A documentary by Gagik Karagheuzian

The Blue Book

Political Truth or Historical Fact

Ani Sounds
Production ©2014

www.anisounds.com/bluebook
bluebook@anisounds.com

Synopsis.

This observational documentary traces the work of Ara Sarafian, an archival historian. The documentary was commissioned in 2005, when Sarafian began a campaign to oppose the efforts of Turkish parliamentarians in London to deny the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

His opposition took him to Turkey, where he addressed Turkish historians and diplomats at an academic conference in Istanbul University. He became the focus of the conference, with much attention from the Turkish press and television. He soon appeared on Turkish television. Though a lonely figure, he held his ground, and drew frank admissions about the Armenian Genocide from the Turkish side.

In the documentary Sarafian is also seen identifying the killing fields of eastern Turkey, where so many Armenians—including his ancestors—were murdered. This is a moving documentary, which records the efforts of one individual to stand up for the memory of his ancestors against a genocidal state.

Press Release

In this age of information it is absurd that there are still many discrepancies between what historians hold as facts and politicians would have us believe as truths. The Blue Book is an observational documentary, which scrutinises one of these cases.

In 2005 The Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) sent a petition to the British Parliament, asking the latter to apologise for its 1916 publication, "The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-1916". This report was the first account of the Armenian Genocide using eyewitness testimonies. The TGNA wanted the British Parliament to declare it as false, and based on forgeries. The petition was signed by all of the members of the Assembly, including Erdogan the then Prime minister, and Gül the foreign secretary in 2005.

Five years earlier in 2000, Ara Sarafian a British historian, had republished the Parliamentary report "The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-1916", also known as the Blue Book.

When Sarafian heard about the petition he started a campaign defending the original work and the integrity of his republication. This campaign took him to Turkey where at a symposium titled "New approaches to Turkish-Armenian Relations"; he confronted the deniers of the Armenian Genocide and the architects of the 2005 petition. While there Sarafian met and discussed the issue with number of academics, including historians from the state sponsored Turkish Historical society. He became

centre of media attention and was invited to take part in a discussion with a historian from the Turkish Historical Society (TTK) on a television program. Throughout the program the Turkish Historian held to the deniers' position, but during the commercial break while still being filmed for this documentary he commented that the Petition sent by the TGNA did not have any academic merit and it was purely a political exercise.

54 minute
Observational Documentary.
Director and Producer: Gagik Karagheuzian
Associate producer: Athena Mandis
Composer: Nikos Pandis
Narrator: David Holloway

Ara Sarafian is an archival historian and executive director of Gomidas Institute, London. His publications include the critical edition of the 1916 British Parliamentary blue book "The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, 1915-16".

Gagik Karagheuzian, the producer and director of The Blue Book documentary, has been working in the film and television industry since 1990. During this time he has had the opportunity to work on award winning documentaries, animations and feature films. Gagik is the founder of Ani Sounds, and The Blue Book is the second observational documentary produced by him concerned with Armenian issues.