones who will face future challenges with greater awareness and determination."



[It was a massacre of enormous proportions, forgotten for decades. Armenians were deported and killed in massacres carried out between 1915 and 1916, leaving around 1.5 million dead. During his visit to Armenia in June 2016, Pope Francis visited the Memorial of the Metz Yeghern, the 'Great Evil', \(as it is known in Armenian\), located on the hill of Tzitzernakaberd, the 'Swallow's Fortress', overlooking Yerevan - becoming the first Pope to call the Armenian slaughter 'Genocide'. Here, after laying flowers in the centre of the circular mausoleum where the 'eternal flame' burns, the Pope paused to pray for the victims of the massacre.](#)

