

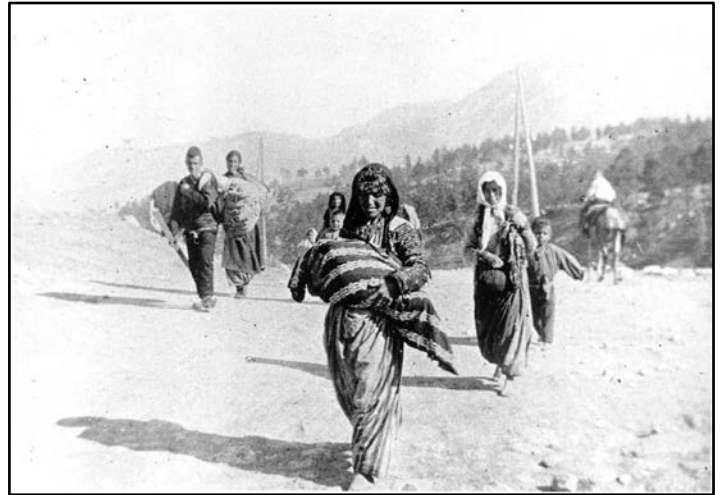


# Armenian National Committee of America

1711 N Street NW | Washington DC 20036 | Tel: (202) 775-1918 | Fax: (202) 223-7964 | [anca@anca.org](mailto:anca@anca.org) | [www.anca.org](http://www.anca.org)

## Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.296): The Facts

**The Armenian Genocide:** The Armenian Genocide was part of a systematic WWI-era campaign by Ottoman Turkey that, between 1915 and 1923, killed over 2.5 million Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, Arameans, Maronites and other Christians, exiling these nations from their Biblical-era homelands. This crime has been recognized by the International Association of Genocide Scholars and is thoroughly documented in the United States Archives.



*A family of Armenian deportees is seen in this undated photo by Armin Wegner, a German 2nd lieutenant who was stationed in the Ottoman Empire.*

**Locking in U.S. recognition:** The U.S. has recognized the Armenian Genocide via a Reagan proclamation (1981), a Truman Administration statement to the International Court of Justice (1951), and resolutions of the U.S. House - H.J.Res.148 (1975) and H.J.Res. 247 (1984).

Sadly, past recognitions never translated into policy. Since 1981, every President has 1) enforced Ankara's Armenian Genocide gag-rule, and 2) opposed Congressional resolutions condemning this crime.

H.Res.296 will establish official U.S. recognition and ongoing remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, and reject any efforts "to enlist engage, or otherwise associate the United States Government with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any other genocide."

**Timing:** Amid Turkey's atrocities against Kurds and Christians in northern Syria, H.Res.296 will help impress on Turkey that the U.S. will no longer turn a blind eye to its aggression.

**Support:** H.Res.296 enjoys broad support among hawks and doves, progressives, moderates and conservatives. Forty-nine U.S. states have recognized the Armenian Genocide, as have more than a dozen NATO allies. The only opposition to H.Res.296 is from Erdogan's allies and foreign agents.

**Foreign Interference:** H.Res.296 represents a firewall against foreign interference, walling off U.S. human rights policy from the influence of human rights abusers. No nation deserves a gag-rule on U.S. policy on genocide. Passage will override the longest-lasting foreign veto in U.S. history.

**Countering Turkey's Threats:** Turkey says it will stop buying U.S. arms if we recognize the Armenian Genocide, yet buys S-400 missiles from Russia, which does recognize this crime. (OECD figures show that Turkish trade with nations that have recognized the Armenian Genocide has actually increased.)

**Strengthening U.S. Credibility:** American leadership on atrocities prevention is compromised when we allow a foreign country to publicly bully us into silence on a known case of genocide.

**Preventing Future Atrocities:** Turkey's denial has set a dangerous precedent that has made future genocides more likely. Adolf Hitler, before invading Poland, silenced the reservations of his generals by asking: "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

**Respecting American History:** Passage will honor the U.S. relief effort that saved hundreds of thousands of Armenian Genocide survivors through the Congressionally-mandated Near East Relief, which raised the equivalent of \$2.5 billion (current dollars) in humanitarian aid.

**Supporting Truthful Voices:** America should stand with the small but growing number of Turkish scholars, writers, and citizens who recognize the Armenian Genocide. U.S. diplomats should not have to fear official punishment for citing a known case of genocide.



*"Orphan City" - 30,000 Armenian orphans in Near East Relief's largest orphanage in Alexandropol (current day Gyumri, Armenia) thank the United States for its life-saving generosity. (1923)*

*From 1916-1930, the Congressionally-mandated Near East Relief provided the equivalent of over \$2.5 billion in humanitarian assistance to victims of the Armenian Genocide.*