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Armenian National Committee of America  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide  
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director  
Date: June 5, 2009

**RE: Turkey moving the goalposts for Armenia ties**

I am writing to bring two items to your attention:

**1) Turkey moving the goalposts for normalizing ties with Armenia**

The first is a timeline of Armenia-Turkey “soccer diplomacy” that reveals the lengths to which Turkey has gone to manipulate its relationship with the U.S. in order to block American recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

**2) Capitol Hill briefing by the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia**

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Marie Yovanovitch, will offer a public briefing, “Report from Armenia,” at 12:30 pm on Tuesday, June 30th in the Mumford Room of the James Madison Building (Library of Congress).

**Background:** In September of 2008, Ambassador Yovanovitch, a capable veteran diplomat, assumed the post formerly held by Ambassador John Evans, who had been fired by the State Department for speaking honestly about the Armenian Genocide. Her confirmation hearing featured extensive questioning about the Armenian Genocide. Prior to her approval by the Senate, her nomination was delayed for a month to give Senators more time to review her responses.

# Armenia-Turkey “Soccer Diplomacy” Timeline

## Ankara Moves the Goalposts Farther Down the Field

This timeline tracks Turkey’s recent attempts to block U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide by manipulating expectations in Washington, DC regarding Ankara’s willingness to accept official U.S. policy that Turkey should normalize relations with Armenia “without preconditions and within a reasonable timeframe.”

President Obama, on April 24th, broke his pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide, following Ankara’s threat that it would continue blocking bilateral ties with Armenia if he honored this promise. After April 24th, Turkey, having achieved its purpose, has not honored its commitments, choosing instead to move the goalpost down the field by setting preconditions and failing to act in a reasonable timeframe.

Armenia’s independence 1991 - present	Armenia repeatedly seeks to normalize relations with Turkey without preconditions and irrespective of Turkey’s state-sponsored campaign of genocide denial. Turkey rejects every overture.
June 2008	Armenian President Sarkisian invites Turkish President Gul to attend the first-ever soccer match between the two countries in Armenia. President Gul does not accept the invitation for over two months.
September 3, 2008	With only three days remaining before the soccer match, Turkish President Gul finally accepts Armenian President Sarkisian’s invitation, after it seems increasingly likely that Barack Obama, who has pledged repeatedly to recognize the Armenian Genocide, will win the upcoming Presidential election.
January 29, 2009	"I won't be surprised if a resolution happens this year," Turkey's Foreign Minister Ali Babacan told CNN-Turk television. <a href="http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34514&amp;tx_ttnews[backPid]=27&amp;cHash=7c27fb4ce0">http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34514&amp;tx_ttnews[backPid]=27&amp;cHash=7c27fb4ce0</a>
February 9, 2009	“Turkey and Armenia are very close to a deal to open embassies in Ankara and Yerevan and it is very likely that the Turkey-Armenia border will be opened soon,” said Suat Kiniklioglu, AK Party Deputy Chairman for External Affairs. <a href="http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34487&amp;tx_ttnews[backPid]=407&amp;no_cache=1">http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34487&amp;tx_ttnews[backPid]=407&amp;no_cache=1</a>

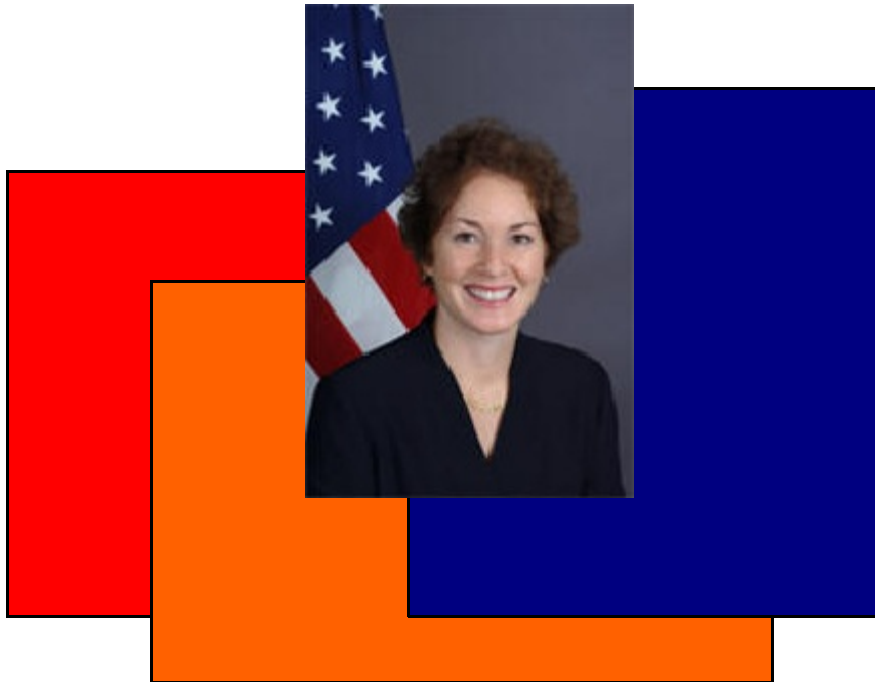
<p>April 22, 2009</p>	<p>Two days before the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the “road map” towards normalizing relations between Turkey and Armenia is announced, although it had been finalized on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p> <p><b>State Department</b> announces support for the “road map” and the normalization of ties, stating “It has long been and remains the position of the US that normalization should take place <b>without preconditions and within a reasonable timeframe.</b>”</p>
<p>April 24, 2009</p>	<p>On the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, President Obama does not recognize the Armenian Genocide, as he had pledged to do on numerous occasions, although he had criticized President Bush’s failure to do so as “inexcusable.”</p> <p>The Obama Administration points to the “road map” as an excuse for the failure to end U.S. complicity in the denial of the Armenian Genocide.</p>
<p>April 27, 2009</p>	<p>Turkish commentators start confirming that Turkey was not sincerely seeking reconciliation with Armenia, but that the “road map” was just a ploy to avoid President Obama’s recognition of the Armenian Genocide.</p> <p><a href="http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34918&amp;tx_ttnews[backPid]=407&amp;no_cache=1">http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/single/?tx_ttnews[tt_news]=34918&amp;tx_ttnews[backPid]=407&amp;no_cache=1</a></p>
<p>May 12, 2009</p>	<p>Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan declares, “Nobody should have the slightest doubt that Turkey will continue to defend Azerbaijan’s interests as it has done so far.”</p> <p>“Our relations are strong and based on a culture of fraternity.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=200905121115dowjonesdjonline000502&amp;title=turkish-pm-off-to-azerbaijan-to-allay-fears-over-armenia-ties">http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=200905121115dowjonesdjonline000502&amp;title=turkish-pm-off-to-azerbaijan-to-allay-fears-over-armenia-ties</a></p>
<p>May 13, 2009:</p>	<p><b>In an address to the Azerbaijani Parliament, Turkish PM Erdogan says, “The current situation in Nagorno-Karabakh cannot be accepted and will never be accepted. The closure of the border is a result of the occupation in Karabakh.”</b></p> <p><b>“I want to repeat once more that until the occupation ends, the border gates [with Armenia] will remain closed,” he added.</b></p> <p><a href="http://arama.hurriyet.com.tr/arsivnews.aspx?id=11639963&amp;indx=hur">http://arama.hurriyet.com.tr/arsivnews.aspx?id=11639963&amp;indx=hur</a></p>
<p>May 15, 2009</p>	<p>International Crisis Group: <b>“Optimism about the normalization of Turkey-Armenia bilateral relations, so prevalent on 22 April . . . has suddenly faded.”</b></p> <p>“Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan put a brake on the reconciliation effort when in Baku on 13 May.”</p> <p><b>“It first seemed that [normalization] could be accomplished by Autumn 2009. Now they may be delayed for years.”</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5908&amp;l=1">http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=5908&amp;l=1</a></p>

<p>May 20, 2009</p>	<p>French Minsk Group negotiator travels to Turkey to urge that it “should not link Armenia thaw to Karabakh.”</p> <p><a href="http://in.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idINLK96552120090520">http://in.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idINLK96552120090520</a></p>
<p>May 21, 2009</p>	<p>French Embassy in Turkey reiterates that “Normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations and the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute are two separate processes which should continue in parallel but along their own paths.”</p> <p><a href="http://af.reuters.com/article/ivoryCoastNews/idAFLK96552120090520">http://af.reuters.com/article/ivoryCoastNews/idAFLK96552120090520</a></p>
<p>May 24, 2009</p>	<p>David Phillips, Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission moderator writes:</p> <p>“The recent announcement normalizing Turkish-Armenian relations is a potentially historic breakthrough. However, the lack of progress in implementing the "framework agreement" <b>raises questions about Turkey's intentions and resolve.</b>”</p> <p>“Moreover, the announcement of the normalization "road map" on the eve of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day looks like a <b>cynical effort to dissuade President Obama from characterizing the events of 1915-1923 as genocide.</b>”</p> <p>“The United States should reaffirm Obama's understanding: there is no link between normalizing Turkish-Armenian relations and negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/05/24/turkey_armenia_and_the_azerbaijan_delay/">http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/05/24/turkey_armenia_and_the_azerbaijan_delay/</a></p>
<p>May 26, 2009</p>	<p>Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu announces at a joint press conference in Azerbaijan, “Our Azerbaijani brothers and sisters should know that, just as in the past, Turkey will be on the side of Azerbaijan in the future.”</p> <p>"Our message to regional actors, including Armenia, is very clear. The region must be free of occupations and tensions.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&amp;link=176410">http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&amp;link=176410</a></p>
<p>May 26, 2009</p>	<p>Turkish Ambassador to Russia states, “Turkey-Azerbaijan relations are based on the principle of ‘one nation-two states.’” <i>[It is this same principle that many scholars blame for the motivation behind the Armenian Genocide.]</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.today.az/news/politics/52591.html">http://www.today.az/news/politics/52591.html</a></p>
<p>June 2, 2009</p>	<p>Turkish Defense Minister: “<b>The main obstacles to normalization of the Turkey-Armenia relations are the occupation of Nagorno Karabakh and inactivity of the Minsk process.</b>” When asked whether the road map may lead to Turkey turning its back on Azerbaijan and ending its blockade of Armenia, the Defense Minister responded, “How can you tell that the borders should be opened according to the roadmap? Don’t rush to prejudge.”</p> <p><a href="http://www.today.az/news/politics/52760.html">http://www.today.az/news/politics/52760.html</a></p>

The Near East Section,  
African and Middle Eastern Division of  
The Library of Congress  
presents

Her Excellency, Marie L. Yovanovitch  
United States Ambassador  
to the Republic of Armenia

# “Report from Armenia”



Tuesday, June 30, 2009  
12:30 - 1:30 PM  
The Mumford Room  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, James Madison Memorial Building  
1<sup>st</sup> and Independence Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20540

Free and Open to Public  
Allow Time to Clear Security

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