

Giacomo Gorrini was one of the internationally best-known Italians in the first half of the past century. Maybe he has not been sufficiently wellknown in Italy until now, but he is remembered and honoured everywhere in the world. A great servant of Italy, a constructor of International relations, a jurist and a writer, the founder and first president of the Italian foreign ministry's archive, Gorrini was an upright and sensible man. His attitude towards life changed abruptly after he witnessed all kinds of atrocities for a whole month without being able to step in and stop them. He rescued some doomed Armenian victims, but not so many as he would have liked to. As the war broke out, Italy and Turkey were enemies. Then politician Gorrini turned into a great humanist and he devoted more than 20 years of his life to truth and justice. His declarations about the events he had witnessed were reported in all the world's media of the time and provided irrefutable evidence of what was being carried out in the "darkness and the earsplitting silence of Evil" in Anatolia: the systematic destruction of a millenary people and its culture.

In a few days' time, on 24th April, the world will commemorate the 95th anniversary of the Armenian genocide and Giacomo Gorrini's name will again be on the lips and in the prayers of Armenians all over the world: three million five hundred people in independent Armenia and 7 million in the diaspora, scattered around the world, indisputable evidence of what Gorrini witnessed and actually happened.

Also in Milan, on 24th April, in the Basilica di Sant'Ambrogio, Armenians will also pray for the Righteous who rescued their people or bore witness to what was occurring in the darkness. Among these Righteous people, may grateful memory be addressed to consul Giacomo Gorrini, Italy's honour.

Pietro Kuciukian,

Milan, 12th April 2010

Ceremony at Monte Stella