

HOMICIDE AND GENOCIDE: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE ON LETHAL VIOLENCE

NILGHIUN ISMAIL*
ECATERINA BALICA**

International reports on the evolution of the number of people intentionally killed in recent years indicate the maintenance of a significant number of victims worldwide: 464,000 in 2017 (UNODC 2019). Although the global homicide rate (6.1/100,000) decreased compared to 1993 (7.4/100,000), high values continued to be recorded in the Americas (17.2/100,000) and Africa (13/100,000) (Idem, p. 11). Europe had a lower than average rate worldwide (3/100,000), and the number of homicide victims in 2017 was 22,000 (Ibidem). The evolution of the homicide rate was also different within the European Union, where the average homicide rate committed in the Member States in 2017 was 0.68 / 100,000 people. Countries such as Germany (0.44 in 2017), Italy (0.48), and Luxembourg (0.15) had rates below the EU average, while Latvia (3.76), Lithuania (2.84), Romania (1.47) and Bulgaria (1.17) had values above average (Eurostat, October 2021).

In this context, we have tried to address two extremely important issues: homicide and genocide. And because there is too little discussion in academia and non-academia, we decided to organize the first international conference of the Romanian Observatory on Homicide Studies and Prevention with theme “Homicide and Genocide: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Lethal Violence” (2021). Some of the papers presented at the conference were selected for this special issue.

The first part was devoted to articles on genocide: “The Crimean Tatars: From Tsarist Genocide (1853–1856) to Stalin's Exile (May 1944). Memoirs from

* Lecturer Ph.D., The University of Giresun, The Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, room 235, Güre Yerleşkesi, Gaziler Mahallesi, Prof. Ahmet Taner Kışlalı Cd, 28200, Merkez/Giresun, Turkey. E-mail: nilgunismail2014@gmail.com

** Senior researcher, coordinator of Romanian Observatory on Homicide Studies and Prevention, Institute of Sociology, Casa Academiei, Calea 13 Septembrie no 13, etaj 4, sector 5, București, Romania. E-mail: ebalicahs@gmail.com



exile” (Nilghiun Ismail) and “The possible legal effects and dangers of enlarging the definition of genocide through national norms” (Cătălin Constantinescu-Mărunțel). In the second part, two articles were included that address two interesting topics: the murder of males (Adriana-Anca Cușmir and Corina Chirvasiu, “Particularities of victim-offender relationship in homicides committed by males against males”) and femicides (Adela Șerban, “Pronatalist operating procedure in communist Romania. A femicide case”).

“The Crimean Tatars: From Tsarist genocide (1853–1856) to Stalin’s exile (May 1944) Memoirs from exile”, aiming at reconstructing the Crimean Tatars’ war and exile sufferings between 1853–1856 and 1944, a vital period if we are to understand Crimean Tatars’ survival options during the mid.19th to mid.20th centuries. The traumas suffered at the end of the Crimean war, as well as during the Stalinist regime, the threats to their existence combine to explain their today’s situation as stateless nation. “The possible legal effects and perils of enlarging the definition of genocide through national norms”, wrote by Cătălin Constantinescu-Mărunțel, intent being to offer a coherent and articulated image of the decision-making processes and of the possible legal effects and perils of enlarging the definition of genocide by the means of national norms. The study offers a coherent and articulated image of the decision-making processes and of the possible legal effects and perils of enlarging the definition of genocide by the means of national norms. Also, the research underlines the role of the principle of legality is to set a limit to what an individual State can sanction, and the fact that enlarging the definition of the crime of genocide by including groups who were violently persecuted in the past has a certain appeal and it might be morally justifiable.

There is a large body of evidence on Jews and Armenians genocide and a less large number of papers on genocide about Bulgarian Turks during the communist regime, Crimean Tatars from the middle 19th century to the middle 20th century, Meskhetian Turks, Balkan Turks at the end of the Balkan Wars and many others as Rwandan Genocide (1994) with the oppressed Tutsi people, who fled the country. All collections of research papers that are published by the “Romanian Journal of Sociological Studies”, in recent decades offer access to a wide range of sources in the field of sociology, and in recent years on homicide and genocide. However, given the numerous books and studies on refugees, forced displacement, international security, human vulnerability, genocide, and international law already addressed in the literature, as well as the side effects of wars that offer significant perspectives on events, they prove once again, if necessary, the issue of genocide must be addressed and the crimes of genocide must never be forgotten, as human memory has an eternal need for remembrance.

We hope that the professionalism proven in the selection of research studies will bring to each researcher who will browse these pages a sense of scientific achievement. Moreover, this first issue is part of a series that we are confident the future will validate. We are also convinced that this scientific project will become a

research tool for the progress of research in sociology, history, homicide, international relations and for national and international intellectual cooperation.

REFERENCES

- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Study on Homicide 2019* (Vienna, 2019) available at: <https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/gsh/Booklet1.pdf>
- Eurostat, 2021, *Standardised death rate due to homicide by sex* available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_16_10/default/table?lang=en

