

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Barbara Boxer (#1)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

Please provide a detailed justification for the State Department's policy of avoiding the use of the term genocide to describe the killing and forced exile of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians between 1915-1923.

Answer:

The U.S. Government acknowledges the human tragedy of the mass killings and forced exile of as many as 1.5 million Armenians at the end of the Ottoman Empire. The U.S. has actively encouraged and funded scholarly, civil society, and diplomatic discussions about this tragedy to help all come to terms with this tragedy. The U.S. believes that establishing a productive dialogue on these events is the best way to achieve reconciliation, peace and stability in the region, and help encourage a full appreciation of these terrible events. This tragedy is of such enormous human significance that its historical assessment should be determined not on the basis of politics, but through heartfelt introspection among civic leaders, scholars, and the societies at large.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Barbara Boxer (#2)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

Please provide the State Department's definition of the term genocide and an explanation of how the killing and forced exile of 1.5 million Armenians between 1915-1923 fails to meet that definition.

Answer:

Under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, to which the United States is a party, genocide occurs when the following three criteria are met:

1. Specified acts are committed:
Killing;
Causing serious bodily or mental harm;
Deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about physical destruction of a group in whole or in part;
Imposing measures to prevent births; or
Forcibly transferring children to another group;
2. These acts are committed against members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group; and
3. They are committed "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, [the group] as such."

When ratifying the Convention against Genocide, the United States expressed its understanding that genocidal intent (the third element above) meant a "specific intent to destroy, in whole or in substantial part," the group as such.

The U.S. believes that establishing a productive dialogue on these events is the best way to achieve reconciliation, peace and stability in the region, and help encourage a full appreciation of these terrible events. This tragedy is of such enormous human significance that its historical assessment should be determined not on the basis of politics, but through heartfelt introspection among civic leaders, scholars, and the societies at large.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Barbara Boxer (#3)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

The President's National Security Strategy states, "It is a moral imperative that states take action to prevent and punish genocide. History teaches that sometimes other states will not act unless America does its part." Do you believe that the State Department's policy of not using the term "genocide" is consistent with the National Security Strategy goal of preventing genocide?

Answer:

The President's National Security Strategy affirms that the world must take action to prevent and halt mass atrocities and killings regardless of whether the term "genocide" is used to describe them. As the strategy states, "we must not allow the legal debate over the technical definition of 'genocide' to excuse inaction."

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador - Designate Richard Hoagland
Senator Barbara Boxer (#4 & #5)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 28, 2006**

Question:

At any time, have you been advised not to use the term genocide in reference to the killing and forced exile of 1.5 million Armenians between 1915-1923? Will you advise your staff not to use the term genocide in reference to the killing and forced exile of 1.5 million Armenians between 1915-1923?

Answer:

I have not been directed to make or avoid specific statements about the tragic events that occurred at the end of the Ottoman Empire. I am deeply familiar with the President's policies and, if confirmed, will represent them faithfully.

If confirmed, I will advise my staff that whatever we say must be consistent with the President's policies.