



Armenian National Committee of America | Western Region

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THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The Armenian Genocide (1915-1923) was the Ottoman Turkish government's systematic extermination of its peaceful Christian Armenian subjects from their historic homeland within the territory constituting the present-day Republic of Turkey to promote its pan-Turkic plans of uniting all Turkic peoples in the Near East and Asia.

As a result of the premeditated plan of ethnic cleansing and state-ordered and implemented campaign of genocide, the Ottoman Empire killed 1,500,000 Christian Armenian men, women, and children, exiled the Armenian nation from its historic homeland, and destroyed and deported hundreds of thousands of its other Christian citizens. The slaughter began on April 24, 1915, when Ottoman authorities, specifically the "Young Turk" government, rounded up and arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople, followed by mass deportations and death marches into the Syrian desert in the interior of the country under cover of World War I, in what came to be known as the first Genocide of modern times, Armenian Genocide.

Armenians were the indigenous and native inhabitants of their ancestral homeland comprising present day eastern Turkey for 4000 years preceding the Armenian Genocide and were the first nation to accept Christianity as a State religion in 301 AD.

For more than 100 years, Christian Armenians have been victims of massacres and ethnic cleansing in the Turkish Ottoman Empire, the Republic of Turkey, and the independent Republic of Azerbaijan. The Near East Relief, the United States' oldest Congressionally-sanctioned non-governmental organization which for the first time in American history expressed the collective generosity and humanitarianism of the American People was critical in rescuing survivors from 1915-1930, but even today, Armenians continue to be attacked in Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh).

Turkey continues to deny that a Genocide occurred despite international calls for accountability both during and after the Genocide.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- In late May 1915, shortly after the official start of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 1915, a Joint Declaration by France, Great Britain and Russia put the Turkish government on notice that they would hold it responsible for its massacres of Armenians, which they specifically labeled as Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization (the more descriptive word "genocide" would not be coined until the 1940's).
- In 1916, the U.S. Congress enacted the Near East Relief, the first American mass philanthropic effort to rescue survivors of the massacres in Ottoman Turkey, raising \$117 million (equivalent to \$2.8 billion today), rescuing over 132,000 orphans of the Genocide, and processing 1 million refugee survivors of the massacres through more than 400 orphanages, medical clinics, hospitals, vocational schools, and refugee centers throughout the Ottoman Empire.
- In 1918 at the end of World War I, an independent Armenian Republic was established in the eastern portion of the ancestral Armenian homeland on what had previously been part of the Russian Empire. Due to its inability to sustain itself while trying to provide housing, medical care and other humanitarian assistance to the hundreds of thousands of survivors of the Armenian Genocide, the Republic of Armenia succumbed to Soviet rule in 1921. In 1919, a Turkish Military Tribunal convicted the leaders of the Young Turk regime and sentenced them to death in absentia upon finding that they had used Europe's preoccupation with the Great War to cover their centrally planned mass deportations, atrocities and massacres against Armenians and other non-Muslim minorities.
- In 1920, the U.S. Senate conducted hearings and clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and atrocities inflicted upon the Armenian people. That same year, President Woodrow Wilson issued a binding arbitral award to provide justice to the Armenian People by awarding territorial ownership to the Republic of Armenia of certain portions of the defeated Ottoman Empire which constituted historic Armenian lands, and Turkey and the Allied Powers signed the Treaty of Sevres which included provisions for Turkish accountability for the Armenian massacres. After Armenia became a part of the Soviet Union, these lands of Western Armenia were returned to the new Republic of Turkey. To date, both the Treaty of Sevres and the Wilsonian Arbitral Award remain unenforced.
- With the rise of Ataturk and the creation of the modern Republic of Turkey in 1923, geopolitical interests of the United States and Europe took precedence over the rhetoric, the Turkish government's well-known Crime Against Humanity remained unpunished, and the Republic of Armenia remained under Soviet rule and behind the Iron Curtain for 70 years.
- In 1948, the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defined it as a crime under international law which includes "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." Examples of genocide, including the Armenian massacres and Jewish Holocaust, were cited in the U.N. War Crimes Commission Report and used as a basis for the passage of the Convention.
- In 1951, an official U.S. statement to the World Court cited the Armenian Genocide.
- In 1975 and 1985, the U.S. House of Representatives passed resolutions commemorating the Armenian Genocide.
- In 1981, President Ronald Reagan acknowledged the Armenian Genocide.
- In 1996, the House of Representatives voted to reduce foreign aid to Turkey by \$3 million, the same amount the Turkish Government spent annually to lobby in the U.S. against Armenian Genocide recognition. The reduction was to remain in place until Turkey would acknowledge the Armenian Genocide and take steps to honor the memory of its victims. Turkey never did either.
- In 2004, the House of Representatives adopted an amendment to its Foreign Operations Appropriations Act to prohibit the Turkish Government from using U.S. foreign aid to lobby against Congressional legislation on the Armenian Genocide, yet Turkey continues to spend millions on anti-Armenian lobbying efforts with impunity, all the while enjoying hundreds of millions of American taxpayer dollars in foreign aid.
- Survivors of the Armenian Genocide had scattered across the globe, creating the Armenian Diaspora with large communities in the U.S., Canada, South America, Europe, Australia, and the Middle East. Three-fourths of the current Armenian Nation lives in the Diaspora, with only 25% living in the post-Soviet Republics of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. The largest Armenian Diaspora community is in Southern California. Over the past century, these communities

have organized as governments-in-exile, establishing churches, schools, community centers, and organizations to meet the collective needs of their compatriots.

- In 1991, as the Soviet Union disintegrated, the independent Republic of Armenia was established and was internationally recognized. At the same time, native Armenians who had been living as an autonomous oblast under Azerbaijani rule during Soviet times also declared independence, along with Azerbaijan and other Soviet states.
- A war of independence from 1988 to 1994 resulted in an Armenian victory, and the independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR, also known as the Artsakh Republic) has developed and flourished as a democratic state with internationally affirmed free, fair and transparent elections of its executive and legislative branches of government. Although Nagorno Karabakh has never been a part of a post-Soviet independent Azerbaijan, international recognition of its status has remained elusive, as Azerbaijan deems it to be "occupied territory."
- After declarations of independence by Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, Turkey blockaded Armenia's western border, and Azerbaijan blockaded the eastern borders of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. The leaders of both Turkey and Azerbaijan publicly pledged to mutually support each other in defeating accountability for the Armenian Genocide and defeating the self-determination of the people of NKR to live free.
- Glimmers of progress appeared in the last decade in Turkey. In 2011, the Kurdish controlled municipal government of Diyarbakir, under the leadership of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) worked with the Armenian Diaspora to renovate the largest Armenian church in the Middle East, Surp Giragos cathedral in Diyarbakir, and return it to its rightful owner, the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul. The HDP also adopted as part of its party platform a declaration recognizing the Armenian Genocide, acknowledging the role of the Kurds in its execution, promoting steps toward reconciliation and restitution, and calling on Turkey to do the same. As a result, hundreds of "Hidden Armenians" who are the Kurdish and Turkish descendants of Armenian Genocide survivors, courageously came forth and declared their Armenian identities, attending Armenian language and religion classes at Surp Giragos, with some even converting from Islam to Christianity and changing their Turkish names to Armenian names.
- In 2014, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee adopted a resolution calling for truth and justice for the Armenian Genocide, but pro-Turkish lobbyists successfully stopped it from being brought to the floor for a full vote under the veil of threats that the U.S. relationship with Turkey would be jeopardized.
- In 2015, the Turkish government, under the orders of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has declared himself the new Caliph (leader of all Muslims) started to take steps to undo the progress made with the Kurds and Armenians, moving toward authoritarian rule and demagoguery and silencing any critics in opposition to its policies. The Kurds fell under attack and military assault, being warned that they would suffer the same fate as the Armenians before them if they continued to organize and demand their civil and social rights. Turkish military and government officials routinely refer to the Kurds as "Armenian bastards," referencing the fact that many of them are descendants of Armenian Genocide survivors. In March 2016, the Turkish government issued an order expropriating 6300 plots of land in Diyarbakir, including the Surp Giragos Cathedral. Thousands of Kurdish civilians were displaced from their homes and are being "resettled" as they face Turkish military onslaughts. A new genocide is now looming in Turkey.
- On March 17, 2016, Secretary of State John Kerry declared the atrocities committed by the Islamic State (aka ISIS, ISIL, or Da'esh) in Syria and Iraq as "genocide" against Christians, including Armenians and Assyrians, as well as Yezidis and other minority groups in the region following a declaration of genocide against ISIS by the European Parliament in February 2016, and a unanimous 3930 vote on House Concurrent Resolution 75 in the House of Representatives which condemned the ongoing crimes of ISIS against Christians, Yezidis and others as genocide. The resolution further called for all U.N. member states "to urgently coordinate on measures to prevent further war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Iraq and Syria, and to punish those responsible for these ongoing crimes, including by the collection and preservation of evidence, and if necessary, the establishment and operation of appropriate tribunals."
- While the U.S. and Europe fight against ISIS, utilizing Kurdish forces on the ground in northern Syria to do so, Turkey facilitates and supports ISIS operations by allowing stolen oil to be transported from Iraq and Syria into Turkey to be sold for its profits, by allowing foreign fighters to pass unhindered through its border into Syria, by attacking the very same Kurdish forces who are being armed by the West to fight against ISIS, and by promoting Islamic extremism and pan-Turkic goals.
- With his neo-Ottoman fascist rhetoric fueling government actions against Kurds and Armenians in Turkey, Erdogan increasingly sounds reminiscent of Hitler's early days, in fact even publicly praising Hitler as an exemplary world leader.

- The Turkish government today wages war on its own ethnic minorities, burns and pillages Kurdish populated areas, storms the offices and takes over opposition media outlets, provokes hostility by shooting down a Russian military plane, blockades its eastern border with Armenia, imprisons journalists and academics who dare to call for an end to violence, seeks to outlaw opposition political leaders and parties by unjustly labeling them as terrorists, shuts down access to social media, tear gases peaceful protesters, and most significantly, openly arms ISIS and facilitates its operations. While acting so belligerently and contrary to international law, Turkey simultaneously seeks a fast track to membership in the European Union and blind support from NATO against Russia.
- While Turkey supports and assists the same ISIS which is now unequivocally proclaimed by the U.S. and the European Parliament as a perpetrator of genocide against Christians, Yezidis and other minorities, Turkish President Erdogan has successfully blackmailed European leaders into shamelessly granting fast-track membership for Turkey into the EU, securing visa free travel for Turks to Europe, and providing Turkey with more than \$6 billion in financial assistance, all so that Turkey will ostensibly save Europe from the mass influx of refugees fleeing the region due to a crisis which it helped create. Ironically, the same powerful H.Con.Res. 75 which accused ISIS of genocide also kowtowed to Turkey by praising it for its efforts to shelter and protect refugees fleeing from ISIS, all while news reports began to surface about Turkish Coast Guard ships attacking the small rubber boats filled with refugees, including women and children, trying to flee ISIS and enter Turkey or Greece.

US RESPONSE AND CONNECTION TO THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

On September 6, 1915, U.S. Ambassador to Constantinople, Henry Morgenthau sent a cablegram to the Secretary of State in Washington, DC, stating, “Destruction of the Armenian Race in Turkey is progressing rapidly” and suggesting that Cleveland H. Dodge, Charles Crane, John R. Mott, Stephen Wise and others form a committee to raise funds and provide means to save some of the Armenians who had survived.

The Extraordinary Success of Near East Relief that Saved the Armenian Nation from Annihilation

Upon receiving Ambassador Morgenthau’s urgent plea for assistance, President Woodrow Wilson called upon his advisor Cleveland H. Dodge to form the “American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief” (ACASR), specifically to help Armenians and other Christian minorities who were being forcibly deported from their homes and starved or killed in a systematic premeditated campaign of genocide. On September 16, 1915, under the leadership of James L. Barton and Cleveland H. Dodge, the ACASR was officially launched in New York. In order to facilitate the best possible response to the crisis, the Committee was granted unprecedented access to all U.S. government files and communications describing the religious, social and physical conditions of non-Muslims in the Ottoman Empire, specifically the native Armenian population.

Over a period of 15 years from 1915 to 1930, the NER (renamed as such upon the Committee’s incorporation by Congress), mobilized the entire **American nation, and indeed the world, into a well-organized and well-funded relief effort which successfully saved over 1,000,000 refugees and 132,000 orphans** of the Armenian Nation and other Christian minorities half a world away. **Despite its initial fundraising goal of \$100,000** which was later raised to \$30 million, the **NER ultimately raised \$117 million, the equivalent of \$2.7 billion in today’s dollars!** NER built over 400 orphanages, food and clothing distribution centers, medical clinics and hospitals, and vocational training schools throughout the Near East to house and care for the survivors. More than 1,000 volunteers worldwide left their comfortable lives to travel across ocean and land to dedicate themselves to the relief effort.

An Unprecedented Movement of American Citizen Philanthropy

Founded in 1915, the currently-named Near East Foundation (formerly known as Near East Relief or NER) is the United States’ oldest Congressionally-sanctioned non-governmental organization which for the first time in American history expressed the collective generosity and humanitarianism of the American People.

The NER served as a model upon which future philanthropic organizations, including the U.S. Peace Corps and USAID, and future calls for overseas relief efforts known as “citizen philanthropy” were modeled. The highly successful Near East Relief (NER) movement literally saved the Armenian nation from total annihilation. As a tribute to this effort, the Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region have initiated the “America, We Thank You” project to express our collective gratitude to the American people for the benevolence which allowed our nation to survive and thrive out of the ashes of destruction.

The Golden Rule Sunday

“Golden Rule Sunday,” was spearheaded by NER. Observers were encouraged to substitute their hearty Sunday dinner with a modest orphan meal and donate the difference of cost to help feed the starving orphans. The American-led campaign soon became an international objective, with 50 countries taking part in the relief efforts, as well as business, church, agricultural, commercial, fraternal, labor, educational, youth, and women’s associations. It secured over 133 national endorsements from prominent organizations around the globe in securing observance of international “Golden Rule Sunday,” representing more than 73 million participants worldwide who donated food, money and clothing for the Armenian orphans and refugees.

The Children’s Crusade

All segments of American society were mobilized into action. While government officials and even Congress called upon the American People to heed the call of NER, Armenian orphans were adopted by famous American families, including Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. Oliver Harriman (widow of President Warren Harding), and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt (American women’s suffrage leader). Celebrities such as child actor Jackie Coogan (later known as Uncle Fester of The Addams Family) toured across the U.S. and Europe on a “Children’s Crusade,” enlisting the help of The Scouts of Los Angeles and other children’s organizations, and raising more than \$1 million in clothing, food, and other contributions. American religious, labor, and other organizations led collection efforts for NER. Offices and donation centers were opened in all 48 American states, as well as Hawaii and Alaska.

WHAT THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY DEMANDS FOR THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

For a genuine, durable, and lasting reconciliation and peaceful coexistence with the Turkish and Kurdish governments and people of the region, the Armenian-American community seeks the following steps:

On the eve of the 101st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the declaration of genocide against ISIS for its attempted ethnic cleansing of Armenians and other minorities from the region, the documented support of ISIS by Turkey, and the Turkish government’s rapid disintegration into an ultra-nationalistic Islamist nondemocratic state, Turkey must be held accountable for its past and present crimes against humanity. The 1.5 million lives lost during the Armenian Genocide can never be restored, but taking action now can still prevent the loss of hundreds of thousands of more lives. At the very least, the U.S. and European declarations of genocide against ISIS should be a first step to invoke action in the U.N. Security Council, establish war crimes tribunals, initiate action by the International Court of Justice against ISIS and its supporters, including Turkey, enact international sanctions against Turkey, suspend or expel it from NATO, and reverse the fast-track to EU membership.

Congress should pass a resolution similar to H.Con.Res. 75 by putting House Resolution 154, entitled the Armenian Genocide Truth + Justice Resolution to a vote, to call on the U.S. President "to work toward equitable, constructive, stable, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgment of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity."

Turkey must unequivocally and fully acknowledge the Armenian Genocide and its consequences by taking concrete steps toward reparations, restitution and reconciliation, including but not limited to:

1. Territorial restitution in accordance with the Wilson Arbitral Award and the Treaty of Sevres.
2. Financial reparations to descendants of the Armenian Genocide survivors, Armenian Diaspora institutions, and the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh in amounts to be determined by an international tribunal assembled for this purpose.
3. Return of all churches, monasteries, cemeteries, antiquities, sites and personal and real properties to their rightful owners, the Armenian people and/or institutions, with a waiver of any and all property taxes, or other potential obligations.
4. Full and unrestricted access to Turkey’s judicial system for Armenian individual or collective claims for property rights with a waiver of any statutes of limitation, theories of abandonment, adverse possession and/or other potential defenses.
5. Turkish education curricula must include a full and complete acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide and its consequences and must encourage open and frank dialogue and research on this topic.
6. April 24 shall be designated each year in Turkey as a Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Armenian Genocide.
7. "Hidden Armenians" must be encouraged to return to their true identities without any hindrance, harassment, punishment or discrimination.
8. All blockades of international borders between Turkey and Armenia must be removed.
9. All Turkish support of Azerbaijan's claims over Nagorno Karabakh must cease.

REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH

(formerly known as Nagorno Karabakh)

1) Republic of Artsakh Historical Overview

The Republic of Artsakh is an integral part of historic Armenia which was arbitrarily carved out in 1921 by Joseph Stalin and placed under Soviet Azerbaijani administration with autonomous status as part of the Soviet divide and conquer strategy in the Caucasus. Declaring independence at the same time as the other Soviet states in the Caucasus, **Artsakh has never been part of an independent post-Soviet Azerbaijani state.**

During seven decades of Soviet Azerbaijani rule, the Armenian population of Artsakh was subjected to discriminatory policies aimed at its removal. **Even after these efforts to force Armenians from their land, Artsakh's prewar population in 1988 was over 80% Armenian.**

In the late 1980's, the United States welcomed Artsakh's historic challenge to the Soviet system which sparked democratic movements in the Baltics and throughout the Soviet Empire. Following a peaceful demand by Artsakh's legislative body to reunite the region with Armenia in 1988, Azerbaijan launched an ethnic cleansing campaign against individuals of Armenian descent with pogroms against civilians in several towns, including Sumgait and Baku.

On September 2, 1991, the people of Artsakh declared independence from the Soviet Union and became the Artsakh Republic. On December 10, 1991, **Artsakh held an independence referendum in which 82% of all voters participated and 99% voted for independence.** In response, Azerbaijan launched an all-out war against the Artsakh Republic, targeting civilians and recruiting Islamic extremist mujahideen from Afghanistan and Chechnya to join the Azerbaijani army and declare war against Christian Armenians. Artsakh's successful war for independence led to a cease fire negotiated in 1994.

2) Artsakh's pivotal role in ending the Soviet threat to America

The people of Artsakh, in 1988, despite great risks, were the **first to rise up against the Soviet Union**, to right the wrongs imposed by Josef Stalin, and to demand their right to live under a government of their own choosing the very same right that we cherish as Americans. Artsakh sparked the democracy movement, bringing about an end to decades of dictatorial rule over millions in the USSR and its satellite states.

3) Artsakh's commitment to peace despite Azeri aggression

Artsakh has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to a peaceful compromise resolution of the Artsakh conflict. Signing the cease fire agreement in 1994 with Azerbaijan, it supports the OSCE's repeated calls to pull back snipers and allow increased international monitoring of the Line of Contact between Artsakh and Azerbaijan. Though Artsakh and Armenia both agree to these peace proposals, Azerbaijan refuses to do so and routinely violates the cease fire agreement.

Hundreds of cease fire violations and minor skirmishes have occurred across the Line of Contact on a weekly basis since 1994. The most alarming act of aggression came on April 2, 2016, when the Azerbaijani military launched a massive and premeditated attack along with entire Line of Contact for hundreds of miles. This attack came just days after Azeri President Ilham Aliyev personally met in Washington DC with Vice President Joseph Biden and Secretary of State Kerry, both of whom reportedly urged a peaceful negotiated solution to the issue of Artsakh, while Aliyev was planning a major attack.

Over the course of five days ending in yet another negotiated cease fire, Artsakh's defensive forces remained in place and protected their borders, losing dozens of soldiers and civilians in the process. This act of aggression by Azerbaijan resulted in war crimes and terror threats in violation of international law and The Hague Convention, as Azeri government leaders openly threatened to bomb Artsakh's capital city, Stepanakert. The Azeri military was guilty of execution style murders of Armenian civilians in the border town of Talish, as well as mutilation of corpses in which they cut off the ears of an elderly couple shot to death and decapitated Armenian soldiers who had been captured or killed.

4) Artsakh's commitment to democracy

Since declaring independence in 1991, Artsakh has successfully conducted **five parliamentary and five presidential elections that have been praised by international observers as free, fair and transparent.** The most recent presidential elections held in July 2012 were favorably received by more than 80 international observers from two dozen countries, including the United States. Artsakh continues to make strong progress in establishing and sustaining a healthy and sustainable democracy.

5) Azerbaijan's threat to regional stability

Azerbaijan's position unchanged for more than 15 years is to force Artsakh to remain under Stalin's sanctioned Soviet Azerbaijani administration, although Artsakh has never been part of an independent Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani government seeks to pressure the U.S. and the international community to ratify Joseph Stalin's divide and conquer gerrymandering by returning to a failed system of foreign rule over free peoples.

In pursuit of this policy, Azerbaijan has taken reckless steps that have contributed to instability in a region of strategic and economic importance to the United States including:

- **Threatening to commit terrorist acts and shoot down civilian aircraft** flying to Artsakh, thereby precluding the use of Artsakh's new airport.
- Repeatedly threatening to renew aggression, with President Ilham **Aliyev stating on numerous occasions that "only the first stage of the war is over"** and **"Armenians of the world are our enemies."**
- Pardoning and promoting an axe-murderer in 2012, because he killed an Armenian NATO Partnership for Peace participant in his sleep in Budapest, an act which was roundly criticized internationally and by President Obama.
- Repeatedly rejecting the United States and OSCE Minsk Group's calls for a peaceful solution, even though Armenia and Artsakh have agreed to do so.
- Attacking and killing soldiers on the internationally recognized border between Armenia and Azerbaijan on numerous occasions, hundreds of miles away from the Artsakh border, in violation of Armenia's sovereignty.
- Exponentially increasing its military budget, which surpasses Armenia's entire budget.
- Committing cultural genocide by demolishing a 1,300yearold sacred Armenian cemetery with thousands of gravestones, an act which was condemned by the European Parliament in 2006 and documented by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Obstructing the peace process by walking away from their agreements at the 2001 Key West Summit, undermining the hopes for a settlement at the 2006 Rambouillet Summit, and insisting on 9 last minute amendments to the proposed agreement, which sabotaged the Kazan Summit in June 2011.

6) Artsakh's right to self-determination

Declassified Central Intelligence Agency reports confirm that:

- Artsakh is historically Armenian.
- Artsakh, throughout the Soviet era, always maintained a legitimate claim to be reunited with Armenia.
- The U.S. government has consistently taken steps in support of Artsakh, including:
- In July 1988, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed Amendment 2690 to the Foreign Operations bill, which called on the Soviet government to "respect the legitimate aspirations of the Armenian people" petitioning for Artsakh independence.
- The U.S. Senate, in November of 1989, adopted S.J.Res.178, expressing United States support for "the fundamental rights and the aspirations of the people of Artsakh for a peaceful and fair settlement."
- With violence against Armenians continuing, the Senate passed S.Res. 128 in May 1991, which stated, "Soviet and Azerbaijani forces have destroyed Armenian villages and depopulated Armenian areas in and around Nagorno Karabakh in violation of internationally recognized human rights" and called "for the end to the blockades and other uses of force and intimidation directed against Armenia and Artsakh."
- In 1992, the U.S. passed Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which limits assistance to Azerbaijan until it takes steps to "cease all blockades and other offensive uses of force against Armenia and Artsakh."

- The U.S. State Department's representative to the OSCE "Minsk Group" regularly visits Artsakh, which is an official party to the peace process, and consults with its democratically elected leaders.
- The U.S. Government, over Azerbaijan's protests, has provided direct assistance to Artsakh since 1998.

Since the end of the Soviet Union, a new generation in Artsakh has grown up in freedom, under a democratic government of its own choosing. Forcing free citizens to live under an authoritarian, foreign Azerbaijani regime now a hereditary monarchy would undermine years of democratic progress, would destabilize the region for generations, and would constitute an act of national suicide for Armenians.

WHAT THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY DEMANDS FOR ARTSAKH

For a genuine, durable, and lasting reconciliation and peaceful coexistence with the Azeri government and people of the region, **the Armenian-American community seeks the following steps:**

- International recognition of the independent Republic of Nagorno Karabakh
- The suspension of all U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan
- A "Leahy Law" investigation of Azerbaijani war crimes
- U.S. funding for the deployment of gunfire locators along the line of contact.
- Emergency U.S. relief and reconstruction aid to Nagorno Karabakh
- A U.S. fact-finding and needs assessment mission to Nagorno Karabakh
- Removal of all blockades of the NKR borders
- Removal of all blockades of the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan's support of Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide must cease.

THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA – WESTERN REGION

The Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region is the largest and most influential Armenian-American grassroots advocacy organization in the United States. Working in coordination with a network of offices, chapters, and supporters throughout the region and affiliated organizations around the country, the ANCA-WR serves all aspects of the Armenian Cause by organizing and developing local Armenian communities; promoting the political, legal, social, cultural, educational and economic interests and rights of the Armenian-American community at the local, state, regional, and national levels; seeking justice for the Armenian Genocide; supporting economic development and democracy in the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh; ensuring the right to self-determination and independence for the people of Artsakh and Javakhk; ensuring the return of Nakhichevan to its rightful owners; and advocating for all aspects of the Armenian Cause through grassroots mobilization, political relationships, media presence, and education.

With its headquarters based in Los Angeles, California, local chapters in over a dozen other western states, the ANCA-WR works in cooperation with its Eastern Region counterpart in Boston and Washington Office in the District of Columbia and enjoys broad-based community support through an extensive network of cultural, educational, athletic, charitable and youth organizations. In addition, the ANCA-WR is tied to a variety of media, including several of the leading Armenian media organizations in America and the largest bilingual Armenian daily in the United States-Asbarez. The ANCA-WR is joined in these efforts by far-reaching network of international affiliates in Europe, Russia, South America, the Middle East, Australia, Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

Whether the focus is incorporating Genocide education in public schools, empowering our community by registering voters through the organization's HyeVotes initiative, the drive for recognition, restitution, and justice for the Armenian Genocide, educating the public on local, state, and federal legislation concerning issues in their local communities and the Republic of Armenia or advocating the legitimate right of self-determination for the people of Artsakh, the ANCA-WR is a robust force in advancing the Armenian Cause in the greatest democracy on earth – the United States of America.

The main goals of the ANCA WR are:

- To foster public awareness in support of a free, independent and united Armenia and Artsakh;
- To secure justice for the unpunished Armenian Genocide
- To influence and guide U.S. policy on matters of interest to the Armenian American community;

- To empower and represent the collective Armenian American viewpoint on matters of public policy, while serving as liaison between the community and their elected officials, government institutions, and media.

[ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND LINKS](#)

The Below Linked Resources and more are also available online at ancawr.org

The Armenian Genocide

- [Historical Background and the Aftermath of Genocide](#)
- [U.S. Historical Documentation and Worldwide Affirmations](#)
- [Legislative Efforts and the Future](#)
- [Turkey Trade Detailed Charts](#)
- [Armenian Genocide Map](#)

US Response and Connection to Armenian Genocide

- [Fact Sheets by Theme and State](#)
- [NER Ad Campaign](#)
- [America We Thank You Documentary](#)

Azerbaijan

- [Who is Aliyev – Learn About Azerbaijan’s Dictator](#)
- [2013 US State Department Report on Human Rights in Azerbaijan](#)
- [2014 Human Rights Watch Report on Azerbaijan](#)
- [Azerbaijan: Destabilizing the Caucasus and Inciting Hate](#)
- [Factsheet: Massacres Against Armenians in Sumgait by Azerbaijan](#)

Azerbaijan in the News

- [AMN: Understanding the fight in Artsakh between Armenia and Azerbaijan](#)
- [Salt Lake Tribune: Utah Lawmakers Criticized for praise of Azerbaijan, where they took paid trip in 2013](#)
- [Idaho State Legislature Withdraws Azerbaijani Interfaith Resolution After Learning Truth](#)
- [New York Times Editorial: The Two Faces of Azerbaijan’s Mr. Aliyev](#)
- [New York Times: Azerbaijan Snubs the West](#)
- [EurActiv: Declining demand for exports hits Azerbaijan _ EurActiv](#)
- [Albuquerque Journal: Azerbaijan is anything but tolerant country](#)
- [The Wall Street Journal: A Thuggish Regime Challenges the U.S.](#)
- [Azerbaijan’s attack on Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is one more sign of trouble. Will the White House respond?](#)
- [Amnesty International on recent arrests in Azerbaijan](#)
- [American Interest: Sanctions Baku 10.02.14](#)
- [The Economist: Aliyev’s party – A dubious host of the first European games appals the human-rights lobby](#)