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If Turkish relations with the U.S. do suffer, it is far more likely that the genocide recognition will be a pretext. The Bush administration has done such a poor job managing our relations with Turkey over the last 6 years that we have already seen the limits of the U.S.-Turkish alliance tested and found lacking.

During the run-up to the war in Iraq, Turkey denied us permission to bring in ground forces from its soil, allowing the Saddam Fedeyeen to melt away and form the basis of a now persistent insurgency. Oddly enough, critics of recognition decry it as pandering to the victims, but are only too happy to pander to the sensibilities of an inconsistent ally, and one that has shown no qualms about accusing the U.S. of genocide in Iraq.

Second, opponents take issue with the timing of the resolution and argue that Turkey is making progress with recognizing the dark chapters of its history. This claim lost all credibility when Orhan Pamuk, Turkey's Nobel Prize winning author, was brought up on charges of "insulting Turkishness" for alluding to the genocide, and Turkish Armenian publisher Hrant Dink was gunned down outside his office in Istanbul earlier this year.

Tomorrow marks the 92nd Anniversary of start of the Armenian Genocide. In January, I introduced a resolution in the House that would recognize the Armenian Genocide. It should be passed. Ghazaros Kademian is one reason why.

Ghazaros Kademian was just 6 years old when his family was forced into exile by Ottoman Turks bent on annihilating the Armenian people. His father was murdered by Turk gendarmes and the rest of the family was forced to flee on foot to Kirkuk, where his mother died from cold and hunger. He was separated from his siblings and orphaned.

Mr. Kademian's story is terrible, but not remarkable. Over a million and a half Armenians were murdered in the first genocide of the last century as the Ottoman Empire used the cloak of war to wipe out a people it considered alien and disloyal. This mammoth crime was well known at the time; newspapers of the day were filled with stories about the murder of Armenians. "Appeal to Turkey to stop massacres" headlined the New York Times on April 28, 1915, just as the killing began. By October 7 of that year, the Times reported that 800,000 Armenians had been slain in cold blood in Asia Minor. In mid-December of 1915,

the Times spoke of a million Armenians killed or in exile. Thousands of pages of evidence documenting the atrocities rest in our own National Archives.

Prominent citizens of the day, including America's Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, and Britain's Lord Bryce reported on the massacres in great detail. Morgenthau was appalled at what he would later call the sadistic orgies of rape, torture, and murder. "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and . . . made no particular attempt to conceal the fact."

Even those who have most ardently advocated sweeping the murder of a million and a half people under the rug of history have conceded that the vast majority of historians accept the Armenian Genocide as historical fact. And how could they not—for it was the Government of Turkey that, in early 1919, held a number of well-publicized trials of some of the Young Turk leaders and executed Keimal Bey, the governor of Diarbekir, specifically for his role as one of the Ottoman Empire's most savage persecutors of the Armenian people. The trials, by the way, were as widely covered in the American press as was the genocide itself.

So if the facts are not in dispute, why are so many nations complicit in modern Turkey's strenuous efforts to deny the genocide ever took place? First, opponents argue that recognizing the unpleasant fact of mass murder risks alienating our important alliance with Turkey. There is no question that Turkey is bitterly opposed to recognition, and is threatening our military and commercial relationship, including access to the Incirlik air base. But Turkey has made similar threats to other nations in the past only to retreat from them and the European Union's insistence that Ankara recognize the crimes of its Ottoman forebears before Turkey is admitted to the EU has not dimmed Turkish enthusiasm for joining the EU.

If Turkish relations with the U.S. do suffer, it is far more likely that the genocide recognition will be a pretext; the Bush Administration has done such a poor job managing our relations with Turkey over the last six years that we have already seen the limits of the U.S. Turkish alliance tested and found lacking. During the run-up to the war in Iraq, Turkey denied us permission to bring in ground forces from its soil, allowing the Saddam Fedeyeen to melt away and form the basis of a now persistent insurgency. Oddly enough, critics of recognition decry it as pandering to the victims, but are only too happy to pander to the sensibilities of an inconstant ally, and one that has shown no qualms about accusing the U.S. of genocide in Iraq.

Second, opponents take issue with the timing of the resolution and argue that Turkey is making progress with recognizing the dark chapters of its history. This claim lost all credibility when Orhan Pamuk, Turkey's Nobel Prize winning author was brought up on charges for "insulting Turkishness" for alluding to the genocide, and Turkish Armenian publisher Hrant Dink was gunned down outside his office in Istanbul earlier this year. Yet some opponents go even further, such as a former Ambassador to Turkey who argued that the time may never be right for America to

comment "on another's history or morality." Such a ludicrous policy would condemn Congress to silence on a host of human rights abuses around the world. After more than ninety years and with only a few survivors left, if the time is not right now to recognize the Armenian Genocide, when will it be?

But the most pernicious argument against recognition is the claim that speaking the truth would harm relations with Turkey "for no good reason." How can we claim the moral authority to decry the genocide in Darfur, as we must, if we are unwilling to deplore other genocides when it would inconvenience an ally? Elie Wiesel has described the denial of genocide as the final stage of genocide—a double killing. If you don't think he's right, talk to Ghazaros Kademian. But you had better hurry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ESHOO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H. Res. 328.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

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

#### WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS RE-MEMBERS THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 92nd anniversary and commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Yesterday, I had the privilege to join the Armenian-American community of Worcester, Massachusetts, including survivors of the Genocide and their families, and many dignitaries of Central Massachusetts and the Commonwealth at an event remembering the Armenian Genocide and the role it plays in understanding contemporary events.

I am submitting today for the RECORD a copy of the remarks I made at this special commemoration and an article that appeared in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

#### WORCESTER ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OBSERVANCE

I want to thank Father Terzian and the Armenian Church of Our Savior for inviting me

to participate in this remembrance—and I'm very pleased to be here with Lt. Governor Tim Murray and the Mayor of Worcester, Konstantina Lukes. But I am especially honored to be here with the Worcester Armenian-American community, survivors of the Armenian Genocide, and their families.

There are several reasons why I look forward to this event each year.

First and foremost, it gives me an opportunity to reconnect with all of you, the Worcester Armenian-American community, and to thank you for all your fine work and contributions to our city.

Second, it is a moment when we recommit ourselves to pressing the United States government to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

And finally, it provides me each year with a moment to reflect on our world; and on how I as an individual, we as a community, and we as a Nation are responding to genocide and crimes against humanity that, sadly and unbelievably, are carried out nearly every day in some part of the world.

I believe that this year there is a very good chance that the U.S. House of Representatives might actually pass H. Res. 106, the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

I can tell that this is a real possibility because for the first time in years, I'm receiving materials arguing against the resolution and against the official recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

I believe adopting the Armenian Genocide Resolution is the right thing to do:

As a matter of morality—and in the name of humanity—the United States should recognize and condemn all genocides.

In the name of historic truth—and in honor of the historic role so many American diplomatic personnel and humanitarian and relief workers played in saving lives and condemning the genocide as it was taking place—the U.S. especially should recognize the Armenian Genocide.

And in the hope of preventing future genocides—we have to recognize and honor the truth of the past. Denial of the Armenian Genocide—just like denial of the Holocaust—makes future genocides more likely, not less.

No Nation, not Turkey or any other country, should be allowed to block the official recognition or commemoration or the teaching of historic truth about the Armenian Genocide.

It's ironic that the current Turkish government doesn't seem to realize that the more it denies the Armenian Genocide, the more people begin to think that there really is a connection between the Turks who carried out the Armenian Genocide at the beginning of the 20th century and today's 21st century government.

By denying the truth, Turkey undermines its own standing throughout the world, blocks its own acceptance into the European family, and increases regional tensions, especially with neighboring Armenia. Turkey's recognition of the Genocide, its reconciliation with the past, would widely be viewed as the act of a mature democracy, which the world would rush to embrace and reward.

This is why America must also officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

A couple of weeks ago, I was in eastern Chad. And the reality of genocide was right before my eyes.

There are over 250,000 refugees from Darfur, Sudan living in camps inside Chad. Thanks to the many international and humanitarian workers who have chosen to work and help these survivors of the violence taking place every day in Darfur, the camps are well-organized and efficient.

But I'd like to describe for you some of what I saw—and what the Darfur refugees told me about what they had witnessed.

I met with individuals and families who had been forced to flee their villages in Darfur. Each had a story about loved ones murdered, homes destroyed, people and family left behind. Many didn't know if some of their family or children were even alive.

I talked with one woman who was harvesting onions at a small agricultural site in Camp Gaga, a Darfur refugee camp a couple of hours from the town of Abeche in eastern Chad. She held a tiny baby in her arms as she worked on her onion patch. She told me the Janjaweed attacked her village so quickly and so ferociously that she couldn't even bury her husband who was struck down in the attack; she barely had time to cover him with a sheet before she escaped with her baby and children. She feels guilty and thinks about this all the time. And she now hopes to stay alive and return, someday, to her village.

I met with several other men and women, refugees from Darfur, at the Goz Amer Camp near the town of Koukou, Chad. This is a much larger and older camp. Many of the people have been here for 3 years or so. These people were being interviewed for the eyewitness testimony regarding crimes against humanity that some day may be reviewed by the International Criminal Court.

I went to eastern Chad to meet and talk with refugees from Darfur because the Government of Sudan wouldn't give me a visa to enter their country.

But sometimes things happen for a reason, I believe. Because not only did I learn about the reality of Darfur—I personally discovered Chad.

The war in Darfur is bleeding into Chad, as well as other neighboring countries.

While I was in Chad, two "towns"—Tiero and Marena, which actually consist of about 31 small villages—were attacked by "Janjaweed" militias operating inside Chad. According to the Chadian survivors who I talked to—they described their attackers as a combination of Sudanese Janjaweed and Chadian Janjaweed allies. They were armed. They were on horseback. The attacks started at about five in the morning, and came in about 3 distinct waves of attack. They shot randomly, at everything and everyone. Women, children, men, livestock, fell to the earth dead or wounded. Homes were burned to the ground. Abandoned crockery, left charred and broken.

These Chadians—now internally displaced inside their own country—were gathering in the thousands near Koukou—some estimates were 8,000-9,000. Many walked, some arrived on the backs of burros, and many others were being trucked in by humanitarian groups. U.N. agencies and NGOs were rushing to provide them with emergency aid and to set up an emergency operations site where people could receive food, water, medical aid, and some form of shelter from the relentless heat.

These new internally displaced now join the more than 140,000 Chadian IDPs.

I had the privilege to watch UNHCR, UNICEF, Doctors without Borders (Medicins sans Frontieres), the ICRC, Italian Aid, and the World Food Program work together to provide emergency relief to these traumatized people.

So this year, as we meet to remember and commemorate the 92nd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, I'm struggling to find meaning in the words, "Never Again."

I'm thankful to this community especially, which has worked tirelessly for nearly a century, to keep alive the historic memory of the Armenian Genocide and to speak out, condemn and organize against the genocides—too many—that mark the past nine decades of human history.

Thank you for your persistence. Thank you for your commitment to take action.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

And thank you, once again, for including me in this special program.

[From the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, Apr. 23, 2007]

'LOOK AT DARFUR,' ARMENIANS SAY  
GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE RESONATES

(By Mike Elfland)

WORCESTER.—The region's Armenian community yesterday recognized a genocide that for many has a meaning with an intensifying importance.

References to Darfur and the recent slaying of a journalist who defied the Turkish government were made throughout yesterday's commemoration of what is known as the Armenian genocide. On April 24, 1915, hundreds of Armenian intellectuals, notably political leaders, were rounded up and eventually killed by the Turkish government. More than 1.5 million Armenians would later die at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, with thousands forcibly removed from Armenia to Syria, where many died in the desert of thirst and hunger.

"We say, 'Look at Darfur,'" said Richard O. Asadoorian, the host speaker at the commemoration, referring to the region in Sudan where black Africans are being massacred by militias supported by the Arab-dominated government. Mr. Asadoorian urged Armenians not to let time lessen the importance of what happened 92 years ago.

Many survivors of the genocide eventually settled in the Worcester area. A significant Armenian population remains, and their pride in their ancestry was evident yesterday at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour Cultural Center on Boynton Street, where more than 200 gathered for a welcome history lesson.

Nancy Hovhanesian, Thomas Tashjian and Ara G. Asadoorian recounted stories told to them by grandparents and other older relatives who survived the genocide. Mrs. Hovhanesian talked of the great-grandparents she never knew and of how her grandparents' pain was absorbed by her mother.

Andrea Kisiel, a sophomore at South High Community School, shared her views of the genocide in an award-winning essay. Andrea took top honors for her take on "The Contemporary Relevance of the Armenian Genocide," the subject of an essay contest sponsored by the Greater Worcester Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee.

Andrea, who is not of Armenian descent, wrote of a recent trip to Washington, where she visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and had an eye-opening experience about history.

She wrote: "Then, I saw something that astounded me, surprised me, wrenched my heart out of my chest. There, on the wall commemorating all of the poor souls who had been discriminated against, snatched away from familiarity, and tortured ruthlessly until put to death, was inscribed my family name. My name which was not from Jewish descent. My name which was Polish and Catholic. My name that I had not the slightest idea could possibly be connected with a mass genocide. My very own name, there on the wall."

Although she has no known relatives who died in the Holocaust, said Andrea, the experience in Washington made her realize the importance of the Armenian genocide to its survivors.

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Murray, U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Worcester, state Sen. Harriette L. Chandler, D-Worcester, and Mayor Konstantina B. Lukes were among the speakers at the 2½-hour commemoration. Both connected the past deaths of Armenians to the continuing genocide in the

Darfur region of Sudan. Mr. McGovern has long pushed for increased U.S. involvement in saving thousands of refugees.

Mr. McGovern, who was greeted enthusiastically yesterday, backs legislation that would require the U.S. government to officially recognize the Armenian genocide. Some say the reluctance is tied to deference to Turkey's importance to America's interests abroad. Modern Turkey strongly rejects the characterization of what happened as genocide.

Loud applause erupted after the congressman said he would direct naysayers to a public library where they could learn about the deaths of Armenians. "Facts are stubborn things," he said.

The main speaker was filmmaker Apo Torosyan, a native of Istanbul, Turkey, who now lives in Peabody. His documentary, "Voices," finished this year, is based on interviews with three survivors of the genocide. After he began making documentaries, Mr. Torosyan was not allowed to return to Turkey.

A 15-minute version of "Voices" was shown yesterday.

Mr. Torosyan spoke passionately about the Jan. 19 slaying in Turkey of Hrant Dink, a Turkish citizen of Armenian descent who was the editor of a Turkish-Armenian newspaper. His enemies included nationalist Turks who resented his use of the genocide label. He was killed outside his office in Istanbul.

The commemoration was organized by members of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and the Armenian Church of the Martyrs.

#### HEALTH CARE ISSUES AFFECTING MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for the opportunity to serve as moderator for this special designated time for recognition under Special Orders for celebration of health care, and, in particular, the uninsured.

Tonight I have several colleagues who will be joining me to speak on different topics with respect to health care issues affecting minority communities. Just to give you a brief summary of some of the topics we will touch on, obviously reauthorization of SCHIP, language access, obesity, diabetes, cancer, tobacco, HIV and AIDS, health professions, community health workers, environmental health and Medicaid citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to recognize National Minority Health Month. This week is Covering the Uninsured

Week. Tonight you are going to hear from some of my colleagues representing the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander Caucus and their efforts to improve health care in our communities.

Did you know that life expectancy and overall health have improved in recent years for large numbers of Americans due to an increase in and focus on preventive medicine and new advances in medical technology? However, not all Americans are faring that well, particularly communities of color, which continue to suffer from significant disparities in overall rate of disease incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality and survival rates in the population, as compared to the health status of the general population.

The National Minority Health Month was launched in an effort to eliminate health disparities and to improve health status of minority populations across the country. This month was created in response to Healthy People 2010, a set of comprehensive health objectives established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Disparities continue to persist, and we must eliminate health disparities by identifying significant opportunities to improve health care.

There are disparities in the burden of illness and death experienced by African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and American Indian and Alaskan Natives as compared to the U.S. population as a whole.

I am pleased to once again be working with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander Caucus to develop a comprehensive tri-caucus health disparities bill. Our bill will address the importance of language access, health professions, training, data collection and health coverage for immigrants. Our colleagues in the Senate are also working on a disparities bill, and I hope that they too will pass legislation that will truly save the lives of millions of minorities. We must do more to better the health of our population, which includes all communities of color.

With that, I want to just briefly touch on this issue of the uninsured. Today marks the start of the fifth year of Covering the Uninsured Week. Although the United States has one of the best health care systems in the world, not everyone has the means to access our health care system. The number of uninsured people affects us all and is a national problem that needs a national solution.

We all know that lack of health insurance results in reduced access to care. Access can be defined as the ability to get to health services, receive service at the right time, and obtain the appropriate services necessary to promote the best health outcomes possible.

Reduced access could mean that someone is less likely to have regular sources of care, less likely to receive preventive services and more likely to use emergency departments as primary sources of care. The long-term consequences of reduced access to care include lower quality of life, higher mortality rates and the decline of the population's overall health.

Despite the growth of our economy, the number of uninsured persons continues to increase. In 2005, more than 44 million people were uninsured, and of that number, 14 million were Latinos.

The cost of private health insurance continues to rise astronomically, and we hear that every single day when we go back home to our districts. Health insurance premiums continue to rise by double-digit rates each year, and over 80 percent of the uninsured come from working families, people who are working and getting a paycheck. While two-thirds of uninsured children are eligible for public programs such as Medicaid and the SCHIP program, most are still uninsured.

These adults also are low-income populations who are not eligible for public programs but have incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level. This group is composed predominantly of parents and childless adults who work but may have difficulty in obtaining and affording coverage. Due to the low Medicaid eligibility level for parents, many uninsured parents have children who qualify for public coverage but do not qualify, themselves, as parents. What an irony.

Members of racial and ethnic minority groups make up a large number, a disproportionate share, of the uninsured population. The uninsured rate for Latinos was 33 percent in 2005, 20 percent for African Americans and 18 percent for Asians and 30 percent for Native Americans. They lack health care coverage.

In addition to impacting health and the finances of the uninsured themselves, the lack of health care coverage has had repercussions for all of us in America. Many hospitals, as you know, are currently struggling under the strain of providing uncompensated emergency care to uninsured individuals.

In my own district in California, community health centers bear the brunt of responsibility for treating the uninsured. These community health centers are often the first place that the uninsured turn to when seeking health care services. These community health centers are a vital part of our health care safety net.

Poor health leads to poor financial status, and a never-ending cycle of low socioeconomic status often leads to poor health. The core values for a strong and secure America should include the right to universal access to affordable, high-quality health care for all.

In a country that prides itself on equality, it is evident that our health