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Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide
From: Kate Nahapetian, Government Affairs Director
Date: January 24, 2008

RE: The ongoing human cost of genocide denial

I want to share with you two documents drawing connections and comparisons between the genocide denials of the governments in Ankara and Khartoum.

If you have a moment, please read the full article (excerpt attached) published today by former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, Morton Abramowitz, in which he writes:

One would think Turkey’s leaders would be a little more careful before laying down the red carpet for the likes of President Omar al Bashir of Sudan. . .”

Clearly, the state-sponsored denial of past genocides sets a dangerous precedent that only encourages those who today follow in the violent and hate-filled footsteps of the genocidal regimes of the past. This underscores the need for America to stand on the right side of Armenian Genocide reaffirmation by adopting the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.106 and S.Res.106).

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Bashir in Turkey: The Unanswered Questions

Morton Abramowitz, The Century Foundation - 1/24/2008
(former U.S. Ambassador to Turkey)

[...] Turkey has been trying to persuade the world, not very successfully, that there was no Armenian genocide in 1915. The picture of President Abdullah Gül smiling at a joint press conference is hardly going to convince skeptics that Turkey even knows what genocide means, and it will certainly raise doubts in supporters of Turkey. <http://www.tcf.org/list.asp?type=NC&pubid=1790>



Sudanese President
Omar al-Bashir meeting
with Turkish President
Abdullah Gul in Turkey.
January 22, 2008

Turkey and Sudan: Comparative Genocide Denial

Turkey	Sudan
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Our culture does not allow genocide

Recep Tayyip Erdogan (National Press Club, 11/5/07): "In fact, our values do not allow our people to commit genocide. It does not allow it and there is no such thing as a genocide."

Al-Bashir (MSNBC interview, 3/19/07): "Villages were burned, and people were killed, but it is not in the Sudanese culture or people of Darfur to rape. It doesn't exist. We don't have it."

The victims rebelled/foreign powers are to blame

Recep Tayyip Erdogan (National Press Club, 11/5/07): "This was about the time when there was rebellion in different parts of the empire. But given the context of the time and the events that took place at that time, there was provocation by some other countries and the Armenians became part of the rebellion in those years."

Al-Bashir (Asharq Alawsat Interview, 2/17/07): "There is a rebellion problem in Darfur, and it is the duty of a government in any state to fight the rebellion. When war takes place, civilian victims fall, and this has been exaggerated."

Al-Bashir (Reuters, 1/22/08) "The people who really commit murders in Darfur are receiving help from Europe and others."

It's deportation and war, not genocide

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Prime Minister of Turkey (National Press Club, 11/5/07): "I'll tell you something now. There is no [Armenian] genocide here. What took place was called deportation. Because that was a very difficult time. It was the time of war, in 1915."

Omar al-Bashir, President of Sudan (MSNBC interview with Ann Curry, 3/19/07): "The geographic displacement of people that took place in Darfur is due to the fight in Darfur. The citizen has to move out of the fighting areas to a place of security, seeking peace and security. . . yes, people were killed but not as much - it's a war!"