



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations

Press Release

January 12, 2015

Contact: Stephen J. Hudik

E-mail: shudik@ramapo.edu

Phone: 201.684.7845

**PROGRAM TO DISCUSS BELEAGERED CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies will host a conversation between Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian and Khatchig Mouradian on “*The Scourge of Genocide: A Century of Angst in the Middle East.*” The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at Ramapo College of New Jersey (Trustees Pavilion) on February 10 at 7:30 p.m.

The discussion will explore how in the Middle East mass violence since the Armenian Genocide of 1915 has created a culture of anxiety among the region’s Christian communities. While the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) represents the most immediate danger, Middle Eastern Christians today generally see themselves in an existential struggle characterized by almost routine attempts to eliminate their presence in the region. They have seen the formerly robust Christian communities of Iraq, which until the second Iraq war numbered about one million, dwindle to less to less than 250,000 in the face of intimidations, bombings and kidnappings.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1961, Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph.D., was appointed in 2002 as president of Haigazian University in Beirut. His appointment followed a nine-year teaching career at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut. He holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Haigazian University, a master’s of divinity from the Near East School of Theology, a master’s of theology and a doctorate in pastoral theology from the Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition to his local and international responsibilities in educational, ecclesial and ecumenical organizations, Haidostian teaches, lectures and writes in Armenian, Arabic and English on a wide variety of topics including Armenian identity, ecumenism, youth, social issues, pastoral theology, and Middle Eastern community.

Khatchig Mouradian is the coordinator of the Armenian Genocide Program at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University, where he also teaches in the history and sociology departments as adjunct professor. He has also taught at Clark University and Worcester State University. Mouradian was the editor of the *Armenian Weekly* from 2007-2014. He is the recipient the Gulbenkian Armenian Studies research fellowship to study the Armenian community in China in the 20th century and the recipient of the first Hrant Dink Freedom and Justice Medal (2014) of the Organization of Istanbul Armenians.

For more information, visit the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at <http://www.ramapo.edu/holocaust/> or call 201.684.7409 to reserve a seat for the event.

###

Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers seven graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.