

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 316

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

JUNE 14, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH (for himself, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. WEINER, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. WATSON, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. FILNER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. McKEON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. BASS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SHAW, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. ROYCE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

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”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The House of Representatives finds the following:

8 (1) The Armenian Genocide was conceived and
9 carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to
10 1923, resulting in the deportation of nearly
11 2,000,000 Armenians, of whom 1,500,000 men,
12 women, and children were killed, 500,000 survivors
13 were expelled from their homes, and which succeeded
14 in the elimination of the over 2,500-year presence of
15 Armenians in their historic homeland.

16 (2) On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers, Eng-
17 land, France, and Russia, jointly issued a statement
18 explicitly charging for the first time ever another
19 government of committing “a crime against human-
20 ity”.

21 (3) This joint statement stated “the Allied Gov-
22 ernments announce publicly to the Sublime Porte
23 that they will hold personally responsible for these
24 crimes all members of the Ottoman Government, as

1 well as those of their agents who are implicated in
2 such massacres”.

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

7 (5) In a series of courts-martial, officials of the
8 Young Turk Regime were tried and convicted, as
9 charged, for organizing and executing massacres
10 against the Armenian people.

11 (6) The chief organizers of the Armenian Geno-
12 cide, Minister of War Enver, Minister of the Interior
13 Talaat, and Minister of the Navy Jemal were all
14 condemned to death for their crimes, however, the
15 verdicts of the courts were not enforced.

16 (7) The Armenian Genocide and these domestic
17 judicial failures are documented with overwhelming
18 evidence in the national archives of Austria, France,
19 Germany, Great Britain, Russia, the United States,
20 the Vatican and many other countries, and this vast
21 body of evidence attests to the same facts, the same
22 events, and the same consequences.

23 (8) The United States National Archives and
24 Record Administration holds extensive and thorough
25 documentation on the Armenian Genocide, especially

1 in its holdings under Record Group 59 of the United
2 States Department of State, files 867.00 and
3 867.40, which are open and widely available to the
4 public and interested institutions.

5 (9) The Honorable Henry Morgenthau, United
6 States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from
7 1913 to 1916, organized and led protests by officials
8 of many countries, among them the allies of the
9 Ottoman Empire, against the Armenian Genocide.

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

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

1 (12) President Woodrow Wilson concurred and
2 also encouraged the formation of the organization
3 known as Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of
4 Congress, which contributed some \$116,000,000
5 from 1915 to 1930 to aid Armenian Genocide sur-
6 vivors, including 132,000 orphans who became foster
7 children of the American people.

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

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

23 (15) As displayed in the United States Holo-
24 caust Memorial Museum, Adolf Hitler, on ordering
25 his military commanders to attack Poland without

1 provocation in 1939, dismissed objections by saying
2 “[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of
3 the Armenians?” and thus set the stage for the Hol-
4 ocaust.

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

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

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

24 (19) The Commission stated that “[t]he provi-
25 sions of Article 230 of the Peace Treaty of Sevres

1 were obviously intended to cover, in conformity with
 2 the Allied note of 1915 . . . , offenses which had been
 3 committed on Turkish territory against persons of
 4 Turkish citizenship, though of Armenian or Greek
 5 race. This article constitutes therefore a precedent
 6 for Article 6c and 5c of the Nuremberg and Tokyo
 7 Charters, and offers an example of one of the cat-
 8 egories of ‘crimes against humanity’ as understood
 9 by these enactments”.

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

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

1 (22) House Joint Resolution 247, adopted on
2 September 10, 1984, resolved: “[t]hat April 24,
3 1985, is hereby designated as ‘National Day of Re-
4 membrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man’, and the
5 President of the United States is authorized and re-
6 quested to issue a proclamation calling upon the
7 people of the United States to observe such day as
8 a day of remembrance for all the victims of geno-
9 cide, especially the one and one-half million people of
10 Armenian ancestry . . . ”.

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

22 (24) This report also explained that “[a]t least
23 1,000,000, and possibly well over half of the Arme-
24 nian population, are reliably estimated to have been
25 killed or death marched by independent authorities

1 and eye-witnesses. This is corroborated by reports in
2 United States, German and British archives and of
3 contemporary diplomats in the Ottoman Empire, in-
4 cluding those of its ally Germany.”.

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

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

21 (27) On June 5, 1996, the House of Represent-
22 atives adopted an amendment to House Bill 3540
23 (the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Re-
24 lated Programs Appropriations Act, 1997) to reduce
25 aid to Turkey by \$3,000,000 (an estimate of its pay-

1 ment of lobbying fees in the United States) until the
2 Turkish Government acknowledged the Armenian
3 Genocide and took steps to honor the memory of its
4 victims.

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

12 (29) President George W. Bush, on April 24,
13 2004, stated: “On this day, we pause in remem-
14 brance of one of the most horrible tragedies of the
15 20th century, the annihilation of as many as
16 1,500,000 Armenians through forced exile and mur-
17 der at the end of the Ottoman Empire.”.

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

1 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

2 The House of Representatives—

3 (1) calls upon the President to ensure that the
4 foreign policy of the United States reflects appro-
5 priate understanding and sensitivity concerning
6 issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and
7 genocide documented in the United States record re-
8 lating to the Armenian Genocide and the con-
9 sequences of the failure to realize a just resolution;
10 and

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

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