ARMENIA IN EUROVISION 2015

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Armenia announced that they will participate in the Eurovision 2015 with the song called Dont Deny. It is stated that the song will be performed by the group Genealogy whose members will be comprised of 6 musicians of Armenian descent from the Armenian Diaspora in 5 continents and Armenia. In the official web site of the Eurovision, it is reported that the aim is to symbolically unite the new generation of Armenians on stage whose families once spread all over the world in 1915.[1] The slogan of the group is declared as Building Bridges, inspired by the forget-me-not flower.

Armenia, which withdrew from the Eurovision song contest in 2012 due to its venue, Baku [2], disregards values identified with the contest such as multiculturalism and cohabitation and insists on participating with a song containing political messages. The rules of this contest - held since 1956 without interruption - clearly states that the lyrics of the songs performed in the contest should not contain any political message.[3] Yet the name of Armenias song and the way the group was formed already started a political debate.

The singer representing France will participate in the contest with a song called Noubliez pas (do not forget). Although the song does not openly refer to the Armenian issue, according to the allegations of the Armenian press its lyrics[4] are quiet ambiguous. Moreover, according to news reports in the Armenian press, there are already claims that this song is "believed to be" related to the Armenian issue.[5]

Armenia's efforts to turn the Eurovision into a political platform outside of its purpose drew negative reaction. Therefore, the Eurovision officials announced that they will scrutinize the song. With this examination, Eurovision being the focus of these debates

overshadows the prestige of such an organization with a 50 year history. As a matter of fact, there are already campaigns to disqualify Armenia and France through the web site change.org.[6]

Photo: *Wikipedia*

[1] *The idea is to unite a new generation of Armenians on stage whose families once spread all over the world in the year 1915.,* http://www.eurovision.tv/page/news?id=armenia_to_be_represented_by_genealogy

[2] Hürriyet, Ermenistan Eurovision'dan çekildi, 7 March 2012, http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/planet/20073063.asp

[3] See. Article 15: Rules of the Eurovision Song Contest, http://www.eurovision.tv/page/about/rules

[4] Lisa Angell to represent France with "N'oubliez pas", http://www.eurovision.tv/page/news?id=lisa_angell_to_represent_france_with_noubliez_pas

[5] ArmeniaNow.com, Noubliez pas: Frances Eurovision 2015 entry said to allude to Armenian Genocide, 30 January 2015, https://www.armenianow.com/genocide/60214/armenia_france_eurovision_song_genocide

[6] EBU should disqualify Armenia and France from the contest

by, Eurovision Turkey | TURESC.NET

https://www.change.org/p/european-broadcasting-union-ebu-should-disqualify-armenia-and-france-from-the-contest

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Özge Nur Ögütcü was an Analyst at AVİM between October 2013 to December 2017. Ogutcu pursued her works on Iran and Central Asia.

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