

[109hr316]

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES.

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

Mr. SCHIFF submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The House of Representatives finds the following:

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

14 (2) On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers, England,
15 France, and Russia, jointly issued a statement explicitly
16 charging for the first time ever another government of
17 committing “a crime against humanity”.

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

23 (4) The post-World War I Turkish Government in-
24 dicted the top leaders involved in the “organization and
25 execution” of the Armenian Genocide and in the “mas-
26 sacre 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 charged,
3 for organizing and executing massacres against the Arme-
4 nian people.

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

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

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

23 (9) The Honorable Henry Morgenthau, United States
24 Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913 to 1916,
25 organized and led protests by officials of many countries,

1 among them the allies of the Ottoman Empire, against
2 the Armenian Genocide.

3 (10) Ambassador Morgenthau explicitly described to
4 the United States Department of State the policy of the
5 Government of the Ottoman Empire as “a campaign of
6 race extermination,” and was instructed on July 16, 1915,
7 by United States Secretary of State Robert Lansing that
8 the “Department approves your procedure . . . to stop Ar-
9 menian persecution”.

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

17 (12) President Woodrow Wilson concurred and also
18 encouraged the formation of the organization known as
19 Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, which
20 contributed some \$116,000,000 from 1915 to 1930 to aid
21 Armenian Genocide survivors, including 132,000 orphans
22 who became foster children of the American people.

23 (13) Senate Resolution 359, dated May 11, 1920,
24 stated in part, “the testimony adduced at the hearings
25 conducted by the sub-committee of the Senate Committee

1 on Foreign Relations have clearly established the truth of
2 the reported massacres and other atrocities from which
3 the Armenian people have suffered”.

4 (14) The resolution followed the April 13, 1920, re-
5 port to the Senate of the American Military Mission to
6 Armenia led by General James Harbord, that stated
7 “[m]utilation, violation, torture, and death have left their
8 haunting memories in a hundred beautiful Armenian val-
9 leys, and the traveler in that region is seldom free from
10 the evidence of this most colossal crime of all the ages”.

11 (15) As displayed in the United States Holocaust Me-
12 morial Museum, Adolf Hitler, on ordering his military
13 commanders to attack Poland without provocation in
14 1939, dismissed objections by saying “[w]ho, after all,
15 speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?” and
16 thus set the stage for the Holocaust.

17 (16) Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “geno-
18 cide” in 1944, and who was the earliest proponent of the
19 United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punish-
20 ment of Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a defini-
21 tive example of genocide in the 20th century.

22 (17) The first resolution on genocide adopted by the
23 United Nations at Lemkin’s urging, the December 11,
24 1946, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 96(1)
25 and the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and

1 Punishment of Genocide itself recognized the Armenian
2 Genocide as the type of crime the United Nations intended
3 to prevent and punish by codifying existing standards.

4 (18) In 1948, the United Nations War Crimes Com-
5 mission invoked the Armenian Genocide “precisely . . . one
6 of the types of acts which the modern term ‘crimes against
7 humanity’ is intended to cover” as a precedent for the
8 Nuremberg tribunals.

9 (19) The Commission stated that “[t]he provisions
10 of Article 230 of the Peace Treaty of Sevres were obvi-
11 ously intended to cover, in conformity with the Allied note
12 of 1915 . . . , offenses which had been committed on Turk-
13 ish territory against persons of Turkish citizenship,
14 though of Armenian or Greek race. This article constitutes
15 therefore a precedent for Article 6c and 5c of the Nurem-
16 berg and Tokyo Charters, and offers an example of one
17 of the categories of ‘crimes against humanity’ as under-
18 stood by these enactments”.

19 (20) House Joint Resolution 148, adopted on April
20 8, 1975, resolved: “[t]hat April 24, 1975, is hereby des-
21 ignated as ‘National Day of Remembrance of Man’s Inhu-
22 manity to Man’, and the President of the United States
23 is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling
24 upon the people of the United States to observe such day

1 as a day of remembrance for all the victims of genocide,
2 especially those of Armenian ancestry . . .”.

3 (21) President Ronald Reagan in proclamation num-
4 ber 4838, dated April 22, 1981, stated in part “like the
5 genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of
6 the Cambodians, which followed it—and like too many
7 other persecutions of too many other people—the lessons
8 of the Holocaust must never be forgotten”.

9 (22) House Joint Resolution 247, adopted on Sep-
10 tember 10, 1984, resolved: “[t]hat April 24, 1985, is here-
11 by designated as ‘National Day of Remembrance of Man’s
12 Inhumanity to Man’, and the President of the United
13 States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation
14 calling upon the people of the United States to observe
15 such day as a day of remembrance for all the victims of
16 genocide, especially the one and one-half million people of
17 Armenian ancestry . . .”.

18 (23) In August 1985, after extensive study and delib-
19 eration, the United Nations SubCommission on Preven-
20 tion of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities voted
21 14 to 1 to accept a report entitled “Study of the Question
22 of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Geno-
23 cide,” which stated “[t]he Nazi aberration has unfortu-
24 nately not been the only case of genocide in the 20th cen-
25 tury. Among other examples which can be cited as quali-

1 fying are . . . the Ottoman massacre of Armenians in
2 1915-1916”.

3 (24) This report also explained that “[a]t least
4 1,000,000, and possibly well over half of the Armenian
5 population, are reliably estimated to have been killed or
6 death marched by independent authorities and eye-wit-
7 nesses. This is corroborated by reports in United States,
8 German and British archives and of contemporary dip-
9 lomats in the Ottoman Empire, including those of its ally
10 Germany.”.

11 (25) The United States Holocaust Memorial Council,
12 an independent Federal agency, unanimously resolved on
13 April 30, 1981, that the United States Holocaust Memo-
14 rial Museum would include the Armenian Genocide in the
15 Museum and has since done so.

16 (26) Reviewing an aberrant 1982 expression (later
17 retracted) by the United States Department of State as-
18 serting that the facts of the Armenian Genocide may be
19 ambiguous, the United States Court of Appeals for the
20 District of Columbia in 1993, after a review of documents
21 pertaining to the policy record of the United States, noted
22 that the assertion on ambiguity in the United States
23 record about the Armenian Genocide “contradicted long-
24 standing United States policy and was eventually re-
25 tracted”.

1 (27) On June 5, 1996, the House of Representatives
2 adopted an amendment to House Bill 3540 (the Foreign
3 Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Ap-
4 propriations Act, 1997) to reduce aid to Turkey by
5 \$3,000,000 (an estimate of its payment of lobbying fees
6 in the United States) until the Turkish Government ac-
7 knowledged the Armenian Genocide and took steps to
8 honor the memory of its victims.

9 (28) President William Jefferson Clinton, on April
10 24, 1998, stated: “This year, as in the past, we join with
11 Armenian-Americans throughout the nation in commemo-
12 rating one of the saddest chapters in the history of this
13 century, the deportations and massacres of a million and
14 a half Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in the years
15 1915-1923.”.

16 (29) President George W. Bush, on April 24, 2004,
17 stated: “On this day, we pause in remembrance of one
18 of the most horrible tragedies of the 20th century, the an-
19 nihilation of as many as 1,500,000 Armenians through
20 forced exile and murder at the end of the Ottoman Em-
21 pire.”.

22 (30) Despite the international recognition and affir-
23 mation of the Armenian Genocide, the failure of the do-
24 mestic and international authorities to punish those re-
25 sponsible for the Armenian Genocide is a reason why simi-

1 lar genocides have recurred and may recur in the future,
2 and that a just resolution will help prevent future geno-
3 cides.

4 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

5 The House of Representatives—

6 (1) calls upon the President to ensure that the for-
7 eign policy of the United States reflects appropriate un-
8 derstanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to
9 human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented
10 in the United States record relating to the Armenian
11 Genocide and the consequences of the failure to realize a
12 just resolution; and

13 (2) calls upon the President in the President's annual
14 message commemorating the Armenian Genocide issued
15 on or about April 24, to accurately characterize the sys-
16 tematic and deliberate annihilation of 1,500,000 Arme-
17 nians as genocide and to recall the proud history of United
18 States intervention in opposition to the Armenian Geno-
19 cide.