



**ZORYAN INSTITUTE OF CANADA, INC.**

255 Duncan Mill Rd., Suite 310  
Toronto, ON, Canada M3B 3H9

Tel: 416-250-9807 Fax: 416-512-1736 E-mail: zoryan@zoryaninstitute.org  
www.zoryaninstitute.org

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Meagan Walker**

**DATE: June 26, 2009**

**Tel: 416-250-9807**

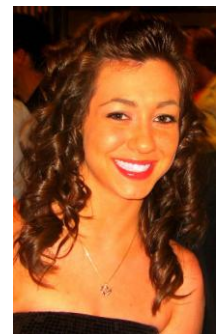
**Zoryan Institute Awards Aram Aivazian prize to High School Students for Essay Contest on Genocide**

Toronto, Canada—On June 19, 2009, the Zoryan Institute awarded prizes to three grade 11 students for their submissions to the “Aram Aivazian High School Essay Contest on Genocide.”

The purpose of the contest is to supplement the teaching provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education’s new genocide curriculum by motivating students to research the subject more deeply, in a comparative manner. In the process, they would understand the Armenian Genocide and its significance in the history of the gross violation of human rights better. This, in turn, would help them appreciate their own history and its impact on their personal identities. Earlier this year, Zoryan launched this program as a pilot project with A.R.S. School in Toronto.

The first prize of \$1,500 went to Amy Chitilian for her essay, “The Armenian Genocide: What Were the Causes of These Massacres and Was It Really Genocide?” The second prize of \$1,250 went to Nareh Ghalustians for her essay titled, “The Indispensable Recognition of the Armenian Genocide.” The third prize of \$1,000 went to Missak Boyadjian for his essay, “The Armenian Genocide and Humanity’s Continued Failure in Prevention.” This money is intended to help the students with their university tuitions.

Amy Chitilian made the following statement about her experience in the project. “I would sincerely like to thank the Zoryan Institute for putting forth this great opportunity. I am honoured to have been chosen as the first prize scholarship winner. It gave me the incentive to apply the knowledge that I have acquired this year through the 20<sup>th</sup> century history course regarding genocide into an analytical essay. Preparing this essay enabled me to prove that the Armenian massacres can and should be considered as genocide. I hope the contest will continue to provide students with the opportunity to develop insight into the world of genocide.”



Armen Martirosian, Principal of the A.R.S. Armenian School, expressed his thanks to the Zoryan Institute for launching its pilot program at his school. “We hope this program will be adopted by other schools, whose students would benefit greatly,” he added.

The program was established in memory of Aram Aivazian, a long-time supporter of the Zoryan Institute, author, active member of the Armenian community, and an ardent campaigner against denial, who believed firmly in the importance of education and raising awareness of human rights in youth.

“The Aivazian family was very moved to have our father remembered in such a meaningful way,” said Prof. Varouj Aivazian, who is a founding board member of Zoryan Canada. “If he could have been here tonight,” he continued, “he would have been very proud of these students for their hard work studying the Genocide.”

The Zoryan Institute is the parent organization of the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, which runs an annual, accredited university program on the subject and is co-publisher of *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal* in partnership with the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the University of Toronto Press. It is the first non-profit, international center devoted to the research and documentation of contemporary issues with a focus on Genocide, Diaspora and Armenia. For more information please contact the Zoryan Institute by email [zoryan@zoryaninstitute.org](mailto:zoryan@zoryaninstitute.org) or telephone (416) 250-9807.