



Attention:
Foreign
Affairs L.A.

Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant
From: Kate Nahapetian, Government Affairs Director
Date: October 19, 2005

Re: Destruction of Christian Armenian Church in Turkey

Below find an excerpt from Bloomberg News today about the demolition of an Armenian Church in Turkey that was under state control. The ANCA condemns the destruction of this church and Turkey's continued efforts to eliminate ancient Armenian cultural and religious monuments throughout Turkey.

Bloomberg.com

Turkish Builder Demolishes Church, Builds Mosque

2005-10-19 02:42 (New York) - By Mark Bentley

Oct. 19 (Bloomberg) — A Turkish constructor demolished an Armenian church in southeast Turkey that was under the state's protection and began building a mosque in its place, the Milliyet daily said, citing unidentified local officials.

Builder Kerem Emre used stones from the demolished church in the province of Diyarbakir to lay the foundations for the mosque, the Istanbul-based Milliyet reported. The local governor's office has now suspended construction of the mosque, which began on May 10, the newspaper said.

Turkey has pledged the European Union to protect religious rights for non-Muslims as it chases membership of the 25-member bloc.

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