

Recognizing the Armenian Genocide

1) Respecting American values

As a matter of fundamental morality, the U.S. government should recognize and condemn all genocides - past and present.

2) Recognizing the truth

The United States should not allow the Turkish government to use threats and blackmail to block the commemoration of a crime against humanity.

3) Honoring U.S. history

We should honor, as a proud chapter in American history, the U.S. diplomatic protests and relief efforts for the survivors of the Genocide.

4) Promoting regional stability

By coming to terms with the Armenian Genocide, Turkey can lower regional tensions and open the door to improved relations with Armenia.

5) Preventing future genocides

Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide sets a dangerous precedent that makes future genocides more likely. Many of the tactics - and denials - used by Turkey against defenseless Armenians are being used again today in Darfur.

6) Protecting Armenia

The Republic of Armenia cannot be safe as long as Turkey remains an unrepentant perpetrator of genocide against the Armenian people.

7) Encouraging democracy

Turkey's recognition of the Armenian Genocide would represent a step toward its acceptance into the European family of nations.

Turkey's Genocide Denial: Common Myths

Myth #1: Turkey is moderating its aggressive Armenian Genocide denial

Reality: The prosecution, official intimidation, and brutal assassination of journalist Hrant Dink all show that Turkish leaders are actually escalating their campaign of Armenian Genocide denial.

Myth #2: Turkey has invited Armenia to conduct a joint study

Reality: The Armenian Genocide is a thoroughly documented fact. Turkey's insincere offer to Armenia to commission a joint study to determine if it actually occurred is a transparent and morally bankrupt attempt to stop the rising tide of Genocide recognition.

Myth #3: Turkey is a reliable U.S. ally.

Reality: In 2003 Turkey blocked a northern front against Iraq, which, according to the Department of Defense, contributed to the strength of the insurgency. Since then, Turkey has largely abandoned its role as a reliable regional partner, as shown by the destabilizing role it is playing in northern Iraq.

Myth #4: Recognizing the Genocide will lead to a Turkish backlash

Reality: Despite its threats of harsh retribution, Turkey has only taken minor steps against Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Argentina, and other states that have recognized the Genocide.

Myth #5: Recognizing the Armenian Genocide is against U.S. interests

Reality: Recognition of the Genocide will advance U.S. interests by removing a source of regional instability, and promote American values by reaffirming our nation's opposition to all genocides.

Turkey's threats against America

The introduction of the Armenian Genocide Resolution has sparked a new round of Turkish threats to interfere with Coalition operations in Iraq if the U.S. Congress moves toward adoption of this human rights legislation.

By issuing these brazen and deeply offensive warnings:

- 1) Turkey threatens the security of U.S. forces in Iraq**
- 2) Turkey threatens America's moral stand against all genocides**
- 3) Turkey threatens the integrity of the U.S. legislative process**

The truth behind Turkey's threats

Turkey has taken only token steps against Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Argentina, Austria, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and other states that have recognized the Armenian Genocide.

The French example: Despite all its threats in 2001 against France recognizing the Armenian Genocide, trade between France and Turkey grew 22% the following year, and has grown by 131% over the past five years. (Source: OECD)

The U.S. example: Despite years of U.S. deference to Turkey's genocide denials, in 2003 Ankara still blocked a northern front into Iraq, a move the Pentagon has said added significantly to the problems currently facing our forces.

The truth is that U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide will advance both U.S. interests and American values by removing a source of regional instability and reaffirming our nation's principled opposition to all instances of genocide.