



Attention:
Foreign
Affairs L.A.

Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant
From: Kenneth V. Hachikian, Chairman
Date: March 24, 2005

Re: Concern over Flawed TARC/ICTJ Finding on Armenian Genocide

As a friend who so ably represents the concerns of your Armenian American constituents, I want to inform you about an issue of considerable sensitivity to our community.

As you may know, several years ago, the discredited Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC), a group backed by genocide deniers in the Turkish government and rejected by all Armenian American community groups, sought help from the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) for a report entitled: "The Applicability of the U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to Events which Occurred During the Early Twentieth Century" (TARC/ICTJ report). Although the ICTJ apparently helped TARC identify an author, and some mistakenly refer to the report as the "ICTJ report," the report was written independently of the ICTJ. Its authors remain anonymous despite repeated requests for transparency.

Despite the report's confirmation of the obvious, namely that the planned annihilation of 1.5 million Armenians constituted the legal definition of "genocide," its true significance lies in its deeply flawed conclusion that the U.N. Genocide Convention does not apply to the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian American community rejects this legally unsound and highly misleading TARC/ICTJ finding on the matter of accountability, and is deeply concerned that statements favorably citing this document could add a measure of undeserved credibility to a conclusion that is deeply prejudicial to the rights of Americans of Armenian descent and, worst yet, may be misinterpreted as support for denying a just resolution to the Armenian Genocide. We know you would not want to create that impression.

For these reasons, we ask you to please consider carefully any citation of the TARC/ICTJ study in your public or written statements. If you have any questions about this or related issues, please call our office at (202) 775-1918.

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