

Hello Friend, the Eastern Christian communities need allies. [View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend.



This Nightmare Must End



ISIS made me do it.

I wish that weren't the case, but the urgency and concern with which Silk Road Rising presents next week's program [Eastern Christians: Commemorating Genocide, Confronting the Future](#) can be traced directly to the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. The brutality and cruelty of this movement, and the viciousness with which it devastates religious minorities and fellow Muslims, has shaken the world's conscience.

One hundred years after the Armenian, Aramean/Assyrian, and Greek Genocides in the Ottoman Empire, the region's ancient Christian communities are facing existential peril all over again. For those of us who

believe in a Middle East defined by pluralism and rich cultural mosaics, for those of us who demand religious freedom for all communities, then meaningful solidarity with the victims of this onslaught must be realized. Our hope with this program is to generate awareness and plant seeds for collective action.

As an Eastern Christian myself, I am painfully aware of how desperately we need allies. We need Muslim allies. We need Christian allies. We need Jewish allies. We need allies of conscience from all backgrounds, secular and religious.

After two thousand years of continual existence, the future of Christianity in our Middle Eastern homelands is no longer a given. If commemorating the centennial of Genocide teaches us anything, it is that history can and does repeat itself. We should never allow that to happen, and yet, what began last summer in Mosul and northern Iraq, and then spread throughout Syria and beyond, has been described as Genocide—the deliberate and systematic killing of groups of people, particularly along ethnic, national, and religious lines. This nightmare must end!

My own world has been shattered by the Syrian civil war and the tumult that grips the region. I fear each day for my relatives and loved ones caught in this cycle of horror. And I fear for the communities and faith traditions that shape my identity and heritage. For these reasons and many more, I am enormously proud to have helped organize this program, featuring distinguished panelists from Eastern Christian and Muslim backgrounds.

The evening will begin with a performance of excerpts from Adriana Sevahn Nichols' riveting play [Night Over Erzinga](#). The conversation that will follow promises to be as candid and robust as it is dynamic and enlightening.

What did ISIS make me do? It made me want to help those who are fighting to stay alive.

I hope to see you on Thursday, August 6 at 7pm at Silk Road Rising for *Eastern Christians: Commemorating Genocide, Confronting the Future*. Click [HERE](#) to reserve seats and to learn more. The event is free and open to all.

EASTERN CHRISTIANS: Commemorating Genocide, Confronting the Future

A Panel Discussion - Thursday, August 6th @ 7pm



This panel will feature representatives from Arab Christian, Armenian, Coptic, Muslim, and Syriac communities as they reflect on the centennial of the Armenian, Aramean/Assyrian, and Greek Genocides, and discuss present day challenges confronting Christians in Egypt, Iraq, Syria and beyond.

Panelists will exchange ideas for strengthening pluralism and religious freedom in the Middle East, promoting security for all religious communities, and building greater Christian - Muslim cooperation. In addition, select excerpts from Adriana Sevahn Nichols' play *Night Over Erzinga* will be presented.

PANELISTS

Nairee Hagopian (Armenian Orthodox)
 Dr. Kamal Ibrahim (Coptic Orthodox)
 Dr. Nabeel Khoury (Melkite Greek Catholic)
 Deacon George Kourieh (Syriac Orthodox)
 Dr. Khalil Marrar (Sunni Muslim)

The panel will be moderated by Silk Road Rising's Artistic Director Jamil Khoury (Antiochian Orthodox).

DATE

Thursday, August 6, 2015 from 7-9 PM

TICKETS

Tickets are FREE. Reservations are required. Reserve seats online:

**RESERVE YOUR FREE
TICKETS NOW!**
Space is limited

VENUE

The Historic Chicago Temple Building
 77 W Washington St, Lower Level
 Chicago, IL 60602

PARKING

Silk Road Rising is easily accessible via public transportation. If you plan to drive, take advantage of our \$8 parking arrangement at Self Park, 230 W Washington St (corner of Washington & Franklin; building with Cosi Restaurant). Ask box office attendant for a discount coupon.



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