
The Armenian Genocide Resolution

Reasons to Support the Armenian Genocide Resolution

1) Standing up for American values

In keeping with the decency and humanitarian spirit of the American people, the U.S. government should be the international leader in recognizing and condemning all genocides - past and present.

We should also honor as a proud chapter in our own history the U.S. diplomatic protests and relief efforts for the survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

2) Rejecting a foreign government's "gag-rule" on America

We should never allow Turkey to block America's recognition of a crime against humanity. No nation has the right to impose a "gag-rule" on America's defense of human rights.

3) Helping to prevent future genocides

Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide sets a dangerous precedent that makes future genocides more likely.

On ordering his military commanders to attack Poland without provocation in 1939, Adolf Hitler dismissed objections by saying:

**"Who, after all, speaks today of the
annihilation of the Armenians?"**

Even today, many of the brutal tactics - and shameless denials - used by the Ottoman Empire against defenseless Armenians are being used again today by the Sudanese government in its genocide in Darfur.

Broad-based Support for the Armenian Genocide Resolution

- 1) Congressional Support
- 2) Obama Administration Support
- 3) U.S. State-level Support
- 4) Ethnic, Religious, and Human Rights Support
- 5) International Support
- 6) Academic Support
- 7) Turkish Civil Society Support

Myths and Facts about the Armenian Genocide Resolution

- Myth #1: The Armenian Genocide is still the subject of historical debate.
- Myth #2: The Armenian massacres don't meet the definition of genocide.
- Myth #3: Congress shouldn't debate historical issues.
- Myth #4: It's not the right time to pass this resolution.
- Myth #5: This resolution will hurt Turkey-Armenia relations.
- Myth #6: The Armenian Genocide is only an issue for Armenian Americans – not for Armenians living in Armenia.
- Myth #7: Turkey is showing new flexibility on the Armenian issue.
- Myth #8: Let's wait until Armenia and Turkey conduct a joint historical commission on this issue.
- Myth #9: We shouldn't upset a reliable ally.
- Myth #10: This resolution will lead to Turkish backlash.
- Myth #11: This resolution will hurt U.S. interests.
- Myth #12: We shouldn't bother recognizing this genocide.

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1) Congressional Support

The Armenian Genocide Resolution was cosponsored by over 210 U.S. Representatives during the 110th Congress, and was approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee in 2000, 2005, and 2007.

2) Obama Administration Support

President Obama has pledged to recognize the Armenian Genocide and has spoken strongly for the Armenian Genocide Resolution. Vice President Biden, Secretary of State Clinton, and many other senior Administration officials support Armenian Genocide recognition.

3) U.S. State-level Support

The Armenian Genocide is officially recognized by 41 U.S. states.

4) Ethnic, Religious, and Human Rights Support

The Armenian Genocide Resolution is backed by a diverse coalition.

5) International Support

The Armenian Genocide has been recognized by more than 20 nations, a growing list that includes 11 NATO allies.

6) Academic Support

The Armenian Genocide Resolution has been endorsed by the International Association of Genocide Scholars, the leading group of experts in Holocaust and genocide studies.

7) Turkish Civil Society Support

Despite the threat of prosecution and even assassination, a growing number of Turkish academics and intellectuals are calling on Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Broad-based Support for the Armenian Genocide Resolution

1) Congressional Support

The Armenian Genocide Resolution during the 110th Congress secured broad, bipartisan support, with over 210 cosponsors from 38 states.

Abercrombie, Neil (HI-1)	Cleaver, Emanuel (MO-5)	Green, Al (TX-9)
Ackerman, Gary L. (NY-5)	Conyers, John, Jr. (MI-14)	Green, Gene (TX-29)
Allen, Thomas H. (ME-1)	Costa, Jim (CA-20)	Grijalva, Raul M. (AZ-7)
Andrews, Robert E. (NJ-1)	Costello, Jerry F. (IL-12)	Gutierrez, Luis V. (IL-4)
Arcuri, Michael A. (NY-24)	Courtney, Joe (CT-2)	Hall, John J. (NY-19)
Baca, Joe (CA-43)	Crowley, Joseph (NY-7)	Hare, Phil (IL-17)
Bachmann, Michele (MN-6)	Davis, Artur (AL-7)	Harman, Jane (CA-36)
Baird, Brian (WA-3)	Davis, Danny K. (IL-7)	Herseth, Stephanie (SD)
Baldwin, Tammy (WI-2)	Davis, Susan A. (CA-53)	Hinchey, Maurice D. (NY-22)
Barrow, John (GA-12)	DeFazio, Peter A. (OR-4)	Hinojosa, Ruben (TX-15)
Bean, Melissa L. (IL-8)	DeGette, Diana (CO-1)	Hirono, Mazie K. (HI-2)
Becerra, Xavier (CA-31)	Delahunt, William (MA-10)	Hodes, Paul W. (NH-2)
Berkley, Shelley (NV-1)	DeLauro, Rosa L. (CT-3)	Holt, Rush D. (NJ-12)
Berman, Howard L. (CA-28)	Dent, Charles W. (PA-15)	Honda, Michael M. (CA-15)
Bilbray, Brian P. (CA-50)	Diaz-Balart, Lincoln (FL-21)	Hunter, Duncan (CA-52)
Bilirakis, Gus M. (FL-9)	Diaz-Balart, Mario (FL-25)	Israel, Steve (NY-2)
Bishop, Timothy H. (NY-1)	Dingell, John D. (MI-15)	Issa, Darrell E. (CA-49)
Blumenauer, Earl (OR-3)	Doggett, Lloyd (TX-25)	Jackson, Jesse L., Jr. (IL-2)
Bono, Mary (CA-45)	Doolittle, John T. (CA-4)	Jackson-Lee, Sheila (TX-18)
Bordallo, Madeleine Z. (GU)	Doyle, Michael F. (PA-14)	Jones, Stephanie Tubbs (OH-11)
Brady, Robert A. (PA-1)	Dreier, David (CA-26)	Kagen, Steve (WI-8)
Braley, Bruce L. (IA-1)	Ellison, Keith (MN-5)	Kennedy, Patrick J. (RI-1)
Butterfield, G. K. (NC-1)	Engel, Eliot L. (NY-17)	Kildee, Dale E. (MI-5)
Calvert, Ken (CA-44)	Eshoo, Anna G. (CA-14)	Kind, Ron (WI-3)
Camp, Dave (MI-4)	Farr, Sam (CA-17)	Kingston, Jack (GA-1)
Campbell, John (CA-48)	Fattah, Chaka (PA-2)	Kirk, Mark Steven (IL-10)
Cantor, Eric (VA-7)	Ferguson, Mike (NJ-7)	Knollenberg, Joe (MI-9)
Capps, Lois (CA-23)	Filner, Bob (CA-51)	Kucinich, Dennis J. (OH-10)
Capuano, Michael E. (MA-8)	Frank, Barney (MA-4)	LaHood, Ray (IL-18)
Cardoza, Dennis A. (CA-18)	Frelinghuysen, Rodney (NJ-11)	Langevin, James R. (RI-2)
Carson, Julia (IN-7)	Garrett, Scott (NJ-5)	Larson, John B. (CT-1)
Christensen, Donna M. (VI)	Gerlach, Jim (PA-6)	LaTourette, Steven (OH-14)
Clarke, Yvette D. (NY-11)	Gillibrand, Kirsten (NY-20)	Lee, Barbara (CA-9)
Clay, Wm. Lacy (MO-1)	Gonzalez, Charles A. (TX-20)	Levin, Sander M. (MI-12)

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Broad-based Support for the Armenian Genocide Resolution

Lewis, John (GA-5)
Lipinski, Daniel (IL-3)
LoBiondo, Frank A. (NJ-2)
Lofgren, Zoe (CA-16)
Lowey, Nita M. (NY-18)
Lungren, Daniel E. (CA-3)
Lynch, Stephen F. (MA-9)
Maloney, Carolyn B. (NY-14)
Marchant, Kenny (TX-24)
Markey, Edward J. (MA-7)
Marshall, Jim (GA-8)
Matheson, Jim (UT-2)
Matsui, Doris O. (CA-5)
McCarthy, Carolyn (NY-4)
McCarthy, Kevin (CA-22)
McCaul, Michael T. (TX-10)
McCollum, Betty (MN-4)
McCotter, Thaddeus (MI-11)
McDermott, Jim (WA-7)
McGovern, James P. (MA-3)
McHugh, John M. (NY-23)
McKeon, Howard P. (CA-25)
McMorris Rodgers, Cathy (WA-5)
McNerney, Jerry (CA-11)
McNulty, Michael R. (NY-21)
Meek, Kendrick B. (FL-17)
Melancon, Charlie (LA-3)
Michaud, Michael H. (ME-2)
Miller, Candice S. (MI-10)
Miller, Gary G. (CA-42)
Miller, George (CA-7)
Moran, James P. (VA-8)
Murphy, Christopher (CT-5)
Musgrave, Marilyn N. (CO-4)
Nadler, Jerrold (NY-8)
Napolitano, Grace F. (CA-38)
Neal, Richard E. (MA-2)
Norton, Eleanor Holmes (DC)
Nunes, Devin (CA-21)
Olver, John W. (MA-1)
Pallone, Frank, Jr. (NJ-6)
Pastor, Ed (AZ-4)
Payne, Donald M. (NJ-10)
Perlmutter, Ed (CO-7)
Peterson, Collin C. (MN-7)
Pitts, Joseph R. (PA-16)
Porter, Jon C. (NV-3)
Radanovich, George (CA-19)
Rangel, Charles B. (NY-15)
Reichert, David G. (WA-8)
Renzi, Rick (AZ-1)
Richardson, Laura (CA-37)
Rodriguez, Ciro D. (TX-23)
Rogers, Mike J. (MI-8)
Rohrabacher, Dana (CA-46)
Roskam, Peter J. (IL-6)
Rothman, Steven R. (NJ-9)
Roybal-Allard, Lucille (CA-34)
Royce, Edward R. (CA-40)
Rush, Bobby L. (IL-1)
Ryan, Paul (WI-1)
Ryan, Tim (OH-17)
Salazar, John T. (CO-3)
Sanchez, Linda T. (CA-39)
Sanchez, Loretta (CA-47)
Sarbanes, John P. (MD-3)
Schakowsky, Janice D. (IL-9)
Schwartz, Allyson Y. (PA-13)
Scott, Robert (VA-3)
Sensenbrenner, James, Jr. (WI-5)
Serrano, Jose E. (NY-16)
Shays, Christopher (CT-4)
Sherman, Brad (CA-27)
Sires, Albio (NJ-13)
Smith, Christopher H. (NJ-4)
Solis, Hilda L. (CA-32)
Souder, Mark E. (IN-3)
Space, Zachary T. (OH-18)
Speier, Jackie (CA-12)
Stark, Fortney Pete (CA-13)
Sutton, Betty (OH-13)
Tauscher, Ellen O. (CA-10)
Thompson, Bennie G. (MS-2)
Thompson, Mike (CA-1)
Tierney, John F. (MA-6)
Townsend, Edolphus (NY-10)
Tsongas, Nikki (MA-5)
Udall, Mark (CO-2)
Udall, Tom (NM-3)
Van Hollen, Chris (MD-8)
Velazquez, Nydia M. (NY-12)
Visclosky, Peter J. (IN-1)
Walberg, Timothy (MI-7)
Walsh, James T. (NY-25)
Walz, Timothy J. (MN-1)
Wamp, Zach (TN-3)
Waters, Maxine (CA-35)
Watson, Diane E. (CA-33)
Watt, Melvin L. (NC-12)
Waxman, Henry A. (CA-30)
Weiner, Anthony D. (NY-9)
Weller, Jerry (IL-11)
Wilson, Joe (SC-2)
Wolf, Frank R. (VA-10)
Woolsey, Lynn C. (CA-6)
Wu, David (OR-1)
Wynn, Albert Russell (MD-4)
Yarmuth, John A. (KY-3)

2) Obama Administration Support

President Obama has pledged to recognize the Armenian Genocide and has spoken strongly in support of passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

-- "The Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. The facts are undeniable."

-- "America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian Genocide and responds forcefully to all genocides. I intend to be that President."

-- "As a senator, I strongly support passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.106 and S.Res.106), and as President I will recognize the Armenian Genocide"

Vice President Biden: "Recognition by the U.S. of the Armenian Genocide is not the final goal. The real goal is the recognition of Turkey - of the Turkish Government - of the Armenian Genocide and the establishment of a common Turkish-Armenian understanding of the events and tragedy that took place."

Secretary of State Clinton: "I believe the horrible events perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians constitute a clear case of genocide... Our common morality and our nation's credibility as a voice for human rights challenge us to ensure that the Armenian Genocide be recognized and remembered by the Congress and the President of the United States."

Other senior officials with records of Armenian Genocide recognition are Cabinet Secretaries Ken Salazar, Hilda Solis, and Ray LaHood, and CIA Director Leon Panetta.

3) U.S. State-level Support

The Armenian Genocide has been officially recognized, through legislation or proclamation, by 41 U.S. states.

Alaska	Maine	North Dakota
Arizona	Maryland	Ohio
Arkansas	Massachusetts	Oklahoma
California	Michigan	Oregon
Colorado	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Connecticut	Missouri	Rhode Island
Delaware	Montana	South Carolina
Florida	Nebraska	Tennessee
Georgia	Nevada	Utah
Kansas	New Hampshire	Vermont
Kentucky	New Jersey	Virginia
Idaho	New Mexico	Washington
Illinois	New York	Wisconsin
Louisiana	North Carolina	

Broad-based Support for the Armenian Genocide Resolution

4) Ethnic, Religious, and Human Rights Support

The Armenian Genocide Resolution is supported by a diverse coalition of human rights, ethnic, and religious groups:

American Federation of Jews from Central Europe (New York, NY)
American Hellenic Council of CA (Los Angeles, CA)
American Hellenic Institute (Washington, DC)
American Hungarian Federation (Washington, DC)
American Jewish World Service (New York, NY)
American Latvian Association in the U.S. (Rockville, MD)
American Values (Washington, DC)
Americans for Peace Now (Washington, DC)
Arab American Institute (Washington, DC)
Belarusian-American Association (Jamaica, NY)
Bulgarian Institute for Research and Analysis (Bethesda, MD)
Center for Holocaust and Genocide, University of Minnesota
(Minneapolis, MN)
Center for Russian Jewry with Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry
(New York, NY)
Center for World Indigenous Studies (Olympia, WA)
Christian Solidarity International (Washington, DC)
Congress of Romanian Americans (McLean, VA)
Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (Lafayette, LA)
Estonian American National Council (Rockville, MD)
Genocide Intervention Network (Washington, DC)
Global Rights (Washington, DC)
Grace Community Church (Sun Valley, CA)
Hmong National Development, Inc. (Washington, DC)
Hungarian American Coalition (Washington, DC)
Institute on Religion and Public Policy (Washington, DC)
International Association of Genocide Scholars (New York, NY)

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Broad-based Support for the Armenian Genocide Resolution

Jewish Social Policy Action Network (Philadelphia, PA)
Jewish War Veterans of the USA (Washington, DC)
Jewish World Watch (Encino, CA)
Joint Baltic American National Committee (Rockville, MD)
Leadership Council for Human Rights (Washington, DC)
Lithuanian American Community (Philadelphia, PA)
Lithuanian American Council (Rockville, MD)
National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (New York, NY)
National Council of Churches USA (New York, NY)
National Federation of American Hungarians (Washington, DC)
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (Washington, DC)
National Lawyer's Guild (New York, NY)
Polish American Congress (Chicago, IL)
Progressive Jewish Alliance (Los Angeles, CA)
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (Wyncote, PA)
Slovak League of America (Passaic, New Jersey)
The Georgian Association in the USA (Washington, DC)
The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring (New York, NY)
U.S. Baltic Foundation (Washington, DC)
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (New York, NY)
Ukrainian National Association (Parsippany, NJ)
Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
Union for Reform Judaism (Washington, DC)
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (Washington, DC)
United Hellenic American Congress (Chicago, IL)
Washington Chapter Czechoslovak National Council of America
(Washington, DC)
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Philadelphia, PA)
Zionist Organization of America (New York, NY)

5) International Support

The Armenian Genocide has been officially recognized by a growing list of more than 20 nations, including 12 of Turkey's NATO allies, and international bodies, including, most recently, Canada and Chile.

- Argentina
- Belgium (NATO)
- Bulgaria (NATO)
- Canada (NATO)
- Chile
- Cyprus (NATO)
- France (NATO)
- Germany (NATO)
- Greece (NATO)
- Italy (NATO)
- Lebanon
- Lithuania (NATO)
- Netherlands (NATO)
- Poland (NATO)
- Russia
- Slovakia (NATO)
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Uruguay
- The Vatican
- Venezuela

Other international recognition of the Armenian Genocide::

- European Parliament
- United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of

Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

6) Academic Support

The Armenian Genocide Resolution has been endorsed by the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS), the leading group of experts in Holocaust and genocide studies.

In a March 7, 2007 letter sent to Members of Congress on behalf of the IAGS, the group's President, Israel Charny, Ph.D., and Vice President Gregory H. Stanton, J.D., Ph.D., called for the passage of this legislation, which is identical to the measure introduced in the 111th Congress:

“The historical record on the Armenian Genocide is unambiguous and documented by overwhelming evidence. It is proven by foreign office records of the United States, France, Great Britain, Russia, and perhaps most importantly, of Turkey’s World War I allies, Germany and Austria-Hungary, as well as by the records of the Ottoman Courts-Martial of 1918-1920, and by decades of scholarship.”

The IAGS letter stressed that, **“the Armenian Genocide is not controversial, but rather is denied only by the Turkish government and its apologists.”** Commenting on the Turkish government’s efforts to enlist academic support for its denial campaign, the IAGS noted that:

“We are aware that you may be pressured by a small number of academics who support Turkey’s denialist stance for often self-interested reasons. Such academics willingly falsify, distort, and manipulate the evidence in sometimes subtle ways to present a false view of history. These academics violate the ethical obligations of historical scholarship. We have noted that academics who deny the Armenian Genocide are no different than academics who deny the Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide, or the Cambodian Genocide.”

7) Turkish Civil Society Support

“An official recognition of the Armenian Genocide must take place in Turkey. The Armenian Diaspora seeks a clear recognition of this historical injustice, which present-day Turkish pro-democracy advocates must support.”

Taner Akcam, Ph.D., “No Shame in Slaughter,” Montreal Mirror, February 22, 2007
Visiting Associate Professor of History, Univ. of Minnesota (Prosecuted by Turkish government)

“The Armenian Genocide was a crime against humanity by the Ottoman Turkish state against part of their own citizens. To deny it, is an insult to the memory of those who died and to those who survived. To deny it poisons each generation, not just the Armenians, but also the Turks who take part in denial.”

Ragip Zarakolu, Public lecture at the City University of NY, April 8, 2006
Turkish publisher (Prosecuted by the Turkish government)

“I find it sad that some Turks can’t talk about 1915, that ours is a society with collective amnesia. We haven’t come to grips with our past, nor have we recognized how bitter the Armenians are because their grief goes unacknowledged. I would like Armenians to forgive and forget one day, too, but we Turks need to remember first.”

Elif Shafak, “Writers on Trial,” The Washington Post, September 24, 2006,
Turkish novelist (Prosecuted by the Turkish government)

“Thirty thousand Kurds and a million Armenians were killed in these lands and nobody but me dares to talk about it.”

Orhan Pamuk, Interview, Das Magazin, February 6, 2005
Nobel Prize-winning Turkish novelist (Prosecuted by the Turkish government)

“Of course I’m saying it’s a genocide, because its consequences show it to be true and label it so. We see that people who had lived on this soil for 4,000 years were exterminated by these events.”

Hrant Dink, Reuters, July 14, 2006
Turkish Armenian journalist (Prosecuted by Turkish government, assassinated in 2007)

Myths and Facts about the the Armenian Genocide Resolution

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- Myth #6: The Armenian Genocide is only an issue for Armenian Americans – not for Armenians living in Armenia.**
- Myth #7: Turkey is showing new flexibility on the Armenian issue.**
- Myth #8: Let's wait until Armenia and Turkey conduct a joint historical commission on this issue.**
- Myth #9: We shouldn't upset a reliable ally.**
- Myth #10: This resolution will lead to Turkish backlash.**
- Myth #11: This resolution will hurt U.S. interests.**
- Myth #12: We shouldn't bother recognizing this genocide.**

Myth #1: The Armenian Genocide is still the subject of historical debate.

Response: The Turkish government, using tactics similar to Holocaust deniers, seeks to create artificial controversy and confusion regarding an established historical event.

The truth, of course, is that the Armenian Genocide, like the Holocaust, is a thoroughly documented fact – it is settled history.

The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS), the leading group of experts on the Holocaust and genocide studies, unanimously adopted a resolution during their 1997 conference in Montreal, Canada affirming that:

“[T]he mass murder of Armenians in Turkey in 1915 is a case of genocide which conforms to the statutes of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.”

The IAGS “condemns the denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Turkish government and its official and unofficial agents and supporters.”

In a March 7, 2007 letter urging Members of House and Senate to support the adoption of the Armenian Genocide Resolution, the IAGS asserted that:

“The historical record on the Armenian Genocide is unambiguous and documented by overwhelming evidence.”

Myth #2: The Armenian massacres don't meet the definition of genocide.

Response: The Armenian Genocide clearly meets the definition set by the U.N. Genocide Convention.

- **Polish jurist Raphael Lemkin**, when he coined the term genocide in 1944, cited the Turkish extermination of the Armenians and the Nazi extermination of the Jews as defining examples of what he meant by genocide.
- In 1997 the **International Association of Genocide Scholars**, an organization of the world's foremost experts on genocide, unanimously passed a formal resolution affirming the Armenian Genocide.
- **126 leading scholars of the Holocaust** including Elie Wiesel and Yehuda Bauer placed a statement in the *New York Times* in June 2000 declaring the "incontestable fact of the Armenian Genocide" and urged western democracies to acknowledge it.
- **The Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide** (Jerusalem), and the **Institute for the Study of Genocide** (NYC) have affirmed the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide, as does the **Encyclopedia of Genocide**, edited by Professor Israel Charney.
- Leading texts on international genocide law, such as William Schabas's *Genocide in International Law* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2000) cite the Armenian Genocide as a precursor to the Holocaust and as a precedent for the law on crimes against humanity.
- An independent study facilitated by the **International Center for Transitional Justice** in 2003 concluded that the Armenian Genocide clearly meets the definition of genocide established by the U.N. Genocide Convention.

Myth #3: Congress shouldn't debate historical issues.

Response: The U.S. House of Representatives has a long and proud tradition of reaffirming America's moral stand against all genocides and mass atrocities, past and present, often over the objections of foreign governments.

Holocaust: The U.S. House has adopted a number of resolutions on the Holocaust. Among these was H.Res.30, adopted on January 25, 2005, which urged educators to teach the lessons of the Holocaust in order to help prevent future genocides.

Cambodian Genocide: On November 19, 2003, the House passed H.Con.Res.83, which commemorated the Cambodian Genocide, by a vote of 420 to 1.

Darfur Genocide: Among many pieces of legislation enacted regarding the Darfur Genocide over the objections of the Sudanese government was H.Res.333, adopted on July 11, 2005, condemning the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Ukrainian Genocide: On November 16, 2005, over the objection of the Russian government, the U.S. House adopted a resolution, H.R.562, recognizing the Ukrainian Famine Genocide and authorizing the creation of a monument honoring its victims.

Bosnian Genocide: On June 27, 2005, the U.S. House adopted a resolution, H.Res.199, regarding the genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Japanese "comfort women": On July 30, 2007, over the objections of the Japanese government, the U.S. House adopted H.Res.121, which condemned the widespread practice by the Japanese military during World War II of forcing women into sexual slavery.

Myth #4: It's "not the right time" to pass this resolution.

Response: Nine decades after the Armenian Genocide, there are still those who say its "not the right time" to speak honestly about this crime against humanity.

This flawed argument has been used for far too long to block a broad, bipartisan Congressional majority from voting on this long-overdue human rights measure.

When opponents of this resolution, citing any of a variety of recent developments, argue that "Now is not the right time," what they are really saying is that "It's never the right time to recognize the Armenian Genocide."

Year after year, in session after session of Congress, appeals for delays in the consideration of the Armenian Genocide Resolution have resulted in countless deferrals of this human rights legislation.

With the tragic loss of the last of the Armenian Genocide survivors, now is the time to pass the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

- **It's always the right time for America to take a principled stand against genocide.**
- **It's never the right time to compromise our nation's morality by outsourcing our government's policy on genocide.**
- **The time has come to end Turkey's gag-order and for America's leaders to speak freely about the Armenian Genocide.**

Myth #5: This resolution will hurt Turkey-Armenia relations.

Response: Progress on Turkey-Armenia relations will be strengthened, not hindered, by U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Durable reconciliation can only be built upon a foundation of truth and justice, not, as Turkey would like, on the denial of the Armenian Genocide. Both processes - authentic reconciliation based on truth and movement toward universal recognition by the international community - are healthy and should proceed in parallel.

Incredibly, Turkey has set as a precondition for lifting its illegal blockade and normalizing ties that Armenia abandon its support for Armenian Genocide recognition. Armenia holds that relations should be established without preconditions and continues its support for the recognition of this crime:

- Armenia's President, Serge Sargsyan, on February 2, 2009, after meeting with Turkey's Prime Minister, said that: **"Establishment of relations with Turkey does not mean forgoing the Genocide; establishment of relations with Turkey does not mean subordination of our national interests to some other issues."**
- Armenia's Foreign Minister, during the debate on H.Res.106, wrote to Speaker Pelosi that: **"To view acknowledgement of the truth as an obstacle to political relations is cynical. A resolution that addresses matters of human rights and genocide cannot damage anyone's bilateral relations, neither yours with Turkey, nor ours."**
- Armenia's Ambassador to the U.S., during a Capitol Hill Armenian Genocide observance, said: **"[T]he recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the U.S. has the potential to contribute to stimulating the Turkish society to discuss this issue in a vigorous and democratic manner."**

Myth #7: Turkey is showing new flexibility on the Armenian issue.

Response: The sad reality is that Turkey is actually moving farther away from an honest discussion of the Armenian Genocide, as these examples illustrate:

Article 301

Article 301 and other provisions of the newly adopted Turkish criminal code establish prison terms for even the mention of the Armenian Genocide.

Hrant Dink

The prosecution, official intimidation, and brutal assassination in 2007 of journalist Hrant Dink stand as evidence of Turkey's escalating attacks on those who speak honestly about the Armenian Genocide.

Orhan Pamuk

The prosecution of Orhan Pamuk, a Nobel Prize-winning author, demonstrates Turkey's efforts to silence even its most prominent citizens who speak about the Armenian Genocide.

Education Ministry

Turkey's Minister of Education, as a formal state policy, has required that Turkey's schoolchildren are taught to deny the Armenian Genocide.

Armenian Patriarch

The spiritual leader of the remaining Armenian community in Istanbul, Patriarch Mesrob II, faces constant death threats, intimidation, and government restrictions on religious freedom.

Myth #8: Let's wait until Armenia and Turkey conduct a joint historical commission on this issue.

Response: Turkey's self-serving offer to commission a joint study rings hollow.

Ankara, rather than honestly confronting its past, it is using this tactic to attempt to delay or derail the rising international tide of Genocide recognition.

Turkey's offer is akin to the Iranian government's Holocaust denial conference, a thinly veiled and profoundly offensive effort to advance a destructive political agenda by seeking to open for "debate" a long-established historical fact.

For its part, the Armenian government has responded to Turkey's offers in this regard by publicly stating that it is prepared to discuss all outstanding issues, including the Armenian Genocide, within the context of normalized relations between the two nations.

Myth #9: We shouldn't upset a reliable ally.

Response: On a moral level, we should never allow friends – or even allies – to exercise a veto over our principled opposition to all instances of genocide.

On a practical level, it's become painfully clear that Turkey is no longer a reliable ally. In fact, in recent years, it has steadily distanced itself from its Cold War-era role as reliable regional partner:

-- Turkey blocked a northern Coalition front against Iraq

In 2003 Turkey blocked a northern front against Iraq, which, according to the Pentagon, contributed to the strength of the insurgency and the persistence of sectarian violence.

-- Turkey promotes instability in the region

Turkey's actions contribute to greater instability in the region, to the detriment of U.S. interests. Among these are its blockade of Armenia (Europe's only closed border), and its occupation of Cyprus (a European Union country).

-- Turkey is encouraging anti-American sentiment

Among the best selling books in Turkey is Hitler's hateful and racist *Mein Kampf*. A recent #1 film, *Valley of the Wolves*, featured a Turkish nuclear attack on Washington, DC.

-- Turkey is escalating its criticism of Israel

The Turkish government has escalated its rhetorical attacks on Israel, culminating in Prime Minister Erdogan's tirade against Israeli President Shimon Peres at the January 2009 Davos World Economic Forum.

Myth #10: This resolution will lead to Turkish backlash.

Response: For more than 30 years, Turkey has been making hollow threats to disrupt its bilateral ties over the Armenian Genocide.

The facts show that opponents of this human rights measure are crying wolf once again. Despite threats of harsh retribution, Turkey only took token steps against Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Argentina, and other states that have recognized the Genocide.

The U.S. example: Between 1980 and 2006, U.S.-Turkey trade grew by 957%, despite President's Reagan's 1981 mention of the Armenian Genocide in a Presidential Proclamation, the adoption of a House resolution marking April 24th as a day of Genocide remembrance, and the passage of two amendments in the House, in 1996 and 2004, concerning the Armenian Genocide.

Turkey's trade with U.S. states that have affirmed the Armenian Genocide continues to increase. For example, California annually recognizes the Armenian Genocide and yet trade increased from \$220 million in 2001 to over \$300 million in 2006.

International examples: Despite Turkey's threats against France in 2001 in an unsuccessful bid to prevent the French Parliament's recognition that year of the Armenian Genocide, **trade between France and Turkey grew 22% the following year, and has grown by 131% over the past five years.**

Turkey's bilateral trade has increased significantly with other countries following their recognition of the Armenian Genocide, among them **Belgium (167%), Canada (22%), Greece (266%), Italy (109%), Lebanon (126%), and Russia (351%).**

Myth #11: This resolution will hurt U.S. interests.

Response: As we saw in Rwanda during the 1990s and are witnessing today in Darfur, preventing genocide represents a core American moral value and a vital U.S. security interest.

American morality:

Condemning all instances of genocide reinforces America's moral leadership and strengthens our standing as the international leader in protecting human rights.

U.S. interests:

Leading by example, the adoption of this resolution by the U.S. House will hopefully encourage Turkey to end its denial of the Armenian Genocide. By taking this important step, Turkey would help advance a number of U.S. interests in this part of the world:

- Lowering regional tensions and promoting economic integration.
- Removing a barrier to Turkey's acceptance into the European family of nations.
- Eliminating a pretext for Turkey's refusal to lift its blockade and normalize ties with Armenia.
- Fostering greater respect by Turkey for its minorities.
- Ending Turkey's international isolation as state-denier of genocide.

Myth #12: We shouldn't bother recognizing this genocide.

Response: America is at her strongest when we're standing up for our values, defending human rights, speaking the truth, and leading by example. No where is this more essential than in ending the cycle of genocide - a core challenge for all humanity in the 21st Century.

American moral leadership

Recognizing the Armenian Genocide is in keeping with the decency and humanitarian spirit of the American people. The U.S. government should be the international leader in recognizing and condemning all genocides - past and present.

Rejecting a foreign government's "gag-rule" on America

We should never allow Turkey to block America's recognition of a crime against humanity. No nation has the right to impose a "gag-rule" on America's defense of human rights.

Helping to prevent future genocides

Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide sets a dangerous precedent that makes future genocides more likely. Sadly, even today, many of the brutal tactics and shameless denials used by the Ottoman Empire against defenseless Armenians are being used again today by Sudan in its genocide in Darfur.

Promoting civil society reform within Turkey

U.S. interests are advanced by the growth of a true civil society in Turkey, as reflected in a recent petition signed by tens of thousands of Turks, who, despite threats of prosecution, apologized for the destruction of the Armenians. As the beacon of freedom, we should stand with these progressive voices, not with genocide deniers.