

Section 306 of this penal code punishes individual Turkish citizens or groups that confirm the fact of the Armenian genocide in Ottoman Turkey or call for the end of the Turkish occupation of Northern Cyprus, with up to 10 years in prison. Far from coming to terms with the genocide or reaching out to Armenia, Turkey, in adopting Section 306 of its new penal code, hardened its anti-Armenian stance and undermined hopes for reduction of tension in the region. This sets the stage for possible legal action against conference planners and participants. The Turkish Government has refused to support rescinding this prohibition against free speech, despite international criticism.

Mr. Speaker, with the cancellation of this conference, we find that the Government of Turkey will go to any length to avoid facing its bloody past. In just 2 weeks, Turkey's prime minister will be in the United States for an official visit, proclaiming that his nation is a democracy ready for full membership in the European Community and asking for U.S. support. The sad reality, Mr. Speaker, is that when it comes to facing the judgment of history about the Armenian genocide, Turkey, rather than acknowledging the truth, has instead chosen to trample on the rights of its citizens and still maintain lies.

Hrant Dink, editor of the Armenian weekly *Agos* in Turkey stated, "This decision strengthens the hand of those outside Turkey who say Turkey has not changed, it is not democratic enough to discuss the Armenian issue, it shows there is a difference between what the government says and its intentions."

Numerous European countries, including Poland, France and Greece, have passed Armenian genocide resolutions and have continuously urged Turkey to admit its crime. Just this week, French President Jacques Chirac urged Turkey to recognize the genocide and said failure to do so could harm Ankara's drive to join the European Union.

We cannot sit by and allow any nation that we consider an ally and a nation that is desperately seeking admission into the European Union to behave in such a manner. To bring this development into perspective, consider that according to current law in Turkey, dozens of U.S. Senators and hundreds of Congressmen would be punished simply for having voted for Armenian genocide resolutions, spoken about the lessons of this crime against humanity or commemorated the victims of the atrocity. So, too, would the American academic establishment, human rights groups, the mainstream media and just about everyone else aside from the Turkish embassy and its paid lobbyists here in Washington, D.C.

Only by being prepared to admit mistakes and make amends can the Turkish Government truly be considered a nation governed by the values of democracy. This recent event reveals the

vulnerable side of Turkey, one that is still hiding from its history and is incapable of learning from its mistakes so as to ensure that they will not be repeated in the future.

Mr. Speaker, the United States prides itself on being the world's leader in spreading democracy and liberty. As an effective leader, it is our duty to recognize that Turkey is not yet a democratic state and it will take a sincere effort on the part of Turkey to make a transition from a government that currently advocates censorship and lack of freedom of speech to one that embraces the principles of democracy in its true meaning.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEMORIAL DAY—PAYING A DEBT TO THOSE WE CAN NEVER REPAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, with Memorial Day 2005 just around the corner, men and women in Congress are hurrying home for festivities like those that we will enjoy in Indiana. This Sunday, the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race will draw half a million people. But it will not be the most important occasion of this long family weekend, because Hoosiers will gather in places like New Castle and Muncie and Elwood, Indiana, to commemorate this Memorial Day.

I could not help but think about the obligations of this day as I toured the battlefield of Antietam, near Sharpsburg, Maryland, just last weekend. There, Mr. Speaker, I walked on the ground that saw 6,000 Americans fall in battle in a single day, the bloodiest day in American history. Six thousand Americans at Antietam would turn into 600,000 Americans on both sides of the battle that fell in the Civil War.

Just 3 years after the end of that conflict, Americans set aside the 30th day of May each year to remember their sacrifice, and for 130 years, Decoration Day became Memorial Day, and it is something that we take seriously in the Hoosier State, as it will be taken seriously in every State in this Union.

The Bible says, If you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect. I rise humbly as the Congressman from the Sixth District of Indiana to pay a debt of respect and honor to those men who have fallen most recently in the service of this Nation in my congressional district.

These are men like Sergeant Jeremy Wright, who died January 3, 2005, when an improvised explosive device struck

his military vehicle. He was 31 and a part of the Special Forces group from Fort Lewis.

Master Sergeant Mike Hiester died March 26, 2005, when his military vehicle also struck a land mine 30 miles west of Kabul, Afghanistan. He was 33, from Bluffton, Indiana, survived by his brave wife, Dawn, and two small children. He was with the 76th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, Indianapolis. Both men fell in Operation Enduring Freedom.

In Operation Iraqi Freedom we remember Lance Corporal Matthew Smith, who died May 10, 2003, in a vehicle accident in Kuwait, age 20, from Anderson, Indiana. He was a Reservist assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, 4th Force Service Support Group, Peru, Indiana.

Private Shawn Pahnke was killed June 16, 2003, by a sniper while on patrol. He was 25, of Shelbyville, Indiana. He was with the 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany.

Specialist Chad Keith who was killed July 7, 2003, in Iraq, when a roadside bomb exploded as his unit patrolled the streets of Baghdad. He was 21, from Batesville, Indiana. He was with Company D, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Staff Sergeant Frederick Miller, Jr. Fred was killed September 20, 2003, when an IED hit his vehicle. He was 27, from Hagerstown, Indiana, and was with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Sergeant Robert Colvill, Jr., was among five soldiers killed 8 July 2004 in Baghdad. All were in the Iraqi National Guard headquarters when it came under mortar attack. He was 31 and from Anderson, Indiana, part of the 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany.

And Specialist Raymond White. Ray died 12 November 2004, in Baghdad, when his patrol was attacked with small arms fire. Ray was 22 and from Elwood, Indiana.

It is an honor to serve such men, Mr. Speaker, and it is an honor to rise and to pay some debt of honor and recognition to these brave men and their families.

As we approach this Memorial Day, we do it with humility and no small amount of emotion, knowing that as we read these names, they are more than names. They are sons, they are husbands, they are brothers, they are uncles, they are friends and they are neighbors; and they are gone. Gone perhaps to this world, but I am confident not to the next. Their duty was to serve. Our duty is to remember.

So I rise with a deep spirit of humility simply before this Memorial Day arrives to remember these men; to assure them and all of the tens of thousands who went before them that this Nation will never fail to feel the gratitude for their sacrifice, and on this Memorial Day never fail to pray for them, for the salvation of their immortal souls, and for the comfort of those they left behind.