



Please deliver to:
**Member
of Congress**

Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Members of Congress
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: December 21, 2010

RE: Turkey's threats

A bipartisan U.S. House majority stands ready to pass the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

This measure, which has been approved by committee four times in the last ten years, seeks to apply the lessons of a past genocide to the work of preventing future atrocities. It has over 145 cosponsors and is supported by the current Speaker and Majority Leader and the incoming Majority Leader and Majority Whip.

Sadly, however, the Turkish government is once again trying to interfere in the work of the U.S. Congress. Turkey's leaders, who have already criminalized the discussion of the Genocide on their own soil, are seeking to export their "gag rule" to the U.S. Congress.

Turkey stands along among our allies as the only one that regularly and openly threatens our leaders, our interests, our allies, and even the safety of our service members. Sadly, it seems that the Turkish government has yet to understand that Americans do not appreciate being threatened by foreign leaders.

Instead of caving in to the dictates of the Turkish government - which has so brazenly turned its back on us on issues ranging from Iran and Israel, Sudan and Syria, to Hezbollah and Hamas - America should stand with those brave voices within Turkey who are calling for Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide and come to terms with its history.

We should never outsource our nation's stand against genocide to a foreign power. No nation not even an ally - deserves a veto over U.S. human rights policy.

For these reasons, and for all those outlined in today's Armenian Caucus Dear Colleague letter (attached) and in our H.Res.252 materials (see link), please vote YES on H.Res.252.

Briefing materials: <http://www.anca.org/endthegagrule/briefingbook.pdf>
<http://www.anca.org/endthegagrule/talkingpoints.pdf>

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Support Passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution

December 21, 2010

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to urge your support of H.Res.252, the Armenian Genocide Resolution, a bipartisan resolution with over 140 cosponsors.

This human rights legislation simply honors the victims of the Armenian Genocide, during which 1,500,000 men, women, and children were murdered by the Ottoman Empire primarily because of their Christian faith, and it properly pays tribute to the unprecedented American humanitarian response to this crime.

The National Archives is filled with thousands of pages documenting the premeditated extermination of the Armenian people. Our own Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, recalled in his memoirs that the Turks “never had the slightest idea of reestablishing the Armenians in a new country” knowing that “the great majority of those would... either die of thirst and starvation, or be murdered by the wild Mohammedan desert tribes.”

The U.S. has long been a global leader in promoting human rights around the world. On the issue of the Armenian Genocide, however, we lag behind. The French, Swiss, Swedish, Germans, and even the Russian governments recognize the Armenian Genocide. As a global leader in human rights, it is imperative for the U.S. to stand on principle and recognize the annihilation of the Armenians as “genocide.” Above all else, this resolution seeks to apply the lessons of this horrific experience to our government’s ongoing efforts to prevent future atrocities.

In adopting this measure, the U.S. House will be acting in accord with our long and proud tradition of condemning and commemorating genocides, including, of course, House resolutions on the Holocaust, and also the Ukraine, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur genocides. In each of these cases, Congress did not legislate history, but reaffirmed our nation’s moral stand against all genocides.

History is a continuum. Yesterday impacts today, which impacts tomorrow. It’s much harder to get tomorrow right if we get yesterday wrong. The world’s strength to oppose killing today is made greater by accountability, for actions present, but also past. It’s weakened by denial of accountability of past acts. Not recognizing the Armenian Genocide, as such, weakens us.

We urge you to support passage of H.Res.252.

FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress

EDWARD ROYCE
Member of Congress

ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress

JACKIE SPEIER
Member of Congress

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress