



Attention:
Foreign Affairs
Legislative Aide

Armenian National Committee of America

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Friends
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: February 17, 2006
Re: **Turkey - myth vs. reality**

Against the backdrop of the Turkish government's escalating campaign against the Armenian Genocide Resolution, I wanted to share with you four myths behind our State Department's irrational and immoral deference to Turkey on this core human rights issue:

Myth #1: Turkey is a valuable military ally

Fact: Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld has said that the strength of the Iraqi insurgency is due, in large part, to Turkey's refusal in 2003 to allow Coalition forces to open a northern front in the Iraq War. (NBC Meet the Press 2/6/05). Turkish Foreign Minister Gul has asserted that Turkey will deny the U.S. permission to use Turkish soil to attack Iran in case of a possible attack on that country. (Zaman 2/10/06).

Myth #2: Turkey helps strengthen U.S. standing in the Middle East

Fact: Turkey's Prime Minister has praised the most popular movie in Turkey, Valley of the Wolves - Iraq, described by CNN as "feeding off the increasingly negative feelings many Turks harbor toward their longtime NATO allies: Americans."

Myth #3: Turkey is a reliable ally of Israel

Fact: Israel has harshly criticized Turkey over the recent visit by Hamas leaders to Ankara. Ranaan Gissin, an Israeli spokesman, has stressed that the "serious consequences for our links could be hard to repair." (CNN 2/16/06)

Myth #4: U.S.-Turkey relations are good for American business

Fact: The U.S. Trade Representative was recently forced to take the extraordinary step of filing a World Trade Organization case against Turkey for unfairly restricting American rice exports - costing U.S. agricultural jobs. (USTR 2/7/06)

ANCA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
888 17th Street NW, Suite 904
Washington, DC 20006
ph: 202 775 1918, fx: 202 775 5648
www.anca.org, anca@anca.org

ANCA WESTERN REGION
104 N Belmont Street, 2nd Floor
Glendale, CA 91204
ph: 818 500 1918, fx: 818 246 7353
www.anca.org, ancawr@anca.org

ANCA EASTERN REGION
80 Bigelow Avenue
Watertown, MA 02472
ph: 617 923 1918, fx: 617 923 5525
www.ancaer.org, anca@anca.org

“Valley of the Wolves - Iraq”

The #1 film in Turkey is “Valley of the Wolves” - a virulently anti-American movie produced in Turkey that continues to break box office records. Listed below are highlights of the media coverage of this disturbing - and disturbingly popular - film:

1) “Valley of the Wolves” enjoys the support of top Turkish leaders:

- According to a February 14th report by the Knight-Ridder News Service, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan “recommended the film to friends after a private screening.”
- Brit Hume of Fox News, during the Political Grapevine segment of his February 16th Special Report, reported that, “Emine Erdogan, the wife of Turkey’s prime minister, has praised an anti-American film that depicts U.S. soldiers as cold-blooded killers, calling it a beautiful film.”

2) “Valley of the Wolves” has prompted the U.S. military to issue warnings to our troops:

- According to a February 7th report in Stars and Stripes, the popularity of “Valley of the Wolves” has prompted the U.S. military to advise our forces stationed in Turkey to avoid theaters where the film is playing.
- Joe Scarborough, during the February 9th edition of MSNBC’s Scarborough Country, described Valley of the Wolves as “a movie that is so anti-American that our troops are being ordered to stay away from movie theaters showing it because they’re afraid that American troops may be injured or killed?”

3) “Valley of the Wolves” encourages anti-U.S. and anti-Semitic attitudes:

- The New York Times reported on February 14th that, within Turkey, “popular opinion of the United States has been steadily declining. Anti-American novels, including one that portrays a war between the United States and Turkey, have been selling briskly, and Hitler’s “Mein Kampf” was a best seller last year.
- The Baltimore Jewish Times, on February 15th, reported that “Valley of the Wolves,” in a hateful display of anti-Semitism, portrays “a Jewish U.S. army doctor [played by Gary Busey] who cuts out the organs of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib and sells them to wealthy foreign clients” in Israel and the West.