

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 106

Calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. MCCOTTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Affirmation of
4 the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Reso-
5 lution”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The House of Representatives finds the following:

3 (1) The Armenian Genocide was conceived and
4 carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to
5 1923, resulting in the deportation of nearly
6 2,000,000 Armenians, of whom 1,500,000 men,
7 women, and children were killed, 500,000 survivors
8 were expelled from their homes, and which succeeded
9 in the elimination of the over 2,500-year presence of
10 Armenians in their historic homeland.

11 (2) On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers, Eng-
12 land, France, and Russia, jointly issued a statement
13 explicitly charging for the first time ever another
14 government of committing “a crime against human-
15 ity”.

16 (3) This joint statement stated “the Allied Gov-
17 ernments announce publicly to the Sublime Porte
18 that they will hold personally responsible for these
19 crimes all members of the Ottoman Government, as
20 well as those of their agents who are implicated in
21 such massacres”.

22 (4) The post-World War I Turkish Government
23 indicted the top leaders involved in the “organization
24 and execution” of the Armenian Genocide and in the
25 “massacre and destruction of the Armenians”.

1 (5) In a series of courts-martial, officials of the
2 Young Turk Regime were tried and convicted, as
3 charged, for organizing and executing massacres
4 against the Armenian people.

5 (6) The chief organizers of the Armenian Geno-
6 cide, Minister of War Enver, Minister of the Interior
7 Talaat, and Minister of the Navy Jemal were all
8 condemned to death for their crimes, however, the
9 verdicts of the courts were not enforced.

10 (7) The Armenian Genocide and these domestic
11 judicial failures are documented with overwhelming
12 evidence in the national archives of Austria, France,
13 Germany, Great Britain, Russia, the United States,
14 the Vatican and many other countries, and this vast
15 body of evidence attests to the same facts, the same
16 events, and the same consequences.

17 (8) The United States National Archives and
18 Record Administration holds extensive and thorough
19 documentation on the Armenian Genocide, especially
20 in its holdings under Record Group 59 of the United
21 States Department of State, files 867.00 and
22 867.40, which are open and widely available to the
23 public and interested institutions.

24 (9) The Honorable Henry Morgenthau, United
25 States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from

1 1913 to 1916, organized and led protests by officials
2 of many countries, among them the allies of the
3 Ottoman Empire, against the Armenian Genocide.

4 (10) Ambassador Morgenthau explicitly de-
5 scribed to the United States Department of State
6 the policy of the Government of the Ottoman Em-
7 pire as “a campaign of race extermination,” and was
8 instructed on July 16, 1915, by United States Sec-
9 retary of State Robert Lansing that the “Depart-
10 ment approves your procedure . . . to stop Armenian
11 persecution”.

12 (11) Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 of Feb-
13 ruary 9, 1916, resolved that “the President of the
14 United States be respectfully asked to designate a
15 day on which the citizens of this country may give
16 expression to their sympathy by contributing funds
17 now being raised for the relief of the Armenians”,
18 who at the time were enduring “starvation, disease,
19 and untold suffering”.

20 (12) President Woodrow Wilson concurred and
21 also encouraged the formation of the organization
22 known as Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of
23 Congress, which contributed some \$116,000,000
24 from 1915 to 1930 to aid Armenian Genocide sur-

1 vivors, including 132,000 orphans who became foster
2 children of the American people.

3 (13) Senate Resolution 359, dated May 11,
4 1920, stated in part, “the testimony adduced at the
5 hearings conducted by the sub-committee of the Sen-
6 ate Committee on Foreign Relations have clearly es-
7 tablished the truth of the reported massacres and
8 other atrocities from which the Armenian people
9 have suffered”.

10 (14) The resolution followed the April 13, 1920,
11 report to the Senate of the American Military Mis-
12 sion to Armenia led by General James Harbord, that
13 stated “[m]utilation, violation, torture, and death
14 have left their haunting memories in a hundred
15 beautiful Armenian valleys, and the traveler in that
16 region is seldom free from the evidence of this most
17 colossal crime of all the ages”.

18 (15) As displayed in the United States Holo-
19 caust Memorial Museum, Adolf Hitler, on ordering
20 his military commanders to attack Poland without
21 provocation in 1939, dismissed objections by saying
22 “[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of
23 the Armenians?” and thus set the stage for the Hol-
24 ocaust.

1 (16) Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term
2 “genocide” in 1944, and who was the earliest pro-
3 ponent of the United Nations Convention on the
4 Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, invoked the
5 Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in
6 the 20th century.

7 (17) The first resolution on genocide adopted
8 by the United Nations at Lemkin’s urging, the De-
9 cember 11, 1946, United Nations General Assembly
10 Resolution 96(1) and the United Nations Convention
11 on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide itself
12 recognized the Armenian Genocide as the type of
13 crime the United Nations intended to prevent and
14 punish by codifying existing standards.

15 (18) In 1948, the United Nations War Crimes
16 Commission invoked the Armenian Genocide “pre-
17 cisely . . . one of the types of acts which the modern
18 term ‘crimes against humanity’ is intended to cover”
19 as a precedent for the Nuremberg tribunals.

20 (19) The Commission stated that “[t]he provi-
21 sions of Article 230 of the Peace Treaty of Sevres
22 were obviously intended to cover, in conformity with
23 the Allied note of 1915 . . . , offenses which had been
24 committed on Turkish territory against persons of
25 Turkish citizenship, though of Armenian or Greek

1 race. This article constitutes therefore a precedent
2 for Article 6c and 5c of the Nuremberg and Tokyo
3 Charters, and offers an example of one of the cat-
4 egories of ‘crimes against humanity’ as understood
5 by these enactments”.

6 (20) House Joint Resolution 148, adopted on
7 April 8, 1975, resolved: “[t]hat April 24, 1975, is
8 hereby designated as ‘National Day of Remembrance
9 of Man’s Inhumanity to Man’, and the President of
10 the United States is authorized and requested to
11 issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the
12 United States to observe such day as a day of re-
13 membrance for all the victims of genocide, especially
14 those of Armenian ancestry . . .”.

15 (21) President Ronald Reagan in proclamation
16 number 4838, dated April 22, 1981, stated in part
17 “like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and
18 the genocide of the Cambodians, which followed it—
19 and like too many other persecutions of too many
20 other people—the lessons of the Holocaust must
21 never be forgotten”.

22 (22) House Joint Resolution 247, adopted on
23 September 10, 1984, resolved: “[t]hat April 24,
24 1985, is hereby designated as ‘National Day of Re-
25 membrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man’, and the

1 President of the United States is authorized and re-
2 quested to issue a proclamation calling upon the
3 people of the United States to observe such day as
4 a day of remembrance for all the victims of geno-
5 cide, especially the one and one-half million people of
6 Armenian ancestry . . .”.

7 (23) In August 1985, after extensive study and
8 deliberation, the United Nations SubCommission on
9 Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Mi-
10 norities voted 14 to 1 to accept a report entitled
11 “Study of the Question of the Prevention and Pun-
12 ishment of the Crime of Genocide,” which stated
13 “[t]he Nazi aberration has unfortunately not been
14 the only case of genocide in the 20th century.
15 Among other examples which can be cited as quali-
16 fying are . . . the Ottoman massacre of Armenians
17 in 1915–1916”.

18 (24) This report also explained that “[a]t least
19 1,000,000, and possibly well over half of the Arme-
20 nian population, are reliably estimated to have been
21 killed or death marched by independent authorities
22 and eye-witnesses. This is corroborated by reports in
23 United States, German and British archives and of
24 contemporary diplomats in the Ottoman Empire, in-
25 cluding those of its ally Germany.”.

1 (25) The United States Holocaust Memorial
2 Council, an independent Federal agency, unani-
3 mously resolved on April 30, 1981, that the United
4 States Holocaust Memorial Museum would include
5 the Armenian Genocide in the Museum and has
6 since done so.

7 (26) Reviewing an aberrant 1982 expression
8 (later retracted) by the United States Department of
9 State asserting that the facts of the Armenian Geno-
10 cide may be ambiguous, the United States Court of
11 Appeals for the District of Columbia in 1993, after
12 a review of documents pertaining to the policy
13 record of the United States, noted that the assertion
14 on ambiguity in the United States record about the
15 Armenian Genocide “contradicted longstanding
16 United States policy and was eventually retracted”.

17 (27) On June 5, 1996, the House of Represent-
18 atives adopted an amendment to House Bill 3540
19 (the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Re-
20 lated Programs Appropriations Act, 1997) to reduce
21 aid to Turkey by \$3,000,000 (an estimate of its pay-
22 ment of lobbying fees in the United States) until the
23 Turkish Government acknowledged the Armenian
24 Genocide and took steps to honor the memory of its
25 victims.

1 (28) President William Jefferson Clinton, on
2 April 24, 1998, stated: “This year, as in the past,
3 we join with Armenian-Americans throughout the
4 nation in commemorating one of the saddest chap-
5 ters in the history of this century, the deportations
6 and massacres of a million and a half Armenians in
7 the Ottoman Empire in the years 1915–1923.”.

8 (29) President George W. Bush, on April 24,
9 2004, stated: “On this day, we pause in remem-
10 brance of one of the most horrible tragedies of the
11 20th century, the annihilation of as many as
12 1,500,000 Armenians through forced exile and mur-
13 der at the end of the Ottoman Empire.”.

14 (30) Despite the international recognition and
15 affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, the failure of
16 the domestic and international authorities to punish
17 those responsible for the Armenian Genocide is a
18 reason why similar genocides have recurred and may
19 recur in the future, and that a just resolution will
20 help prevent future genocides.

21 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

22 The House of Representatives—

23 (1) calls upon the President to ensure that the
24 foreign policy of the United States reflects appro-
25 priate understanding and sensitivity concerning

1 issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and
2 genocide documented in the United States record re-
3 lating to the Armenian Genocide and the con-
4 sequences of the failure to realize a just resolution;
5 and

6 (2) calls upon the President in the President's
7 annual message commemorating the Armenian
8 Genocide issued on or about April 24, to accurately
9 characterize the systematic and deliberate annihila-
10 tion of 1,500,000 Armenians as genocide and to re-
11 call the proud history of United States intervention
12 in opposition to the Armenian Genocide.

○