



## Armenian National Committee of America | Western Region

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### THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

#### U.S. Historical Documentation and Worldwide Affirmations

The Armenian Genocide of 1915 is fully documented in the U.S. archives and through an overwhelming body of first-hand, governmental, and diplomatic evidence.

- The Honorable Henry Morgenthau, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey from 1913-16, wrote in his memoir that, "When the Turkish authorities gave the order for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal this fact. . . 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 to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."
- In June 5, 1915, U.S. Consul in Aleppo, Jesse Jackson, wrote to Ambassador Morgenthau, "There is a living stream of Armenians pouring into Aleppo from the surrounding towns and villages, the principal ones being Marash, Zeitoun, Hassanbeyli, Osmania, Baghtche, Adana, Dortyol, Hadjin, etc. . . . The [Ottoman] Government has been appealed to by various prominent people and even by those in authority to put an end to these conditions, under the representations that it can only lead to the greatest blame and reproach, but all to no avail. It is without doubt a carefully planned scheme to thoroughly extinguish the Armenian race."
- On July 24, 1915, in a report to Ambassador Morgenthau, U.S. Consul in Harput, Leslie Davis, reported, "Any doubt that may have been expressed in previous reports as to the Government's intention in sending away the Armenians have been removed . . . . It has been no secret that the plan was to destroy the Armenian race as a race . . . . Everything was apparently planned months ago."
- In a telegram to Secretary of State Robert Lansing, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Hoffman Philip wrote on October 1, 1916, "The Department is in receipt of ample details demonstrating the horrors of the anti-Armenian campaign. For many months past I have felt that the most efficacious method of dealing with the situation from an international standpoint would be to flatly threaten to withdraw our Diplomatic Representative from a country where such barbarous methods are not only tolerated but actually carried out by order of the existing government."
- The Honorable Abram I. Elkus, who served as the United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1916-17, telegraphed the Secretary of State on October 17, 1916, stating "In order to avoid opprobrium of the civilized world, which the continuation of massacres [of the Armenians] would arouse, Turkish officials have now adopted and are executing the unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality of treatment hardly surpassed even in Turkish history."

## **Scholarship and Affirmation of the Armenian Genocide**

- The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS), the pre-eminent academic authority on genocides, has urged Congress to pass Armenian Genocide resolutions, writing "We would underscore that the Armenian Genocide is not controversial, but rather is denied only by the Turkish government and its apologists. . . . As crimes of genocide continue to plague the world, Turkey's policy of denying the Armenian Genocide gives license to those who perpetrate genocide everywhere."
- The Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide (Jerusalem) and the Institute for the Study of Genocide (NY) have affirmed the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide.
- Numerous Holocaust scholars, among them Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, Yehuda Bauer, and Israel Charny, issued a statement on March 7, 2000 stating that the "Armenian Genocide is incontestable historical fact and accordingly urge the governments of the Western democracies to likewise recognize it as such."
- 43 U.S. states have affirmed the Armenian Genocide through resolutions or proclamations.
- 23 nations and international bodies have affirmed the Armenian Genocide, including the European Union and NATO allies Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, and Slovakia.
- Even in the face of death threats and criminal prosecution, Turkish scholars and writers affirm the Armenian Genocide, including Hasan Cemal, the great grandson of Cemal Pasha, who was one of the masterminds of the genocide. Hasan Cemal condemned the Turkish government's denial of the Armenian Genocide, calling it "colluding in the crime." Taner Akcam, a historian at Clark University has published a book, *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*. Other Turkish scholars, who have affirmed the genocide include Ragip Zarakolu, Ugur Ungor, Mehmet Polatel, Fatma Muge Gocek, and Halil Berktaç.
- In a 1999 statement, 150 scholars, writers and journalists urged Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Among signatories to the statement were Deborah E. Lipstadt, David Goldhagen, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Arthur Miller, Joyce Carol Oates, Grace Paley, Harold Pinter, Susan Sontag, Nobel Laureate Woel Solinka, William Styron, D. M.Thomas, Kurt Vonnegut, and Derek Walcott.
- Israel Charny, the noted genocide and Holocaust scholar and the editor of the respected Encyclopedia of Genocide, has written extensively about the psychology of genocide denial. He has explained that to deny the countless deaths of a known event of genocide is to celebrate the deaths and to intimate that the doctrine of power that brought about the destruction is still in force to be used when opportunity permits. To seek to erase agonizing memories is to mock the sensibilities of the victims and their descendents – to once again victimize the victims.
- Samantha Power, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. and founding executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University, wrote, in her Pulitzer Prizewinning book *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, about the story of Raphael Lemkin, who coined the word "genocide" and relied on the Armenian massacre as a definitive example of genocide.

