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**Foreign Affairs
Legislative Aide**

Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Foreign Affairs Legislative Aide
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director
Date: June 17, 2008

RE: Obama reaffirms support for Armenian Genocide recognition

On the eve of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's June 19th consideration of Ambassador to Armenia nominee Marie Yovanovitch, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, Senator Barack Obama, has restated his firm commitment to U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

In a June 16th letter to Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Chairman Ken Hachikian, the Senator Obama wrote:

“I share your view that the United States must recognize the events of 1915 to 1923, carried out by the Ottoman Empire, as genocide. . . We must recognize this tragic reality. The Bush Administration’s refusal to do so is inexcusable, and I will continue to speak out in an effort to move the Administration to change its position.”

Text of Senator Barack Obama's June 16, 2008 letter to ANCA Chairman Ken Hachikian

June 16, 2008

Dear Kenneth:

Thank you for sharing with me your thoughts on the upcoming confirmation hearing for the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia. I appreciate having the benefit of your perspective on this important matter.

I share your view that the United States must recognize the events of 1915 to 1923, carried out by the Ottoman Empire, as genocide. As you know, this resulted in the deportation of nearly 2,000,000 Armenians, of whom 1,500,000 men, women, and children were killed.

We must recognize this tragic reality. The Bush Administration's refusal to do so is inexcusable, and I will continue to speak out in an effort to move the Administration to change its position.

I was deeply disturbed two years ago when the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia was fired after he used the term "genocide" to describe the mass slaughter of Armenians. In a letter to the Department of State, I called for Secretary Rice to closely examine what I believe is an untenable position taken by the U.S. government. A copy of that letter is enclosed for your review.

You may rest assured that I will keep your priorities in mind as I consider relevant matters before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. I hope that you will stay in touch in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator