

Genocide is wrong. It is evil.

It is evil whether its victims are Armenians, Sudanese, Rwandan Tutsis, Cambodians or European Jews.

Not to acknowledge genocide for what it is denigrates the memory of its victims.

Recognition of genocide is part of the healing process.

Reminding the world that genocide has occurred far too often serves to help prevent it from happening again.

Recognizing the Armenian Genocide takes on added importance in the face of the genocide occurring right now in the Darfur region of Sudan.

As we recognize the role Americans played in exposing the Armenian Genocide and trying to relieve the suffering of the Armenian people, we remind ourselves that it is our tradition to speak out and do something.

During the Armenia Genocide, American consuls and missionaries, in what was then the Ottoman Empire, reported the atrocities which were taking place far from the capital in Istanbul. Our ambassador, Henry Morgenthau Sr., confronted the Ottoman government with the accusations.

Ambassador Morgenthau wrote in his memoirs:

Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever refinements of persecution and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted people. I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared with the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.

The American Near East Relief Committee, a relief organization for refugees in the Middle East, raised over \$102 million for Armenians both during and after the genocide.

As I have said in this Chamber before, the response to the atrocities was the birth of the American international human rights movement.

Official recognition of the role Americans played in confronting the Armenian Genocide over 90 years ago will reaffirm our tradition of protecting the vulnerable and inspire us to not stand by and watch as genocide occurs in our time.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an issue of great importance to the Armenian community. In order to move forward, we must not repeat the mistakes of the past. It is for this reason that I have long sought to bring proper recognition to the crimes perpetuated against the Armenian people.

April of this year will mark the 92nd anniversary of the attempted annihilation that occurred in the Ottoman Empire from 1915–1923. Millions of Armenians of all ages were subjected to deportation, expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation.

The great bulk of the Armenian population was forcibly removed from Armenia and Anatolia to Syria, where the vast majority was sent into the desert

to die of thirst and hunger. Large numbers of Armenians were methodically massacred throughout the Ottoman Empire. Women and children were abducted and horribly abused.

There is one word that describes the horrific attempt to annihilate the Armenian people, and it is genocide. Ironically, while the United States has failed to make that recognition, Adolf Hitler, in defending his own plans to rid the world of Polish people, among others, asked, “Who, after all, speaks to-day of the annihilation of the Armenians?”

The resolution I introduce today, with my distinguished colleague Senator DURBIN, calls on President Bush to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States demonstrates significant understanding of the issues surrounding the Armenian Genocide. The resolution encourages the President to commemorate the Armenian Genocide by recognizing the persecution and extermination of over 1,500,000 Armenian citizens as genocide.

The resolution calls on the President to state that the slaughter of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire was genocide and to recall the proud history of United States intervention in opposition to the Armenian genocide. It is important that the United States once and for all reaffirms the incontestable facts of history and allows our representatives to speak out about the crimes perpetuated against the Armenian people from 1915–1923.

It is my hope that through recognition of these crimes our Nation and the entire world community will be able to prevent further instances of genocide, ameliorate relations between Turkey and Armenia, and increase awareness of issues such as ethnic cleansing and human rights around the globe.

As we fight to ensure freedom around the globe, we must ensure that our future reflects the lessons of the past. In this case the facts are incontestable. Yes, the Armenian people were victims of genocide. Genocide at any time, at any place, is wrong and needs to be confronted and remembered. Let us come together to remember that by recognizing that what happened to the Armenian people from 1915–1923 was genocide. We owe it to the victims and to the future of freedom.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, as we approach the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, I rise today in support of a resolution introduced by Senator RICHARD DURBIN, calling on the President to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Specifically, this resolution would: encourage the President to incorporate the memory and lessons of the Armenian Genocide into the foreign policies of the United States, and; urge the President to accurately portray this terrible episode as “genocide” in his annual statement.

Between 1915 and 1923, as many as 1.5 million Armenians perished and 500,000 were exiled by the Ottoman govern-

ment in a systematic campaign of murder, deportation, and forced starvation.

Ninety-two years later, nearly all of the survivors are no longer with us. Yet their solemn voices still echo, urging us to remember them and work to ensure that their suffering was not in vain.

In my 15 years in the U.S. Senate, I have received thousands of letters from members of the Armenian-American community in my home State of California, encouraging our government to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Many of them are descendants of the genocide’s survivors, who immigrated to the United States and, over the course of a few decades, built a strong and vibrant community in California and elsewhere.

For the genocide’s victims, there can be no justice. But by preserving and cherishing their memory, we can begin healing the wounds that still linger.

The recent murder of Hrant Dink, a Turkish-Armenian journalist who championed human rights and advocated Turkish recognition of the Armenian Genocide, serves as a chilling reminder of the dangers that loom in our silence. An open, informed, and tolerant discussion of the genocide is necessary for true and lasting reconciliation between present-day Turkey and the Armenian people.

Equally important, recalling the Armenian Genocide is essential to the prevention of ongoing and future atrocities, including the genocide in Darfur. By taking an unequivocal stance against genocide—regardless of where or when it occurs—we and other members of the international community will send a strong message that such atrocities will not be tolerated. Let us remember Adolf Hitler’s ominous words on the eve of the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland: “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”

So today, let us speak loudly. Let us join the hundreds of thousands of Armenian Americans in my home State of California and across the United States, as well as millions of people around the world, in acknowledging and commemorating the Armenian Genocide. Let us ensure that the legacy of these atrocities is one of reconciliation and hope. And let us fulfill the promises our parents made us, and we made to our children: never again.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 19—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 19

Whereas President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad refuses to abandon the uranium enrichment program of the Government of Iran, and continues to work towards advancing that program;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Security Council Resolution 1737 on December 23, 2006, which imposed sanctions on trade and expertise related to the nuclear infrastructure of Iran and the transfer to Iran of International Atomic Energy Agency technical aid;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006) states that if Iran refuses to comply with the Resolution within 60 days, the Security Council "shall adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to persuade Iran to comply with this resolution and the requirements of the IAEA, and underlines that further decisions will be required should such additional measures be necessary";

Whereas, according to a report issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency on February 21, 2007, Iran failed to comply with United Nations Resolution 1737 within 60 days;

Whereas the refusal of the Government of Iran to comply with International Atomic Energy Agency orders to prove the peaceful intent of its nuclear program and with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006) indicates that the efforts of the Government of Iran toward uranium enrichment are not for peaceful means;

Whereas the Government of Iran has contributed to instability in the Middle East and has shown itself unwilling to use its influence to support peaceful transformation in the region, including by demonstrating its ability to strike United States military forces and allies in the Middle East with missiles, by being either incapable or unwilling to stop the movement of weapons produced in Iran into Iraq and other countries in the region in support of violent religious extremism, and by the continued assertion of President Ahmadinejad that Israel will be "wiped off the map" and the consistent denial by President Ahmadinejad of the existence of the holocaust, as evidenced through the hosting of an "International Conference to Review the Global Vision of the Holocaust" on December 11, 2006;

Whereas John Michael McConnell, Director of National Intelligence, indicated in a hearing of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on February 27, 2007, that economic sanctions on Iran uniformly applied by the international community could have a major effect on the economy of Iran;

Whereas the placement and implementation of sanctions on countries such as North Korea and Libya have made progress in bringing about change;

Whereas, despite the release of an internal European Union document dated February 7, 2007, which indicated that European Union officials believe that preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon is not likely, on February 12, 2007, the European Union agreed, in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006), to impose limited sanctions on Iran in order to prevent the sale of materials and technology that could be used in Iran's nuclear program; and

Whereas full economic sanctions on the part of the entire international community have not been applied to Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the nuclear program of the Government of Iran continues to be of grave concern and should be considered a serious threat to the United States and its military forces and personnel in the Middle East, and to United States allies and interests in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia;

(2) as a result of the failure of Iran to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006), the United Nations Security Council should implement additional sanctions in order to persuade Iran to comply with requirements imposed by the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(3) full economic sanctions, uniformly imposed by the entire international community, including Russia and China, offer the best opportunity to bring about significant change in Iran to prevent the development of a nuclear weapon in Iran; and

(4) the elimination of the threat of a nuclear Iran is in the long term interest of the people of Iran, the region, and the world.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 458. Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 494, to endorse further enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to facilitate the timely admission of new members to NATO, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 458. Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 494, to endorse further enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to facilitate the timely admission of new members to NATO, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5, line 19, insert "(FYROM)" after "Macedonia".

On page 12, line 22, insert "(FYROM)" after "Macedonia".

On page 14, line 7, insert "(FYROM)" after "Macedonia".

On page 14, line 9, insert "(FYROM)" after "MACEDONIA".

On page 15, line 6, insert "(FYROM)" after "MACEDONIA".

On page 15, line 6, insert "(FYROM)" after "Macedonia".

On page 15, line 20, insert "(FYROM)" after "Macedonia".

On page 17, line 3, insert "(FYROM)" after "Macedonia".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "Charting a Course for Health Care Reform: Moving Toward Universal Coverage."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on the Philippines.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at 10 a.m., in SD-430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing on drug safety during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at 10:15 a.m., in SD-430.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., for a hearing titled "The Threat of Islamic Radicalism to the Homeland."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Open Government: Reinvigorating the Freedom of Information Act" on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at 10 a.m., in Dirksen Senate Office Building room 226.

Witness List

Tom Curley, President and CEO of the Associated Press, Representing the Sunshine in Government Initiative, New York, NY; Meredith Fuchs, General Counsel, The National Security Archive, Washington, DC; Sabina Haskell, Editor, Brattleboro Reformer, Brattleboro, VT; and Katherine Cary, General Counsel, Texas Office of the Attorney General, Austin, TX.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on S. 223, The Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to a fellow in my office, Jonathan Burke, for the