

House Resolution

No. 27

**Introduced by Assembly Members Achadjian, Charles Calderon,
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April 12, 2012

House Resolution No. 27—Relative to the Armenian genocide and human rights.

1 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923 was the
2 first genocide of the 20th century, in which 1.5 million men,
3 women, and children lost their lives at the hands of the Turkish
4 Ottoman Empire; and

5 WHEREAS, In their 3,000 year historic homeland in Asia
6 Minor, Armenians were subjected to severe and unjust persecution
7 and brutality by the Turkish rulers of the Ottoman Empire before
8 and after the turn of the 20th century, including widespread acts
9 of destruction and murder during the period from 1894 to 1896,
10 inclusive, and again in 1909; and

11 WHEREAS, The massacre of the Armenians constituted one of
12 the most atrocious violations of human rights in the history of the
13 world; and

14 WHEREAS, Adolph Hitler, in persuading his army commanders
15 that the merciless persecution and killing of Jews, Poles, and other
16 people would bring no retribution, declared, “Who, after all, speaks
17 today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”; and

18 WHEREAS, Unlike other people and governments that have
19 admitted and denounced the abuses and crimes of predecessor
20 regimes, and despite the overwhelming proof of genocidal intent,
21 the Republic of Turkey has inexplicably and adamantly denied the

1 occurrence of the crimes against humanity committed by the
2 Ottoman and young Turk rulers, and those denials compound the
3 grief of the few remaining survivors of the atrocities, desecrate
4 the memory of the victims, and cause continuing pain to the
5 descendants of the victims; and

6 WHEREAS, Leaders of nations with strategic, commercial, and
7 cultural ties to the Republic of Turkey should be reminded of their
8 duty to encourage Turkish officials to cease efforts to distort facts
9 and deny the history of events surrounding the Armenian Genocide;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The accelerated level and scope of denial and
12 revisionism, coupled with the passage of time and the fact that
13 very few survivors remain who can serve as reminders of
14 indescribable brutality and tormented lives, compel a sense of
15 urgency in efforts to solidify recognition of historical truth; and

16 WHEREAS, By consistently remembering and forcefully
17 condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, and
18 honoring the survivors as well as other victims of similar heinous
19 conduct, we guard against repetition of such acts of genocide and
20 provide the American public with a greater understanding of its
21 heritage; and

22 WHEREAS, There is continued concern about the welfare of
23 Christians in the Republic of Turkey, their right to worship and
24 practice their faith freely, and the legal status and condition of
25 churches and other places of worship, monasteries, schools,
26 hospitals, monuments, relics, holy sites, and other religious
27 properties in the Republic of Turkey; and

28 WHEREAS, This measure would provide that the Legislature
29 deplores the persistent, ongoing efforts by any person in this
30 country or abroad to deny the historical fact of the Armenian
31 Genocide; and

32 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest
33 Armenian-American population in the United States, and
34 Armenians living in California have enriched our state through
35 their leadership in business, agriculture, academia, government,
36 and the arts; and

37 WHEREAS, The State of California has been at the forefront
38 of encouraging and promoting a curriculum relating to human
39 rights and genocide in order to empower future generations to
40 prevent recurrence of the crime of genocide; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
2 Assembly commends its conscientious educators who teach about
3 human rights and genocide; and be it further

4 *Resolved*, That the Assembly hereby designates the week of
5 April 18 to April 24, 2012, inclusive, as “California Week of
6 Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923”; and be
7 it further.

8 *Resolved*, That the Assembly commemorates California Week
9 of Remembrance for the Armenian Genocide through the Armenian
10 Genocide Commemorative Project; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Assembly respectfully calls upon the
12 Congress and the President of the United States to act likewise
13 and to formally and consistently recognize and reaffirm the
14 historical truth that the atrocities committed against the Armenian
15 people constituted genocide; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Assembly calls upon the Republic of Turkey
17 to acknowledge the facts of the Armenian Genocide and to work
18 toward a just resolution; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Assembly calls on the United States President
20 and Congress to urge the government of the Republic of Turkey
21 to honor its obligations under international treaties and human
22 rights law to do both of the following:

23 (a) End all forms of religious discrimination.

24 (b) Allow the rightful church and lay owners of Christian church
25 properties, without hindrance or restriction, to organize and
26 administer prayer services, religious education, clerical training,
27 appointments, and succession, religious community gatherings,
28 social services, including ministry to the needs of the poor and
29 infirm, and other religious activities; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
31 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
32 States, Members of the United States Congress, the Governor, and
33 the Turkish Ambassador to the United States.