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To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide
From: Kate Nahapetian, Government Affairs Director
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RE: Turkey embraces genocidal Sudanese regime

Sudanese President al-Bashir was warmly welcomed on an official 3-day state visit to Turkey on January 21, which included a state dinner at the Turkish presidential palace.

As the rest of the world tries to isolate Sudan's genocidal regime, Turkey is embracing it:

- Sudan and Turkey have signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen military relations and are discussing cooperation on military technology transfers and training. (*Sudan Tribune*, 1/8/08)
- Turkey's Minister of Trade projects that Sudan will soon be Turkey's largest trading partner in Africa. *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, 1/15/08)
- Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan has denied a genocide in Darfur. (*Turkish Daily News*, 1/16/08)



Sudanese President al-Bashir and Turkish President Gul.

- Despite calls from human rights groups such as Human Rights Watch, Turkish President Gul did not put pressure on Sudan to end the atrocities in Darfur, but instead claimed that it was merely a "humanitarian tragedy" that "is not only a matter of politics, but also stems from poverty and environmental conditions" (*Today's Zaman*, 1/22/08)

As Turkey denies the Armenian Genocide, it encourages others to follow its dangerous lead.

Silence in the face of the denial of a past genocide has real world consequences for peace today.

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