

Institute for Study of Genocide
www.studyofgenocide.org

Dear Friend of the Institute:

The Institute for the Study of Genocide, Inc. (“the Institute” or ISG) is one of the oldest non-profit organizations in the world established to study the causes and dynamics of genocide, other mass atrocities and targeted violence with the goal of working toward reducing and preventing violence. ISG continues its work through research, debates and advocacy and by sponsoring a series of public conferences and lectures; working in cooperation with various educational, human rights and legal forums on issues related to severe human rights violations from displacement and uprooting to targeted destruction and genocide by attrition. ISG is a non-profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible. I write today to urge you to renew your support of ISG’s work by enrolling as a member for 2016.

In keeping with its history of research and advocacy, The Institute for the Study of Genocide is pleased to announce that Dr. Ernesto Verdeja has accepted the position of ISG Executive Director following the unanimous and enthusiastic vote of ISG Board Members. Ernesto’s high level of commitment to public advocacy and scholarship about human rights, genocide and other forms of violence is a continuation of the pioneering work carried out under previous ISG executive directors Sheri P. Rosenberg and Helen Fein. Ernesto has served as an ISG Board Member, Chair of the Lemkin Committee and organized the 2012 conference at the University of Notre Dame on evaluating new directions in genocide studies. Ernesto Verdeja is Associate Professor of Political Science and Peace Studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author of *Unchopping a Tree: Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Political Violence* and articles and chapters in genocide studies.

During 2014-2015, the Institute has continued its work publicizing the ongoing threat of genocide and other types of violence, as well as genocide denial, through a range of initiatives such *The ISG Newsletter* edited by Helen Fein, support of petitions and humanitarian initiatives and cooperation with various NGO and advocacy groups. Please see our web-site at www.studyofgenocide.org

In November, 2015, ISG held its biennial Lemkin Award at Cardozo School of Law in New York City under the co-sponsorship of the Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights (CLIHHR). The event began in memorial to the remarkable person and work of Sheri P. Rosenberg, ISG Executive Director (2010-2015) and founder of CLIHHR, by Joyce Apsel and Teresa Woods, Associate Director of the Refugee Representation Project, Lecturer in Clinical Law at CLIHHR.

The 2015 Lemkin Award recipient was historian, Mark Levene for his two volume work on: *The Crisis of Genocide vl. I: Devastation: The European Rimlands, 1912-1938* and *vl. II. Annihilation: The European Rimlands, 1939-1953* (Oxford University Press, 2014). Professor Mark Levene, Suffolk University UK, delivered his public Lemkin lecture via video: “On Deadly Movements and Lethal Closures: Population Movements, The Environment and Genocide.” The lecture was followed by a lively discussion and question and answer session from the audience moderated by Joyce Apsel and Ernesto Verdeja,

The Lemkin Committee has publicized a call for books for the next Lemkin Award, and encourages all members to send any book nominations to Lemkin Committee chair Ernesto Verdejo at everdeja@nd.edu. Criteria for nominations are available on the ISG website at studyofgenocide.org/lemkin/.

This year all members who renew at the patron level of \$100 or more will receive a copy of *Genocide Matters: Ongoing Issues and New Perspectives*, edited by J. Apsel and E. Verdeja (Routledge 2013). For ongoing information visit our web-site. Please renew your membership; your support is crucial in order to enable us to continue our work.

Sincerely,

Joyce Apsel
President, Institute for the Study of Genocide