

Genocide, the very first genocide of the 20th century. On that date, more than 200 Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders were massacred in Turkey. It is important that we take this time to remember one of the greatest tragedies that humankind has ever witnessed.

Little did anyone know that April 24, 1915, would signify the beginning of a Turkish campaign to eliminate the Armenian people, eliminate them from the face of the Earth. Over the following 8 years, 1.5 million Armenians perished and more than 500,000 were exiled from their homes. Armenian civilization, one of the oldest civilizations, virtually ceased to exist. Of course, that was the Turkish plan. Unfortunately the Armenian Genocide is not as well-known in history as it deserves to be.

Little attention was paid to this tragic episode in history by the victorious allied powers at the end of World War I, or by historians. So much of it had faded into our painful memories, and many people are beginning to forget what occurred in those terrible times. Even worse, as time passes by and people are distracted and distanced from the atrocities, naysayers and revisionists may prevail.

In fact, some might say it is a waste of time to continue fighting to get recognition for this, the first genocide of the 20th century. Mr. Speaker, I strongly disagree. This fight is not a waste of time. I believe it is a battle worth fighting, one where we have already made great strides. We are making great leaps forward in educating people as to what really occurred to the Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, and also what is really happening with the widespread network of denials since the genocide.

Still, because of the failure of some nations to acknowledge this horrible tragedy, the Turkish crimes have remained unpunished. An international court has yet to condemn the holocaust of an entire Nation. This impunity has permitted the Turks to repeat similar crimes against the Greek inhabitants of Asia Minor, the Syrian orthodox people and, recently, the people living in Cyprus.

Fortunately, despite this unspeakable tragedy committed 84 years ago, Armenians today remain a proud, dignified and compassionate people. Despite the unmerciful efforts of the Turks, Armenian civilization lives on and thrives today.

It lives on in the Independent Republic of Armenia, and it lives on in communities throughout America, particularly in my home State of California. In fact, every proud Armenian is the product of generations of perseverance, courage and hope, hope always for a better tomorrow.

So today, we honor the innocent Armenians who tragically lost their lives.

Today we acknowledge that the Ottoman Turks committed genocide against the Armenian people.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when the world says in one united voice, we remember Armenian genocide, and it will never be repeated. Until that day comes, I will continue to remind the House of Representatives that it is our responsibility to learn from the past, and it is our responsibility to prevent any such atrocity in the future.

PROTECTING THE MEMORY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for their work to introduce the resolution this week which will ensure that the United States of America continues to play an active role in protecting the memory of the Armenian Genocide that began 85 years ago.

As we so unfortunately see in Kosovo today, documenting the horrors of genocide, or ethnic cleansing as they call it, as it is called and it is supposed to be an euphemism I am sure for the murderers, it is vital to get these records if we are ever to stop such actions from occurring again on this Earth.

The resolution that is being introduced calls upon the President of the United States to collect and house all relevant U.S. records relating to the Armenian Genocide and provide them to Congress, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, Armenia.

It is necessary to do this because there are many who live in denial. Sadly, among those who live in denial are those in the government of Turkey, 85 years later, that somehow continue to deny what we know from repeated testimony of thousands of immigrants, and we knew at the time from reporters and others.

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The Turkish government continues to deny what occurred at the beginning of this century, just as there are some misguided people who still deny the Jewish Holocaust, where 6 million people were murdered by the Nazi Germans, and probably some are still denying the murderous efforts of Pol Pot in Cambodia, where he and his gang of ideologues murdered 2 million Cambodians.

The innocent civilians in the Balkans, the innocent civilians in South Asia, the innocent civilians in the Middle East and in Germany, all of those are why we should talk about their

problems and their genocide on the appropriate occasions.

No one can take for granted the ability of some people to clearly look at the facts and still deny that the facts do not exist. Each year we join the world commemoration of the Armenian genocide because it must not be forgotten. Time, distance, current events frequently cloud the past and reduce horrible events to little more than a footnote in history.

The Armenian genocide is not a footnote. Neither is the Jewish Holocaust. Neither are the 2 million Cambodians murdered by Pol Pot. The 1.5 million Armenians killed by the Turkish government and others, and the deep scars left upon those who survived, deserve our vigil, because too many want us to forget.

Even in our country, on the situation in civil rights, where black citizens were beaten in the South and other parts of the United States, and we passed laws to overcome that, even this generation of young high school people does not know what this Nation went through and does not know what other nations have gone through.

Documenting the horrors of the genocide cannot stop those who would deny it, any more than the extensive documentation of the Holocaust has stopped individuals from denying that abominable period. However, we cannot begin the fight against ignorance if we do not preserve the records of those crimes as they were committed.

The Armenian genocide marked the beginning of a barbaric practice in the 20th century, and is it not ironic that we are ending the 20th century and those practices still exist in the Balkans, as vis-a-vis Serbia and its neighbors? By remembering, if we can help prevent future actions and punish the guilty in the future, this will be a noble cause.

I recall the Armenians in my own county when I grew up in San Benito County and in Long Beach, and some of the men and women who were maybe small children, and their parents got them through the Turkish lines and they escaped death. As with other immigrants, including my father, the Armenians, the Jews, the Cambodians, and we have 50,000 in Long Beach, California, from Cambodia, they know what freedom means. They know what the United States means.

I will never forget a dinner when Governor George Deukmejian, a child of Armenian parents who had escaped, had many of his Armenian friends and supporters at that dinner. Tears streamed down all of our eyes. These people were in their seventies and their eighties, and they knew those horrors. They knew the haven that America was, a haven of freedom. Some have called it the city on the Hill. What it means is this is a place where we would not tolerate that.

But we thought other countries would not tolerate that, and yet that is exactly what happened. They killed people with whom they disagreed, whether it be for religion, whether it be the color of their skin. This must not happen, and the world should do something about it.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 987

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as cosponsor of H.R. 987.

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

There was no objection.

CALLING FOR SIGNIFICANT REFORMS IN AMERICA'S SANCTIONS POLICIES

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

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be an advocate for the United States making significant reforms in our sanctions policy. It is becoming increasingly apparent that an increasing share of our gross domestic product and indeed the growth of our economy is becoming related to trade.

It is obvious, I think, too, to most Americans when we look at the fact that only 4 percent of the world's population live inside our borders, with 96 percent living outside our borders, that this country has to adopt policies to ensure that we will have the greatest access to these markets, because that is where the interests of increased job opportunities that are so important to the working men and women of this country as well as the market opportunities for the businesses lie.

I have beside me here a chart which really demonstrates one of the reasons and makes one of the most compelling arguments for sanctions reform. We currently impose some form of sanctions on over 75 countries. The most distressing aspect of this is the fact that it is costing our economy up to \$15 to \$20 billion a year in lost imports, and that means we have \$200,000 fewer jobs, high-paying jobs in this country because of the sanctions we have imposed.

I have introduced a piece of legislation with my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Crane). It is a bipartisan piece of legislation that is asking us to adopt a new policy to ensure that we will use sanctions only as a last resort.

It does not say that Congress and this country cannot impose unilateral economic sanctions, but it does require that before we do so we have to do an analysis and make sure that when we

impose a sanction, that it will indeed achieve the objective of mitigation of the behavior of a country which we are targeting.

It also goes further, to say to Members of Congress that we need to have a study to analyze what will be the cost to our economy, what will be the cost in terms of jobs lost, what will be the cost to our economy in terms of markets lost to U.S. companies by the imposition of that sanction?

I am confident that once Members of Congress have that information in front of them, they are going to realize that the policy and the utilization of unilateral economic sanctions is a policy that harms the interests of the working men and women, as well as the businesses in this country.

A group of us who work closely with the New Democrat Coalition have made this one of our highest priorities, and we are also expanding our effort to deal with some issues which are important to the technology sector.

It is clear when we look at the fact that the United States has almost remained an island of prosperity and economic growth in the midst of a world which is suffering from financial crisis, that in large part that is due because of the fact that the United States has the relative advantage internationally in the development of new technology.

Yet, we have some sanctions and some export restrictions in place which jeopardize our opportunity to continue to have this advantage internationally. It is time for us to relax some of our restrictions on the export of technology, and particularly restrictions on encryption technology.

Unfortunately, we have a policy that restricts the sale of some of our computers embedded with an encryption technology that is using a technology that is over 10 years old. The fact that we have a policy in place now that will preclude U.S. companies from marketing some of their computers and other technology internationally because of our restrictions on encryption, how ludicrous this is witnessed by the fact that anyone in the world today can go to the Internet and download encryption that is far more powerful than that we are imposing upon or restricting our companies from selling that product overseas. That just does not make sense any longer.

We also have a policy in place in this country where we restrict the speed of computers and microprocessors that we can export outside of our borders. That might have made sense 10 years ago or even 5 years ago, when we were worried about jeopardizing the national security of this country by giving powerful computers and putting them in the hands of some of the people who threaten world peace.

But unfortunately, we have maintained an old policy that has not kept pace with the advancements in tech-

nology. Back 20 years ago when we had our Cray supercomputers, that were certainly so powerful and so important that we needed to have responsible restrictions on them, today we have reached the point where there is going to be a computer sold today, or in this next 6 months, with a chip developed by Intel which will have the capacity to perform the number of operations per second, and that chip alone will exceed the restrictions we have in place.

It is time for us to make some responsible reforms in encryption policy, our restrictions on computer technology, and the overall reform of our sanctions policy.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in remembrance of a dark period in American history, or actually in history, period. That point is the Armenian genocide.

When most people hear the word "genocide" they immediately think of Hitler. They think of the persecution of the Jews during World War II. Most individuals are unaware that the first genocide of the 21st century occurred during World War I and was perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenian people.

Concerned that the Armenians would move to establish their own government, the Ottoman Empire embarked on a reign of terror that resulted in the massacre of over 1.5 million Armenians. This atrocious crime began on April 15, 1915, when the Ottoman Empire arrested, exiled, and eventually killed hundreds of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders.

Once they had eliminated the Armenian people's leadership, they turned their attention to the Armenians serving in the Ottoman army. These soldiers were disarmed and placed in labor camps, where they were either starved or executed.

The Armenian people, lacking political leadership and deprived of young, able-bodied men who could fight against the Ottoman onslaught, were then deported from every region of Turkish Armenia. The images of human suffering from the Armenian genocide are graphic, and are as haunting as the pictures of the Holocaust.

Why, then, it must be asked, are so many people unaware of the Armenian genocide? I believe the answer is found in the international community's response to this disturbing event.

At the end of World War I, those responsible for ordering and implementing the Armenian genocide were never brought to justice, and the world casually forgot about the pain and suffering of the Armenian people.