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 - A. Resolution to Divest from the Republic of Turkey to End the Perpetuation of the Armenian Genocide

Endorsed by UCSC Armenian Students' Association (ASA)
Sponsor (Brad Mleynek) (Louise Cabansay)

1. WHEREAS, genocide is defined by the United Nations as an act “committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group” [1];
2. WHEREAS, genocide denial is the eighth stage of genocide [2]; →
3. WHEREAS, the University of California is directly invested in the Republic of Turkey, which reaps the profits of [4] and actively denies the Armenian Genocide [5], a crime perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire and continued by the Republic through ethnic cleansing [6], confiscation of Armenian properties, and the theft of Armenian capital;
4. WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey has engaged in a campaign of Armenian cultural erasure since the founding of the Republic, including, but not limited to, continuation of ethnic cleansings and the destruction of sacred Armenian religious sites [7];
5. WHEREAS, it is illegal to refer to the massacre and deportation of Armenians in 1915-1923 as genocide in the Republic of Turkey under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code [8];
6. WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey sanctions historical revision of Armenian Genocide historiography and censors scholarship that acknowledges the crimes as genocide [9];
7. WHEREAS, the University of California as a public academic institution, guided by the principles of academic freedom, contradicts these principles by investing in a government that engages in academic censorship and criminalizes Armenian Genocide scholarship;
8. WHEREAS, the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) investment holdings in bonds directly issued by the Republic of Turkey total \$55,432,125 [10];
9. WHEREAS, University of California General Endowment Pool (GEP) investment holdings in bonds directly issued by the Republic of Turkey total \$9,652,475 [11];
10. WHEREAS, these investment holdings in bonds directly issued by the Republic of Turkey total a base market value of \$65,084,600;
11. WHEREAS, the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) investment holdings in the Export Credit Bank of Turkey total \$7,278,500 [12];
12. WHEREAS, the University of California General Endowment Pool (GEP) investment holdings in the Export Credit Bank of Turkey total \$1, 683,500 [13];
13. WHEREAS, the Turkish Treasury makes capital contributions to the Export Credit Bank of Turkey as the sole shareholder of the Bank [14];

14. WHEREAS, these investments harm Armenian students, many of whom are living heirs of confiscated properties in Turkey and descendants of the 1.5 million people who were murdered or those who were forcibly relocated during the Armenian Genocide;
15. WHEREAS, investment in the Republic of Turkey enables its government to continue to deny justice to the Armenian people;
16. WHEREAS, divesting these funds would remove the University of California, Santa Cruz's student body's complicity in the Armenian Genocide;
17. WHEREAS, this resolution aims to hold the Republic of Turkey's government responsible for denying justice to the Armenian people, and is not intended to condemn a specific community or individual;
18. WHEREAS, in 2006, the University of California divested from nine companies that did business in Sudan as a direct result of their contributions to the suffering in the Darfur region during the genocide in Darfur [15];
19. WHEREAS, the California State Assembly Public Employment, Retirement, and Social Security (PERSS) voted to adopt Assembly Bill 1410 by a vote of 6-1-0, calling for divestment of the State of California's investments in the Turkish government [16];
20. WHEREAS, it is the duty of members of the University of California, Santa Cruz community to uphold "A Commitment to Free Speech" including "respect", "intellectual curiosity", "integrity", and "empathy"; [17]
21. WHEREAS, UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Davis, UC Riverside have unanimously passed similar resolutions calling for the University of California's divestment from the Republic of Turkey; [18]
22. WHEREAS, this resolution has gathered support from Armenian Student Association at UC Santa Cruz
23. LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Students Union Assembly - University of California, Santa Cruz calls upon the University of California, the University of California, Santa Cruz and the University of California, Santa Cruz Foundation to divest all financial holdings in the Republic of Turkey immediately;
24. LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Students Union Assembly- University of California, Santa Cruz calls upon the University of California, the University of California, Santa Cruz and the University of California, Santa Cruz Foundation to refrain from making any further investments in the Republic of Turkey.
25. LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of California will refrain from making any further investments in the Republic of Turkey until justice is done to the Armenian people through the official recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the Republic of Turkey.

26. LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the following: University of California President Janet Napolitano, Chancellor George Blumenthal, Dean of Students and Associate Vice Chancellor Alma Sifuentes, Executive Vice Chancellor and Campus Provost Alison Galloway.

- [1] http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/pdf/osapg_analysis_framework.pdf
- [2] <http://www.genocidewatch.org/aboutgenocide/8stagesofgenocide.html>
- [3] http://www.asuci.uci.edu/legislative/legislations/print.php?cnum=R50-77&gov_branch=ASUCI
- [4] <http://armenianweekly.com/2013/09/23/the-confiscation-of-armenian-properties-an-interview-with-umit-kurt/> cite: *The Spirit of Laws: Seeking the Traces of Armenian Genocide in the Laws of Abandoned Property*, 2012
- [5] http://www.nytimes.com/ref/timestopics/topics_armeniangenocide.html
- [6] <http://www.armenian-genocide.org/kemal.html>
- [7] <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/1861892055.html>
- [8] <http://humanrightsturkey.org/2013/04/03/article-301-end-it-dont-amend-it/>
- [9] <http://armenianweekly.com/2014/12/04/textbooks/>
- [10] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invppl/UCRP_Holdings.pdf
- [11] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invppl/GEP_Holdings.pdf
- [12] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invppl/UCRP_Holdings.pdf
- [13] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invppl/GEP_Holdings.pdf
- [14] <https://www.eximbank.gov.tr/EN,1193/about-us.html>
- [15] <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/6302.html>
- [16] http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_1401-1450/ab_1410_bill_20150227_introduced.pdf
- [17] <http://chancellor-test.cwis.uci.edu/values/>
- [18] <https://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/ASA%20Divestment%20Resolution%20amended%2001-20-15.pdf> ; https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7_j_4L-LvIWc1l3cTEwTGZWVEE&usp=sharing&tid=0B7_j_4L-LvIWD0pIaldkVFBMRDg#list

Summary of Citations

- [1] http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/pdf/osapg_analysis_framework.pdf
- [2] <http://www.genocidewatch.org/aboutgenocide/8stagesofgenocide.html>
- [3] http://www.asuci.uci.edu/legislative/legislations/print.php?cnum=R50-77&gov_branch=ASUCI
- [4] <http://armenianweekly.com/2013/09/23/the-confiscation-of-armenian-properties-an-interview-with-umit-kurt/>
- [5] http://www.nytimes.com/ref/timestopics/topics_armeniangenocide.html
- [6] Levene, M. "Creating a Modern 'zone of Genocide': The Impact of Nation- and State-formation on Eastern Anatolia, 1878-1923." *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 12.3 (1998): 393-433. Web.
- [7] <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/1861892055.html>
- [8] <http://humanrightsturkey.org/2013/04/03/article-301-end-it-dont-amend-it/>

- [9] <http://armenianweekly.com/2014/12/04/textbooks/>
- [10] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/UCRP_Holdings.pdf
- [11] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/GEP_Holdings.pdf
- [12] <https://www.eximbank.gov.tr/EN,1193/about-us.html>
- [13] <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/6302.html>
- [14] <http://chancellor-test.cwis.uci.edu/values/>
- [15] http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/15-16/bill/asm/ab_1401-1450/ab_1410_bill_20150227_introduced.pdf
- [16] <https://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/ASA%20Divestment%20Resolution%20amended%2001-20-15.pdf> ; https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7_j_4L-LvIWc1l3cTEwTGZWVEE&usp=sharing&tid=0B7_j_4L-LvIWd0pIaldkVFBMRDg#list

Citation #1: United Nations Legal Definition of Genocide

Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines “genocide” as “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; [and] forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”

Citation #2: The Eight Stages of Genocide

Gregory Stanton, the president of Genocide Watch, a group that “exists to predict, prevent, stop, and punish genocide and other forms of mass murder,” former president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, former Co-Chair of the Washington Working Group for the International Criminal Court, and Research Professor in Genocide Studies at George Mason University, listed eight stages of genocide that are “predictable but not inexorable.” According to the list, the eighth and final stage of genocide is “denial,” the stage immediately following “extermination.”

Citation #4: Confiscation of Armenian Properties in the Republic of Turkey

Ümit Kurt, the author of *The Spirit of Laws: Seeking the Traces of Armenian Genocide in the Laws of Abandoned Property*, which he coauthored with the notable Turkish-German historian Taner Akçam, a leading authority on the Armenian Genocide, cites a regulation introduced by the Turkish Republic in 1928, five years after the current Republic’s founding, that “granted *muhacirs* or Muslim refugees who were using Armenian properties the right to have the title deeds of those properties, which included houses, lands, field crops, and shops.” He added that “this aspect of the Armenian Genocide should be compared with the ‘Aryan’ization of Jewish properties in the Holocaust.”

Citation #5: Armenian Genocide Denial

The Republic of Turkey categorically denies the Armenian Genocide, an act that, as mentioned in Citation #2, is itself an act of genocide. The Armenian Genocide is the second most studied case of genocide in history following the Holocaust, according to R.J. Rummel, author of the essay “The Holocaust in Comparative and Historical

Perspective.” It has been cited by numerous scholars as one of the first modern genocides due to the organized manner of systematic murder, rape, and deportation.

Citation #6: Ethnic Cleansings continued by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s Republic of Turkey

"By ridding themselves of the Armenians, Greeks, or any other group that stood in their way, Turkish nationalists were attempting to prove how they could clarify, purify, and ultimately unify a polity and society so that it could succeed on its own, albeit Western-orientated terms. This, of course, was the ultimate paradox: the CUP committed genocide in order to transform the residual empire into a streamlined, homogeneous nation-state on the European model. Once the CUP had started the process, the Kemalists, freed from any direct European pressure by the 1918 defeat and capitulation of Germany, went on to complete it, achieving what nobody believed possible: the reassertion of independence and sovereignty via an exterminatory war of national liberation."

— Mark Levene, "Creating a Modern 'Zone of Genocide': The Impact of Nation— and State-formation on Eastern Anatolia, 1878-1923."

Citation #7: Continuation of Ethnic Cleansing and Destruction of Armenian Religious Sites

A survey prepared by the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople, the main Armenian religious authority in the then Ottoman Empire, in 1914 listed 2,549 Armenian religious sites under its control. The Republic of Turkey “continued to remove, stone by stone, the evidence of millennia of Armenian architectural and art history following the mass murder and exile of the Armenian people.” In 1974, a survey identified only 913 of the 2,549 religious sites in Turkey. From these 913, only 197 survived in “anything like a usable state,” about 7.7% percent of the number of sites listed in the 1914 survey.

Citation #8: Amnesty International: “Article 301: End it, don’t Amend it”

Up until 2008, prosecutions under Article 301 were a regular event in Turkey. A string of individuals, including activists, politicians, and artists were targeted under a law which made “denigrating Turkishness” a criminal act. Among those targeted for prosecution were journalists like Hrant Dink, publishers like Ragıp Zarakolu, and writers like Elif Shafak and Orhan Pamuk.

Eventually, Turkish authorities, realizing that the cases were hurting Turkey’s international standing, reformed Article 301 to limit the number of cases that were prosecuted. These reforms were enough to push 301 from the front pages of international news organizations, but they provide insufficient protection for freedom of expression in Turkey. Prosecutions continue. As Turkish authorities prepare for a new round of judicial reform, the time is ripe to, at long last, to repeal this antiquated and repressive law.

Citations #9: Government Censorship of Armenian Genocide in Education

Taner Akcam, the Robert Aram, Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University, who has been prosecuted under Turkey's Article 301, writes:

Education is extremely centralized in Turkey. All issues, including setting policy, the administration, and content of education are decided and implemented by the national government. Textbooks that are to be taught in schools are either prepared by the Ministry of National Education (MEB) or must be approved by the Ministry's Instruction and Education Board. For this reason, there's a direct connection between the books taught in schools and the Turkish government's policies. The content of history textbooks, in particular, reveals firsthand information about government policies and goals.

...the textbooks characterize Armenians as people “who are incited by foreigners, who aim to break apart the state and the country, and who murdered Turks and Muslims.” Meanwhile, the Armenian Genocide—referred to as the “Armenian matter” in textbooks—is described as a lie perpetrated in order to meet these goals, and is defined as the biggest threat to Turkish national security.

Citation #10: University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) investment holdings in bonds directly issued by the Republic of Turkey total \$55,432,125

TOTAL EQUITY

23,764,591,503.33

FIXED INCOME

FIXED INCOME - SECURITIES

Security Name	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Shares/Par Value	Base Market Value
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	7.25	3/15/2015	9,000,000.00	10,005,300.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	7.375	2/5/2025	5,000,000.00	6,775,000.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	6.875	3/17/2036	6,800,000.00	9,180,000.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	7	9/26/2016	4,000,000.00	4,685,000.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	7	3/11/2019	1,700,000.00	2,113,950.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	5.625	3/30/2021	1,500,000.00	1,781,250.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	6	1/14/2041	12,750,000.00	15,905,625.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	6.25	9/26/2022	4,000,000.00	4,986,000.00
REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY	8	11/18/2022	2,597,984.00	3,793,056.64
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA	9.25	9/15/2027	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA	5.75	2/26/2016	12,000,000.00	11,430,000.00
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA	7.75	10/13/2019	600,000.00	565,500.00
REPUBLICA ORIENT URUGUAY	7.625	3/21/2036	4,800,000.00	7,440,000.00

Citation #11: University of California General Endowment Pool (GEP) investment holdings in bonds directly issued by the Republic of Turkey total \$9,652,475

Security Name	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Shares/Par Value	Base Market Value
REPUBLIC OF POLAND	6.375	7/15/2019	2,650,000.00	3,303,754.76
REPUBLIC OF POLAND	3.875	7/16/2015	1,000,000.00	1,072,500.00
REPUBLIC OF POLAND	3	3/17/2023	1,100,000.00	1,092,355.00
REPUBLIC OF POLAND	5.125	4/21/2021	400,000.00	474,399.99
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	5.875	5/30/2022	800,000.00	990,880.01
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	6.875	5/27/2019	500,000.00	626,875.00
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	5.5	3/9/2020	800,000.00	947,999.94
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	6.25	3/8/2041	500,000.00	662,500.00
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	4.665	1/17/2024	500,000.00	565,000.00
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA	6.25	10/4/2020	1,550,000.00	1,685,625.00
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA	6.25	7/27/2021	200,000.00	217,905.80
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	7.25	3/15/2015	3,000,000.00	3,335,100.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	6.875	3/17/2036	1,700,000.00	2,295,000.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	7	3/11/2019	500,000.00	621,750.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	5.625	3/30/2021	500,000.00	593,750.00
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY	6	1/14/2041	2,250,000.00	2,806,875.00
REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY	8	11/18/2022	817,594.00	1,193,687.24

Citation #12:the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) investment holdings in the Export Credit Bank of Turkey total \$7,278,500

TOTAL EQUITY 23,764,591,503.33

FIXED INCOME

FIXED INCOME - SECURITIES


Security Name	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Shares/Par Value	Base Market Value
ENTERPRISE PRODUCTS OPER	4.85	8/15/2042	1,000,000.00	1,057,036.67
EQUIFAX INC	3.3	12/15/2022	3,950,000.00	3,950,978.81
EQUINIX INC	7	7/15/2021	2,975,000.00	3,302,250.00
ERAC USA FINANCE LLC	6.7	6/1/2034	5,000,000.00	6,053,945.00
ERAC USA FINANCE LLC	6.375	10/15/2017	4,900,000.00	5,926,368.70
ERAC USA FINANCE LLC	3.3	10/15/2022	2,000,000.00	2,024,898.00
ERP OPERATING LP	5.125	3/15/2016	6,350,000.00	7,022,089.78
ESKOM HOLDINGS LIMITED	5.75	1/26/2021	3,400,000.00	3,854,750.00
EXPORT CREDIT BANK OF TU	5.375	11/4/2016	2,500,000.00	2,722,500.00
EXPORT CREDIT BANK OF TU	5.875	4/24/2019	4,000,000.00	4,556,000.00
EXPORT IMPORT BK KOREA	5.875	1/14/2015	5,000,000.00	5,465,298.45
EXPORT IMPORT BK KOREA	4.375	9/15/2021	1,300,000.00	1,439,478.94
EXPORT IMPORT BK KOREA	4	1/11/2017	2,000,000.00	2,170,485.08
EXPRESS SCRIPTS HOLDING	3.125	5/15/2016	5,000,000.00	5,280,274.20
FANNIE MAE	4.625	5/1/2013	130,250,000.00	132,177,700.00
FANNIE MAE	5.125	1/2/2014	164,345,000.00	172,250,208.15
FANNIE MAE	2.78	12/1/2017	6,545,000.00	7,045,537.65
FANNIE MAE	3.86	3/1/2018	17,927,703.93	20,058,963.36

Citation #13: The University of California General Endowment Pool (GEP) investment holdings in the Export Credit Bank of Turkey total \$1, 683,500

Security Name	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Shares/Par Value	Base Market Value
EQUINIX INC	7	7/15/2021	500,000.00	555,000.00
ERAC USA FINANCE LLC	6.375	10/15/2017	500,000.00	604,731.50
ERAC USA FINANCE LLC	3.3	10/15/2022	500,000.00	506,224.50
ERP OPERATING LP	5.125	3/15/2016	500,000.00	552,920.46
ESKOM HOLDINGS LIMITED	5.75	1/26/2021	600,000.00	680,250.00
EXPORT CREDIT BANK OF TU	5.375	11/4/2016	500,000.00	544,500.00
EXPORT CREDIT BANK OF TU	5.875	4/24/2019	1,000,000.00	1,139,000.00

Citation #14: The Turkish Treasury makes capital contributions to the Export Credit Bank of Turkey as the sole shareholder of the Bank



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About Us

Türk Eximbank is a fully state-owned bank acting as the Turkish government's major export incentive instrument in Turkey's sustainable export strategy. As Turkey's official export credit agency, Türk Eximbank has been mandated to support foreign trade and Turkish contractors/investors operating overseas.

Citation #15: UC Regents Divest from Companies involved in Darfur Genocide



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Regents Policy 6302: Policy on Divestment of University Holdings in Companies with Business Operations in Sudan

Approved March 16, 2006
Amended November 20, 2008, March 19, 2009 and March 29, 2012

A. Divest all shares of the following nine companies: Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., China Petroleum and Chemical Corp. (Sinopec), Oil & Natural Gas Co. Ltd., PECD Bhd., PetroChina Company Ltd., CNPC Hong Kong, MISC Berhad (Petronas), Lundin Petroleum, and AREF Investment Group held within separately managed equity portfolios of the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) and the General Endowment Pool (GEP). The proposed policy would apply to both indexed and actively managed, publicly-traded equity portfolios

Related Resources

[Back to Regents Policies index](#)

Citation #16: California State Assembly Bill 1410

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1410

Introduced by Assembly Members Nazarian, Achadjian, and Wilk

February 27, 2015

An act to amend Section 16642 of, and to add Section 7513.75 to, the Government Code, relating to investments.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1410, as introduced, Nazarian. Public employees' retirement: investments: Turkish investment vehicles.

The California Constitution provides that the Legislature may by statute prohibit retirement board investments if it is in the public interest to do so, and providing that the prohibition satisfies specified fiduciary standards.

Existing law prohibits the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from investing public employee retirement funds in a company with active business operations in Sudan and in Iran, as specified.

This bill would additionally prohibit the Public Employees' Retirement System and the State Teachers' Retirement System from investing public employee retirement funds in a Turkish investment vehicle, as specified. The bill would require the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement Board of the State Teachers' Retirement System to sell or transfer any investments in a Turkish investment vehicle.

This bill would require these boards, on or before January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, to report to the Legislature any investments in a Turkish investment vehicle and the sale or transfer of those investments, subject to the fiduciary duty of these boards.

Citation #17: UC Santa Cruz "A commitment to free speech"

Freedom of thought, inquiry, speech and lawful assembly are fundamental rights of all persons. These rights include the freedom to express opinions; to hear, express and debate various views, no matter how unpopular; and to voice criticism. Free speech is uniquely important to the University as it brings about a free interchange of ideas integral to the University's fundamental mission of teaching, research and public service.

Protests and civil disobedience have played an historic role on the University campuses, in bringing important and beneficial changes within society, and in the development of our democracy. However, civil disobedience is not protected speech under the Constitution. The Constitution does not guarantee any right to engage in civil disobedience – which, by its very definition, involves the violation of laws or regulations – without incurring consequences. Civil disobedience may have a negative effect on the protected interests of others and may interfere with University business or threaten public safety or University assets, in ways that may require the University to act to protect those other interests.

Citation #18: UCLA Undergraduate Students' Association Council (USAC), UC Berkeley ASUC Senate, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Riverside unanimously passed a similar resolution calling the University of California to divest its funds from the Republic of Turkey in January and March of 2015.

This section below contains all resolutions passed by the Undergraduate Students Association Council.

2014-2015

- 2014 - A Resolution in Support of the College Diversity Requirement for the University of California, Los Angeles ([PDF](#))
- 2014 - A Resolution to Divest from Companies Engaged in Violence Against Palestinians ([PDF](#))
- 2014 - A Resolution to Endorse Education Around Proposition 47 ([PDF](#))
- 2014 - A Resolution to Amend the Charter of the University of California Student Association ([PDF](#))
- 2015 - A Resolution to Divest from the Republic of Turkey to End the Perpetuation of the Armenian Genocide ([PDF](#))
- 2015 - A Resolution Condemning Anti-Semitism ([PDF](#))
- 2015 - Resolution Calling for a Bike Safe Westwood Boulevard ([PDF](#))
- 2015 - A Resolution To Recognize the Contribution of Pilipino Farm Workers in the Delano Labor Movement ([PDF](#))
- 2015 - A Resolution in Support of Combating Academic Inequities in the K12 Education System ([PDF](#))



Senate Bill No. 2014/2015-065

A Bill in Support of Divestment from the Republic of Turkey

Primary Sponsor
Marium Navid (Senator)

Cosponsors
Madison Gordon (Senator), Dree Kavoussi (Senator), Austin Pritzkat (Senator), Grant Genske (Senator), Haley Broder (Senator), Melissa Hsu (Senator), Lavanya Jawaharlal (Senator), Caitlin Quinn (External Affairs Vice President), Yordanos Dejen (Senator), Mon Shane Chou (Academic Affairs Vice President), King Xiong (Senator), Juan Manuel Heredia (Senator), Paul Lee (Senator), Siddhant Puri (Senator), Vinay Ramesh (Senator), Hannah Frankl (Senator), Bo Nguyen (Senator), Baltazar Dasalla (Senator), Kevin Sabo (UCSA Board Chair), Ori Herschmann (Senator), Eric Gabrielli (Senator)

Armenian Genocide General History

The Armenian Genocide took place between 1915 and 1923 at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. This attempt at a systematic ethnic cleansing of the Armenian people was the first genocide of the 20th century.

In 1908, the Young Turk movement overthrew Sultan Abdul Hamid II and took control of the Ottoman Empire. By 1914, Ottoman authorities had begun a propaganda campaign to portray Armenians as a threat to the Ottoman Empire.

On April 20, 1915, in the midst of World War I, Ottoman soldiers attacked the city of Van. Four days later, on April 24, over 250 Armenian leaders and intellectuals were gathered, deported, and murdered by the Ottoman Turks. In the years that followed, Armenians, regardless of age or gender, were subjected to deportations and massacres at the hands of the Ottoman gendarmes. Mass burnings and drownings wiped out Armenian villages. Properties were confiscated by Ottoman authorities and Armenians were led on death marches through the Syrian deserts, where torture, rape, and starvation pervaded the masses. Many concentration camps served as mass graves. Over 1.5 million Armenians were killed during the genocide.

In 1944, a Polish lawyer named Raphael Lemkin coined the term genocide to describe his concept of a crime based on the occurrences of the Armenian Genocide in a presentation to the League of Nations (the predecessor to the United Nations). The UN in 1948 defined genocide as “[...] acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group [...].”

The Republic of Turkey denies the Armenian Genocide to this day, claiming the massacres were part of World War I activity and there were mass casualties on both sides. It is currently against the law in Turkey to call the massacring of Armenians a “genocide.” To date, 22 countries and 42 U.S. states have recognized the Armenian Genocide. However, the United States has yet to officially recognize the events of 1915 as genocide.

