

Reasons to Support the Armenian Genocide Resolution

-- H.Res. 252 --

The Armenian Genocide Resolution calls on the U.S. Government to apply the lessons of the Armenian Genocide (1915-1923) in preventing future genocides, atrocities, and other crimes against humanity.

1) To Assert American Leadership

America should always lead international opposition to genocide.

2) To Reject a Foreign “Gag-rule”

We should not allow foreign governments to block U.S. recognition of human rights violations – especially genocide.

No nation has the right to impose a “gag-rule” on America.

3) To Help Prevent Future Atrocities

Turkey’s ongoing denial of the Armenian Genocide sets a dangerous precedent that makes future genocides more likely.

On ordering his military commanders to attack Poland without provocation in 1939, Adolf Hitler dismissed objections by saying:

“Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”

Many of the genocidal tactics employed by Ottoman Turkey against defenseless Armenians are being used again today by Sudan in Darfur.

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1) **Congressional:** The House Foreign Affairs Committee adopted the Armenian Genocide Resolution on a bipartisan basis in 2000, 2005, and 2007.

The U.S. Congress has a long tradition of proudly and properly condemning and commemorating genocides, including the Holocaust and the Ukrainian, Cambodian, Rwandan, Bosnian, and Darfur genocides.

2) **Obama Administration:** As Senators, President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Secretary of State Clinton all recognized the Armenian Genocide and called for U.S. commemoration of this crime.

3) **U.S. States:** Forty-two U.S. states have recognized the Genocide.

4) **Ethnic, Religious, and Human Rights:** The Armenian Genocide Resolution is backed by a diverse coalition of human rights, ethnic, religious, and grassroots civic organizations.

5) **International:** The Armenian Genocide has been officially recognized by more than 20 nations, including 12 of our NATO allies.

6) **Academic:** The International Association of Genocide Scholars, the top group of Holocaust and genocide experts, endorses this resolution.

7) **Turkish Civil Society:** Despite threats of criminal prosecution and even assassination, a growing number of Turkish academics are calling on Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

The primary interests opposed to commemorating the Armenian Genocide are the Turkish Government, its highly paid Washington lobbyists, and those fearful of Ankara's threats of retaliation.