



Attention:
Foreign Affairs Staff

Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: April 13, 2006

Re: **Capitol Hill Observance of the Armenian Genocide**

I wanted to share with you excerpts from two interesting articles about Turkey in traditionally conservative publications - **The Weekly Standard** and **National Review**.

Both are sharply critical of Turkey - and, as importantly - urge a less deferential posture toward Turkey on the part of the U.S. government. Please keep these articles in mind as the pressure grows in the coming weeks for the adoption of Congressional legislation recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the **annual Capitol Hill Observance of the Armenian Genocide** on **April 26, 2006** between 5:30 and 8:30 pm in room B-339 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

In addition to **Serj Tankian** and **John Dolmayan** of the Grammy Award-winning band **System of a Down**, we will also be joined by **David Alpay**, the star of the highly acclaimed film "Ararat" by Atom Egoyan.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Kate Nahapetian, our Government Affairs Director, at either (202) 775-1918 or kate@anca.org.

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The Price of Denial:

Why Turkey needs to come to terms with history

By Ellen Bork, The Weekly Standard - April 17, 2006

[. . .] **“Turkish deniers are becoming the equivalent - socially, culturally - of Holocaust deniers,”** says author Samantha Power in *The Armenian Genocide*, a documentary by Andrew Goldberg and Two Cats Productions, to be broadcast Monday, April 17, on PBS. The one-hour program provides a compact, evocative, and visually rich treatment of the massacres by the Ottoman sultan’s Hamidiye regiments in the late 19th century, and the 1915 deportations and massacres of approximately one million Armenians, including intellectuals from Constantinople, as Istanbul was then called.

[. . .] It will be up to the Turks to come to a complete understanding of their past, and consolidate their democratic institutions and civil liberties. In the meantime, **less deference to the Turkish official position would put America on the side not only of justice for genocide victims,** but also of Turks, like the historians in this film, who refuse to accept limits on their speech and scholarship.



Talking Turkey:

Our ally is drifting away.

By Jonathan Eric Lewis

National Review Online - April 06, 2006

Can the United States still count on Turkey? According to a July 2005 poll, some 50 percent of respondents in Turkey expressed an “absolute negative view of the United States.” A Pew Research poll taken around the same time revealed that less than 25 percent of Turks have a favorable opinion of the United States.

Such viewpoints are increasingly commonplace, with **anti-Americanism running rampant** among many in the ruling Justice and Development party (AKP). The recent Turkish film, *Valley of the Wolves*, depicts U.S. soldiers as bloodthirsty killers and indulges in a medieval anti-Semitic blood libel. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan saw a prescreening and then sent his wife and Bulent Arinc, the speaker of the Turkish parliament, to its grand opening. Arinc called the film “absolutely magnificent” and “completely true to life.” [. . .]