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## Armenians' Duty to the Past

Fred Hiatt's Oct. 15 op-ed, "Armenians Who Need Help Today," leads the debate over recognition of the Armenian genocide in the wrong direction.

The difficulties that Armenia has encountered during its successful democratic and economic transition are not taboo subjects for genu-

ine discussion. And members of our diaspora have always provided economic assistance and been actively involved in issues such as the environment, civil and political liberties, and security. But this activism has not come at the expense of the quest for genocide recognition, a moral duty for all Armenians and all of humanity.

In addition, the Turkish state's denial of the Armenian genocide translates into its continuing refusal to normalize relations with Armenia, leading us to believe that our only choice is to pursue both historical and contemporary justice.

The fact that Armenia's democratic transition is not yet complete should not prevent Armenia from condemning crimes against humanity, especially a genocide that killed 1.5 million of our ancestors, took their historical homeland and destroyed a millennium-old culture. The suggestion that Armenia's routine transition problems and the genocide carried out by Ottoman Turkey can be weighed on the same scale is ill-founded, to say the least.

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