



Research Unit for the Study of Society, Law and Religion (RUSSLR)

PUBLIC LECTURE

“The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933: Was it Genocide?”

When: Tuesday, 24 March 2009 at 5.30pm

Where: Lecture Theatre One, Ligertwood Building, Law School

Speaker: Dr Roman Serbyn is Professor Emeritus of History, Université du Québec à Montréal (Montreal, Canada). Professor Serbyn received a PhD degree in History from McGill University in 1975 and taught Russian and East European history at Université du Québec à Montréal from 1969-2002.

Synopsis: The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 is no longer denied; indeed, the Soviet Communist regime's responsibility for it is now generally recognized. What is still debated among scholars and politicians, however, is whether it qualifies as genocide according to the definition of that crime contained in the UN Convention on Genocide and the analysis of the Ukrainian Famine offered by Raphael Lemkin, the legal expert who coined and conceptualized the term “genocide”. In this lecture, Professor Serbyn argues that the deliberate starvation of millions of Ukrainians was part of Stalin's regime's intent to destroy the Ukrainian nation, as such, by physically eliminating its national elites, exterminating a major part of its population, and transforming the rest of the Ukrainian population into obedient cogs of his totalitarian machine. The criminal intent and the national identity of the targeted group are borne out by the newly revealed Soviet documents housed in Russian and Ukrainian archives.

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