

TURKISH AMERICAN POSITION ON CONGRESSIONAL "ARMENIAN" RESOLUTIONS

The proponents of so-called "Armenian Genocide Resolutions" frequently allege that there is consensus among scholars that the events around 1915 in the Ottoman Empire were genocide. **THE FACT IS that there is NO consensus** on this issue and research and studies are still ongoing. Leading historians and experts of international renown such as Bernard Lewis, Norman Stone, Andrew Mango, Guenter Lewy, David Fromkin, Justin McCarthy, just to name a few, are not accepting this label to describe the events based on the available evidence and research.

Legislating a legal opinion on the question of whether certain crimes constitute "genocide" in the form of a political resolution is a usurpation of judicial and executive powers. US Administrations over many years have resolutely OPPOSED these kinds of resolutions. Under the 1948 UN Genocide Convention, this judicial power is reserved for the International Court of Justice and the competent domestic courts of party States.

The resolutions contravene U.S. foreign policy that explicitly supports bilateral efforts between Turkey and Armenia to forge diplomatic, political and economic relations and reach reconciliation through dialogue.

These resolutions hurt American national interest and security and US-Turkish relations. Turkey is a key ally of the United States. **Last time such a Resolution was introduced, former Secretaries of State Alexander Haig, Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger, Warren Christopher, Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell stated:** "We must recognize the important contributions Turkey is making to U.S. national security, including security and stability in the Middle East and Europe. The United States continues to rely on Turkey for its geo-strategic importance. Turkey is an indispensable partner to our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, helping U.S. troops to combat terrorism and build security. By providing the U.S. military with access to Turkish airspace, military bases, and the border crossing with Iraq, Turkey is a linchpin in the transshipment of vital cargo and fuel resources to U.S. troops, coalition partners, and Iraqi civilians."

The resolutions hurt America's interests and alienate Turkey and people of Turkish heritage. Increasingly, these efforts have adopted an anti-Muslim tone by its proponents and they make no mention of nearly 2.5 million Muslims of the Ottoman Empire who perished, hundreds of thousands killed directly or indirectly by Armenian rebels in cohorts with the Russian forces, as they invaded the Ottoman Empire.

The "Armenian Genocide Resolutions" serve no contemporary purpose, dispense selective morality based on special interest lobbying power, and belie American interests, and the principles of fairness and justice.