



Armenians for Obama

Armenians for Obama led a base of several hundred organizers, thousands of activists, and several hundred thousand voters to help deliver victory through the following areas of activity:

Votes: Strong fieldwork helped contribute to victories in swing states such as Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin, as well as in the 3 counties with the largest Armenian American populations: Los Angeles, CA (69%), Middlesex, MA (64%), and Bergen, NJ (54%). These efforts were praised in an October 22, 2008 letter from Barack Obama to Armenians for Obama Chairman Areen Ibranossian.

Media: Armenians for Obama received extensive free Armenian American and national media coverage, including an October 8, 2008 feature in The Atlantic, "McCain's Armenia Problem," about its success in winning over voters, including Republicans and independents, in swing states.

Finance: Tens of thousands of Armenian Americans gave generously to the Obama-Biden effort, most notably Kirk Kerkorian, whose Lincy Foundation donated \$1,500,000 to the Denver 2008 Convention Host Committee. Armenians for Obama leadership team member Harut Sassounian, Publisher of the California Courier, is Senior Vice-President of The Lincy Foundation.

Endorsements: Taking the lead of the ANCA, which endorsed Senator Obama in January 2008, all the top community papers and groups up endorsed Obama-Biden.

Internet: Armenians for Obama had a robust website and hosted one of the largest ethnic Facebook pages (3,000+ members). Samantha Power's pro-Obama YouTube video has over 11,000 views. An "Armenians for Obama" search on Google returns over 2,100 results.

Armenian Americans look forward to Barack Obama implementing as President the principled stands outlined in his January 19, 2008 statement on the importance of U.S.-Armenia relations, notably his firm commitment to recognize the Armenian Genocide. This pledge was restated throughout the campaign, including in an October 31, 2008 statement issued in the aftermath of a senior official from Turkey publicly questioning Barack Obama's commitment to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Contents:

Leadership team	3
Fieldwork	4
Internet outreach	8
Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA)	9
Armenian American endorsements of Obama-Biden	10
Democratic National Committee Convention	11
Legal assistance	11
Free media	12
Attachments (endorsements, scanned articles, campaign documents, etc.)	28

Leadership team

The core Armenians for Obama team included the leadership members listed below, and reached out to an activist base of several hundred volunteers, several thousand active supporters, and several hundred thousand voters.

- Areen Ibranossian (Chairman): Chief of Operations for the reelection campaign of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.
- Ani Hagopian (Staff): Community activists who coordinates the day-to-day activities of Armenians for Obama. She has received “Camp Obama” training in New York City and served full-time (Sept. 15 – 25, 2008) as a fieldwork volunteer in the Media, Pennsylvania office for Delaware County.
- Greg Aftandilian: Foreign policy expert, former State Department official and U.S. Senate aide
- Zanku Armenian: Public relations professional
- William Bairamian: Armenians for Obama Director of Field Operations
- Ari Boyajian: Web and print marketing professional, Image Cube
- Virginia Davies: Democratic activist, NY host for Senator Obama and campaign events
- Mikael Garabedian: Youth outreach (Eastern U.S.)
- Ara Khachatourian – Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper editor
- George Kivork: Lawyer, former Kerry/Edwards 2004 ethnic coordinator.
- Michael Mahdesian: Businessman, former Clinton Administration political appointee
- Jeff Marootian: Armenians for Obama Political Director, Washington, DC city official
- Phil Nigon: Information technology professional
- Alex Sardar: Americans Abroad for Obama – Armenia group
- Harut Sassounian – Publisher, California Courier
- Vatche Thomassian: Youth outreach (Western U.S.)
- Allen Yekikan: Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper journalist

- Rostom Sarkisian, a recent Harvard Kennedy School of Government graduate, veteran campaign aide, and early organizer of Armenians for Obama, has been hired by the Obama-Biden Colorado media operation.

- Armenians for Obama activist Babken Der Grigorian started working full-time on Monday, October 6, 2008 as an Obama-Biden Field Organizer in the Fort Meyer, Florida area. In addition to his core duties, Babken is cooperating with Armenians for Obama field team to organize Armenian American volunteers in Florida. Fourteen of the 20 precincts he was responsible for went for Obama-Biden, as opposed to only 1 out of 20 in 2004 that went for Kerry-Edwards.

- Armenians for Obama community activist Vazrig Saboujniaan took leave from his position as Regional Conservation Organizer for the Sierra Club to work for the Obama-Biden campaign as a field organizer, managing volunteers and Get-Out-The-Vote, in the Green Bay, Wisconsin area.

- Erik Yesayan worked out of Columbus, OH as a Vote Corps Field Organizer. Gregory Gergerian worked as a Youth Organizer in Johnson County, Iowa.

The campaign’s Armenian American National Leadership Committee was comprised of U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo (CA), U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier (CA) and U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (CA), California Assemblymember Paul Krekorian, and former South Carolina Democratic Party Chairperson Richard Harpootian.

Fieldwork

Armenians for Obama Field Director William Bairamian has coordinated the following field activities:

- November 4, 2008: ANCA and Horizon Armenian Television broadcast a five-hour Election Day special (on cable, satellite, and internet webcast) highlighting the ANCA's endorsement of Obama-Biden and political commentary by Armenians for Obama leaders.
- November 1-4, 2008: Armenians for Obama activists Ani Hagopian and ANCA Eastern U.S. Executive Director Karine Birazian worked GOTV in Allentown, PA and also in West Philadelphia through the 52nd Street campaign office, under the direction of Khrist Lewin.
- November 2, 2008: Seven Armenians for Obama volunteers from Massachusetts canvassed in Plymouth, New Hampshire to help GOTV. This effort was organized and led by Alik Arzoumanian from Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- November 3, 2008: Armenians for Obama Chairman Areen Ibranossian and activist Ardy Kassakhian were joined by a team of volunteers in phone-banking out of the East Los Angeles Obama-Biden office.
- November 1-2, 2008: Armenians for Obama political committee chairman, Jeff Marootian, organized 20 volunteers in Southern Virginia to canvass on behalf of the campaign. On Saturday they covered the Norfolk region and on Sunday, Virginia Beach. Greg Aftandilian canvassed on November 1, 2008, and handed out sample Democratic ballots on Election Day, both in Northern Virginia.
- November 1, 2008: Over 50 Armenian for Obama activists in Los Angeles joined with the Obama-Biden campaign to phone bank out of the ANC-PAC office in Glendale, California to Nevada. Collectively, they were able to call over 3,500 thousands households in this battleground state.
- November 1, 2008: Armenians for Obama activist Tony Vartanian, with the help of five other Armenians for Obama team members in New York City, organized a phone bank contacting independent and undecided Armenian American voters in New Hampshire. They were able to call over 400 people.
- November 1, 2008: Armenians for Obama activists and ANCA Government Affairs Director Kate Nahapetian and ANCA Capital Gateway Program Director Serouj Aprahamian organizing a team of volunteers for a phone banking session targeting Virginia voters, based out of the National Education Association building in Washington, DC.
- October 31, 2008: The entire national Armenians for Obama operation widely circulated, via email and handouts, a new fact-sheet issued by the Obama-Biden campaign in the wake of press reports that a senior Turkish government official, Ahmet Davutoglu, had traveled to Washington, DC, had met with Obama-Biden campaign officials, and had then taken it upon himself to call into question Senator Obama's pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide.
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/docs/Obama_Armenia_factsheet.pdf

- October 28, 2008: Armenians and Greeks for Obama held a joint fundraising event in New York City – Opah for Obama –at Lafayette Bar and Grill. Among the speakers were actor Tate Donovan and Democratic Party and Obama-Biden donor Virginia Davies. The program’s MC, Armenians for Obama activist Nicole Vartanian, PhD, has canvassed in Doylestown and Hazleton, Pennsylvania. ANCA Eastern U.S. Executive Director Karine Birazian was interviewed at the event by Ukrainian television broadcast by satellite across the United States.

- October 28, 2008: Armenians for Obama activists Michelle Hagopian and Stephen Hagopian attended a training session at the Columbia Headquarters office in Columbia, MO in order to organize GOTV volunteers on Election Day.

- October 26, 2008: Fourteen Armenians for Obama activists, organized by ANC-Massachusetts chairperson Shari Melkonian, held a phonebank at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center in Watertown, Massachusetts. The calls targeted Armenian Americans in Colorado.

- October 26, 2008: ANCA Chairman Ken Hachikian traveled to Virginia to speak in support of Obama-Biden at a Vienna, Virginia community gathering, with a special focus at rallying Armenian Americans from Virginia to get out the vote on Election Day.

- October 25, 2008: Ten Armenians for Obama activists, organized by Razmik Ablo, traveled from Las Vegas and Los Angeles to attend the Obama campaign rally at Bonanza High School, and to volunteer for the campaign.

- October 24, 2008: ANC-PAC held a Las Vegas community reception for Congresswoman Shelley Berkley that featured remarks by both the Congresswoman and Armenians for Obama activist Sarig Armenian in support of Obama Biden.

- October 24, 2008: ANC of Pennsylvania, led by Dr. Ara Chalian, organized 9 Armenians for Obama volunteers for an evening of Obama-Biden phonebanking at the Seroonian Armenian community center in Philadelphia. The targets of the calls were Armenian American voters from Pennsylvania.

- October 24, 2008: Obama-Biden supporters Congressmen Steve Rothman and Frank Pallone spoke on behalf of the Obama-Biden campaign at a well-attended Armenian National Committee of New Jersey Public Forum on Election 2008, held at the Sheraton Meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

- October 23, 2008: The “Shant” Student Association, Glendale College Armenian Student Association, and Armenian National Committee – Western Region organized a public forum on the 2008 elections at the Glendale Community College. The event, attended by over 150 students, featured remarks in support of the Obama-Biden ticket by Jon Fuhrman, co-manager of the local United Democratic Headquarters.

- October 21, 2008: Armenians for Obama political committee chairman Jeff Marootian gave a pro-Obama-Biden presentation and volunteer recruitment pitch to the Howard University Campus Democrats.

- October 20, 2008: Armenians for Obama activist and ANCA-Eastern U.S. Director Karine Birazian represented the pro-Obama side in a public debate against supporters of the McCain campaign, before a student audience at the Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

October 18 - 19, 2008: Eleven Armenians for Obama activists in Nevada conducted three canvassing shifts on Saturday and Sunday. Starting on this date, Armenians for Obama activists in Nevada began conducting three canvassing shifts on Saturdays and Sundays and two shifts during the week.

October 17, 2008: Armenians for Obama activist Noubar Sarkisian took responsibility for the distribution of yard signs in the Union City, Arkansas area, as well as voter-registration, and GOTV. He worked with fellow volunteers Anto (Tony) Vartenian, Avo Vartenian, Ohan Kitishian, and Hovsep Vartanian.

-- October 13, 2008: Armenian for Obama activists Nora Keomurjian and ANCA-Eastern U.S. Director Karine Birazian represented the Armenian American community at an event with Senator Obama's campaign Advisor Valerie Jarrett at the "Pennsylvania Women for Obama" gathering.

October 12, 2008: Over 1,000 Armenian Americans were on hand to witness the ANC-Western U.S. banquet honoring Senator Biden's record of support for Armenian American issues.

-- October 11, 2008: More than two dozen Armenians for Obama activists in Glendale, CA conducted their weekly phone banking from the campaign's California's 29th Congressional District Office to Armenian American voters in Nevada.

-- October 10, 2008: Five Armenians for Obama volunteers helped out with the campaign at the Durango office by splitting up a list of Nevadan Armenians' names and called them using a specialized script. The fifth joined other campaign volunteers in door-to-door canvassing. (In addition, local Nevada activists sent email blasts reminding voters of register deadlines and early voting locations.

-- October 4, 2008: Sarig Armenian, a Las Vegas-based law student and Armenians for Obama activist, based on a meeting with Toni Morales, Western Political Director for Obama for America, organized a team of volunteers to conduct voter registration and phone banking out of the Durango, NV campaign office.

-- October 4, 2008: Armenians for Obama activist Lorena Kurtjian canvassed in Lake County, Indiana, answered questions regarding the campaign or the voting process, registered new voters, provided absentee ballots to those interested, and encouraged registered voters to participate in early voting.

-- October 3-4, 2008: Thirty Glendale, CA area activists conducted their weekly phone bank from the campaign's California's 29th Congressional District Office to Armenian American voters in Nevada.

-- September 30, 2008: New York Armenians for Obama activist Nairi Esayan attended a New York training session held by Obama-Biden campaign Field Director Jason Haas.

-- September 27 - 30, 2008: Thirty Armenians for Obama volunteers phone bank at the Obama campaign's California 29th Congressional District office. These efforts, targeting Nevada voters, will continue every Saturday through Election Day.

-- September 27, 2008: Armenians for Obama activists, including Serouj Abrahamian, Shant Nahapetian, and Viken Moussessian, canvas for a full day in Fairfax County Virginia. This effort was coordinated with Caroline Brooks from the Centreville Office. They also volunteered on October 4th and 11th.

September 27, 2008: A team of Los-Angeles based Armenians for Obama youth activists traveled to Nevada for one-day canvassing for Obama-Biden. Additional trips are planned for every Saturday until the Election Day.

-- September 20, 2008: Ani Hagopian and a team of Armenians for Obama activist canvassed as part of the Women's Weekend for two days in the Philadelphia suburb of Media. This effort was coordinated with Andrew Bright, field organizer in Delaware County.

-- September 19, 2008: Armenians for Obama held voter registration at the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Armenian community center.

-- September 16, 2008: Armenians for Obama activists volunteered at a Joe Biden event in Media, Pennsylvania.

-- September 15 – 25: Ani Hagopian volunteered as a fieldworker in the Media, Pennsylvania office for Delaware County.

-- August 29 - September 1, 2008: Armenians for Obama activists hold voter registration at the annual Armenian sports weekend in Dearborn Michigan, which attracted over 4,000 Armenian Americans from across the country.

Armenian American chum

On Thursday, October 2, 2008, Armenians for Obama shipped packages of chum (stickers and buttons) to 14 fieldworkers in Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Specialized Armenian American campaign materials

On September 23, 2008, Armenians for Obama began widely distributing a one-page Obama/McCain comparison.

http://armeniansforobama.com/obama_vs_mccain.php

The ANCA has widely circulated a 2-page review of Senator Obama and Biden's record of supporting Armenian American issues in the U.S. Senate: "The need for change: The Obama-Biden Record of Support for Armenian American Issues."

http://www.anca.org/election2008/Obama_Biden_record.pdf

The ANCA has widely circulated a 2-page review of the Bush-Cheney Administration's record of opposing Armenian American concerns: "The need for change: The Bush-Cheney Record of Opposing Armenian American Issues."

http://www.anca.org/election2008/Bush_Cheney_record.pdf

Americans Abroad for Obama – Armenia group

Armenians for Obama activist Alex Sardar, who resides in Armenia, launched the Americans Abroad for Obama – Armenia group in September, and, working with fellow team members, established a dedicated call-in phone number and email address, distributed flyers, hosted four presentations (two for individual Embassy employees, one for individual Peace Corps volunteers, and one to an unaffiliated group), held public sessions several times each week in downtown Yerevan to educate U.S. citizens in Armenia about registration, the absentee voting process, and the importance of electing the Obama-Biden ticket. Between October 4 and November 3, 2008, Americans Abroad for Obama – Armenia conducted phone banking into swing states, including Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Post Election-Day polling of absentee voters found approximately 93% of voters resident in Armenia cast their ballots for Obama-Biden.

Internet Outreach

Armenians for Obama Website: www.armeniansforobama.com

The robust Armenians for Obama website prominently featured a broad array of features focusing on education and grassroots participation:

- Senator Obama's January 30, 2008 statement on Armenian American issues,
- A one-page Obama/McCain candidate comparison
- A listing of all press releases, and a media section with video and photos
- On-line volunteer sign-up

Facebook: Armenians for Obama

Armenians for Obama's Facebook page, among the largest ethnic pages for Obama-Biden, featured:

- 3,000+ members
- On-line volunteer sign-up and updates
- Listing of all press releases

BarackObama.com

Armenians for Obama added substantial content to the Armenians for Obama website on the official Obama-Biden website, including articles, voter registration links, and phone-banking opportunities.

Armenians for Obama drove traffic to this website through the armeniansforobama.com website.

Additional internet outreach

- Armenian Americans at the DNC Convention – Blog
<http://dnc.hairenik.com/>
- Samantha Power Speaking to Armenian American Voters – Youtube
(11,070+ views)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yNt7XsV-Dg>

Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA)

Endorsement

The ANCA, the grassroots group representing the one and a half million U.S. citizens of Armenian heritage, worked with the campaign regarding the Senator's well received January 19, 2008 statement. The ANCA endorsed Senator Obama early in the Democratic primaries, prior to Super Tuesday, on January 30, 2008, and formalized its national, general election endorsement on October 22, 2008.

Voter outreach

The ANCA has, since its early endorsement in January of 2008, mobilized its network through more than 50 local chapters, tens of thousands of activists, and an array of affiliates, women's groups, cultural organizations, youth and sports groups, and grassroots activists and supporters. ANCA direct-mail pieces go to over a quarter of a million Armenian American homes, and email updates and action alerts reach well over 100,000 Armenian American households. The ANCA website – www.anca.org – regularly attracts over 300,000 unique visitors a month, considerably more during the campaign season.

Media

In addition, the ANCA exercised broad reach to Armenian American voters via a media operation of newspapers (Armenian Weekly, Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper), regional cable shows (Horizon), satellite TV, blogs, and internet news sites. In the weeks leading up to Election Day, Horizon regularly featured ANCA and Armenians for Obama spokespeople making the case for Obama-Biden.

Armenians for Obama leadership team member Zanku Armenian produced and participated in a series of local, cable, and satellite broadcasts highlighting the Obama-Biden stand on Armenian issues. Among these were a September 18, 2008 broadcast on Horizon (Charter Communications, DISH Network, Internet streaming); an October 28, 2008 program on the Lradoo Show on KPAS Channel 55; the October 31, 2008 Albert Armen Show on Channel 284 (Charter Communications); the October 31, 2008 Haig Aharonian Show on Armenian Russian Television Network, and; a five-hour November 4, 2008 Election Day special on Horizon featuring Armenians for Obama Chairman Areen Ibranossian.

Major community events

The ANCA-Eastern U.S. banquet on September 13, 2008 in New York City featured remarks by Obama supporter Samantha Power, a restatement of ANCA's Obama endorsement, and a video highlighting the Obama candidacy. The ANCA-Western U.S. banquet on October 12, 2008 honored Senator Biden.

Staff support

An example of the type of ANCA staff participation was the work of ANCA Eastern U.S. Executive Director Karine Birazian, who, starting with her participation in a May 21, 2008 Generation Obama event, actively worked for the campaign through Election Day. She took part in the June 1, 2008, "Fundraising 101" class hosted by Terrence Yang and Jeff Kurzon, who serve on the TriState Finance Committee; a June 11, 2008 meeting led by Chas Danner with NY Obama; a June 28th, 2008 "Unite for Change" event in New York; a September 15, 2008 New York Grassroots for Obama meeting at Virginia Davies' home, and; a October 27th, 2008 Obama event in New York with remarks by John Liu, a New York City Councilman and Terrence Yang. Similar efforts have been undertaken by the ANCA-Western U.S. office.

A listing of free media, including Armenians for Obama and ANCA releases is attached to this document.

Armenian American endorsements of Obama-Biden

All the leading Armenian American community organizations and newspapers followed the Armenian National Committee of America's lead in publicly endorsing the Obama-Biden ticket.

- Armenian National Committee of America
http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1615
- Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
English edition
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/endorsements/Asbarez_English.pdf
- Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
Armenian edition
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/endorsements/Asbarez_Armenian.pdf
- Armenian Weekly
English language
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/endorsements/Armenian_Weekly.pdf
- Hairenik - Armenian Edition
Armenian language
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/endorsements/Hairenik_armenian.pdf
- California Courier
English language
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/endorsements/California_Courier.pdf
- Armenian Reporter/US-Armenia PAC
English language
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/endorsements/Armenian_Reporter.pdf
- USA Armenian Life
English language
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/endorsements/USA_Armenian_Life.pdf
- Massis Weekly/Armenian Council of America
Armenian Edition
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/endorsements/Massis_Weekly_armenian.pdf
- Massis Weekly/Armenian Council of America
English Edition
http://www.armeniansforobama.com/endorsements/Massis_Weekly_english.pdf
- [Armenian Democratic Liberal Party – Armenian Cause Council](#)
English language

As a result of pro-active ANCA and Armenians for Obama advocacy and education about the differences between the Obama-Biden and McCain-Palin tickets, no major Armenian American media outlet or group endorsed McCain-Palin.

Democratic National Committee Convention

Platform hearings

In July of 2008, Armenians for Obama hosted 12 well-attended platform hearings in Lakewood, CO; Seattle, WA; Gallup, NM; Las Vegas, NV; Portland, OR; Houston, TX; Austin, TX; Dearborn, MI; Philadelphia, PA; Washington, DC; and New York, NY.

Convention participation and support

Ani Hagopian was joined by ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian, ANCA-Eastern U.S. Executive Director Karine Birazian, and Harut Sassounian, Publisher of the California Courier, and his son Aram Sassounian, in communicating the Armenian American community's support for the Obama-Biden ticket at the DNC Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Ani served as transportation volunteer with Ken Maxey, of the California Democratic Party. Hamparian represented the Armenian American community in two leadership meetings of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Committee (NDECC).

Financial support

FEC filings show that Armenian American businessman and philanthropist Kirk Kerkorian, through The Lincy Foundation, donated \$1,500,000 to the Denver 2008 Convention Host Committee. Harut Sassounian, Publisher of the California Courier, which has endorsed Obama-Biden, serves as Senior Vice-President of The Lincy Foundation.

http://extras.mnginteractive.com/live/media/site36/2008/1016/20081016_094057_FEC_Form_4.pdf

Legal assistance

Kate Nahapetian, ANCA Government Affairs Director, an attorney, participated in the "Counsel for Change" election monitoring program in Virginia on Election Day, and, on November 5, 2008, will officially participate in the campaign's official vote certification process at a voting site in Alexandria, Virginia from 5:00 am until the polls close. She attended training on October 29, 2008 at Georgetown Law School with the Obama and Virginia Coordinated campaigns' Voter Protection Team.

Jamie Gregorian, an Armenians for Obama activist, took part in the Obama-Biden campaign's Voter Protection Program and served in Virginia on Election Day as an election attorney for the campaign.

Armenians for Obama activist Ani Garabedian translated a Nevada Voter Rights Fact-sheet into Armenian for the "Campaign for Change," a project of the Nevada State Democratic Party that directs voters to the Obama campaign for help with any voting problems.

Listing of free media hits

Armenians for Obama press releases:

- Four More Days: Armenians for Obama Expands GOTV Activities

October 31, 2008

<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1031a.php>

- Senator Obama Reaffirms Commitment to Recognize Armenian Genocide as President

October 31, 2008

<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1031.php>

- Armenians for Obama and Greeks for Obama Host Successful Event for Obama in New York City

October 29, 2008

<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1029.php>

- Armenians for Obama Continues Final Push

October 25, 2008

<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1025.php>

- Nevada Chapter of A4O Plays Crucial Role in Flipping State from Red to Blue

October 22, 2008

<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-1022.php>

- Armenians For Obama & Greeks For Obama To Host Joint Fundraiser In New York City

October 20, 2008

<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-1020.php>

- Armenians for Obama Welcomes Launch of Obama-Biden Armenian American National Leadership Committee

October 17, 2008

<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1017.php>

- Armenians for Obama Meets with Democratic Vice Presidential Nominee Senator Joe Biden

October 17, 2008

<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1017a.php>

Welcomes Launch of Obama-Biden Armenian American National Leadership Committee

October 17, 2008

<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1017.php>

- Armenians for Obama Leaders Brief Senior Obama Advisor Valerie Jarrett on Nationwide Efforts

October 13, 2008

<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1013.php>

- Obama's Principled Stance on Genocide Prevention Echoes in Debate II

October 8, 2008

<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1008.php>

- Armenians for Obama Activists Rally Support in Nevada
October 1, 2008
<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-1001.php>
- Armenians for Obama Take Action in Virginia
September 30, 2008
<http://www.armeniansforobama.com/2008-0930a.php>
- McCain Efforts to Win Over Armenian American Voters Falls Short
September 30, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com>
- Americans Abroad for Obama Launches Armenia Group
September 29, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0929.php>
- The Verdict Is In: Obama Wins Debate!
September 28, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0928.php>
- Armenians For Obama Activists Campaign For Senator Obama In Key Battleground State
September 25, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0925.php>
- The Debate Must Go On
September 24, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0924.php>
- Senator Obama Issues Statement Celebrating Armenia's Independence
September 22, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0922.php>
- Armenians for Obama Activists, Joined by Elected Officials, Attend Barack Obama Campaign Office Opening in Los Angeles
September 5, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0905.php>
- Armenians for Obama Welcomes Biden's VP Selection
September 5, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0904.php>
- McCain's Addiction to Oil Money will Ensure U.S. Remains Hostage to Azerbaijani Energy
August 4, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0804.php>
- McCain's Attack on Obama Genocide Policy Hypocritical
July 24, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0724.php>

-- NY 'Armenians for Obama' Kicks Off Nationwide Series of Platform Meetings
July 23, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0723.php>

-- Yovanovitch Responds To Obama Inquiries On Genocide Policy
July 22, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0722.php>

-- Armenians For Obama To Host Platform Meetings Nationwide
July 16, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0716.php>

-- Obama Reaffirms Commitment to US Genocide Recognition
June 17, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0617.php>

-- Obama Commemorates Armenian Genocide
April 28, 2008
<http://armeniansforobama.com/2008-0424.php>

Selected U.S. and international media hits include:

-- Largest Armenian Group in U.S. Formally Extends Support to Obama
(Reports on ANCA endorsement)
Hurriyet (largest circulation newspaper in Turkey)
October 24, 2008
<http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/english/world/10206238.asp?scr=1>

-- Ben Smith's Blog
(Links to The Atlantic - McCain's Armenia Problem)
Politico
October 9, 2008
http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/1008/Remainders_Sub_9000.html?showall

-- McCain's Armenia Problem
(Highlights Armenians for Obama's campaign work)
The Atlantic
October 8, 2008
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200810u/armenian-american-vote>

-- Armenia, Turkey, and the G-Resolution
(Stresses Armenian American support for Obama)
Forbes
September 29, 2008
http://www.forbes.com/opinions/2008/09/29/turkey-obama-armenia-oped-cx_aa_0929aydintasbas.html

-- Armenian Genocide Question Splits McCain, Obama

Fresno Bee – Editorial Opinion Blog

September 15, 2008

http://www.fresnobeehive.com/opinion/2008/09/armenian_genocide_question_spl.html

-- Hopefuls Split on Armenian Genocide

(Cites ANCA endorsement of Obama)

Fresno Bee

September 14, 2008

<http://www.fresnobee.com/263/story/866013.html>

-- Genocide Politics

The New Republic – Plank

(Cites human rights focus of Obama campaign)

July 25, 2008

http://blogs.tnr.com/tnr/blogs/the_stump/archive/2008/07/25/genocide-politics.aspx

-- "Armenians for Obama" Denounce McCain Shot at Obama on Genocide

Politico

July 24, 2008

<http://dyn.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/index.cfm/CurrentPage/8/category/Blogs>

-- Armenians for Obama

Turkish Forum

July 24, 2008

<http://www.turkishforum.com/content/2008/07/armenians-for-obama/>

-- World Tunes in to Obama Win

(Cites Obama support for Armenian Genocide recognition)

Houston Chronicle

June 5, 2008

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/world/5819656.html>

-- Armenians Choose Obama Over Clinton

Turkish Daily New

February 1, 2008

<http://www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=95215>

Armenian Media hits

Recent Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper articles favorably citing Senators Obama and/or Biden include:

-- As The Armenian Vote Goes, So Goes The Nation?

Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper

2008-11-04

- Obama Reaffirms Pledge to Recognize Genocide
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
2008-10-31
- Turkey's Foreign Policy Architect Warns US Candidates on Armenia Move
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- Armenians, Greeks for Obama Host Fundraiser for Candidate in NY
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- Turkey's Largest Newspaper Calls Obama-Biden Most Pro-Armenian Team in History
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2008-10-24
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- ANCA: Obama/Biden The Right Choice For Armenian Americans
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- Obama Applauds Armenians for Obama
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- Armenians for Obama Plays Crucial Role in Flipping Nevada from Red to Blue
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-- Armenians for Obama Meets with VP Nominee Senator Joe Biden

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-- Obama Campaign Launches Armenian American National Leadership Committee

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-- Armenians for Obama Brief Senior Campaign Advisor on Nationwide Efforts

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2008-10-14

-- Looking Behind the Curtains: Armenian Issues and The Foreign Policy

Teams of Obama and McCain Publication Date:

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2008-10-10

-- Armenians for Obama Activists Rally Support in Nevada

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-- McCain Efforts to Win Over Armenian American Voters Falls Short

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-- Armenians for Obama Take Action in Virginia

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-- New McCain Armenian Voter Outreach Fails to Outline Policy Positions

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-- Turks Dislike Obama's Pick of Biden As Running Mate

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-- Jeffrey Affirms U.S. Diplomatic Record Citing Extermination of Armenians

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-- Americans Abroad for Obama Launches Armenia Group

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-- Obama Marks Armenian Independence Day

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- Armenians For Obama Campaign In Key Battleground State
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- ANC-WR Annual Banquet: Sold Out Event!
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- Menendez Hammers Turkey's 'Historical Commission' Proposal
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- The Debate Must Go On Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- ANCA Urges Scrutiny of Failed US-Turkey Policy
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- ANCA Urges Scrutiny of Failed US-Turkey Policy
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- A Conventional Viewpoint: The Armenian Community at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions
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- ANCA Helps Launch Save Darfur's Million Postcard Campaign
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-- Conventional Wisdom

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-- VP Nominee Reiterates Support for Armenians at Democratic Convention

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-- Armenians for Obama Activists Attend Campaign Office Opening

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Democratic and Republican Presidential Tickets Offer Stark Contrast
for Armenian-American Voters

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-- Democratic, Republican Presidential Tickets Offer Stark Contrast for
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2008-09-04

-- Biden to be Honored with 'Freedom Award' at ANC-WR Banquet

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-- Obama-Biden Ticket Strong on Genocide Recognition, US-Armenia
Relations

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-- Armenians for Obama Welcomes Biden's VP Selection

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-- Turks Dislike Obama's Selection of Biden As Running Mate

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-- Armenians for Obama Welcomes Sen. Joseph Biden's Vice Presidential Selection

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-- Obama-Biden Democratic Presidential Ticket Strong on Genocide Recognition, US-Armenia
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- McCain's Oil Money will Ensure U.S. Remains Hostage to Azeris
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- State Dept. Holds Ottoman Officials Responsible for 'Mass Killings'
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- Biden, Boxer, Menendez Force State Dept. to Distance US From Turkey's Genocide Denial
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- Senators Voice Concern at Yovanovitch Hearing
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- NY "Armenians for Obama" Kicks Off Nationwide Series of Platform Meetings
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- State Department is to be Blamed for Delay in Sending Envoy to Armenia
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- McCain Attack on Obama Genocide Policy Hypocritical
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- NY 'Armenians for Obama' Kicks Off Nationwide Series of Platform Meetings
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- Ambassador-Designate's Responses to Obama's Questions on Genocide Policy
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- Armenians For Obama Participates in Major LA Obama Event Publication
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- Boxer Secures Delay as State Dept. Fails to Provide Responses to Senate Inquiries
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- Armenia Should Put an End to Azeri War Threats
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- Sen. Menendez Cross-Examines Ambassadorial Nominee For Armenia
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- Why Obama?
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- US Advisors Urge Turkey for a 'Plan B' for Genocide Bill
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- ANCA Welcomes Obama Clinching Democratic Nomination
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- ANCA Welcomes Joint Candidate Statement Urging End to Darfur Genocide
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- Senator Obama Pledges Continued Efforts To Press Turkey To Acknowledge Armenian Genocide
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- ANCA Eastern Region to Honor Samantha Power at Banquet
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- Armenian Americans for Sen. Barack Obama in Battleground State: Volunteers Swing into Action in Pennsylvania
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- Armenian Americans for Sen. Barack Obama in the State of Pennsylvania
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- Here we go again! Bush Names new Ambassador to Armenia
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
2008-03-28
- ANC-WR Attends Luncheon honoring Assembly Speaker-Elect Karen Bass
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- Picking a Pair of Presidents - II
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- While Everyone was Busy Watching Elections in America and Armenia
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- Candidates McCain, Romney & Huckabee Don't Seem Interested in Armenian Voters
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- An Interview With Former US Ambassador to Armenia John Evans:
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- Armenian American Voting Surges On Super Tuesday
Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- Armenians for Obama Reaches Tens of Thousands in Last Push Before
February 5th Asbarez Armenian Daily Newspaper
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- ANCA Endorses Obama in Democratic Primary
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- Schiff, Garcetti Join Community Leaders in Announcing Obama
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- Sen. Joe Biden Cosponsors Genocide Resolution
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(Endorsement by Harut Sassounian, Publisher of the California Courier)
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October 23, 2008
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Armenian Reporter
October 21, 2008
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(Cites ANCA and USA-PAC endorsements of Obama-Biden)
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October 16, 2006
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-- OBAMA REAFFIRMS PLEDGE TO RECOGNIZE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
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-- ANC OF NJ PUBLIC FORUM DRAWS THREE CONGRESSMEN ENDORSED BY THE ANCA
(Featured pro-Obama-Biden remarks by Reps. Rothman and Pallone)
2008-10-29
http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1619

-- ANCA: OBAMA-BIDEN THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR ARMENIAN AMERICANS
(Official general election endorsement)
2008 -10-24
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-- CAPACITY CROWD CELEBRATES COMMUNITY'S ACHIEVEMENTS AT ANC-WR BANQUET
(Cites award to Senator Biden)
2008-10-15
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-- NEW McCAIN OUTREACH TO ARMENIAN AMERICAN VOTERS FAILS TO OUTLINE POLICY POSITIONS
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-- RESPONDING TO BIDEN, NOMINEE AFFIRMS GENOCIDE-ERA DIPLOMATIC RECORD ON OTTOMAN TURKEY'S ATTEMPTED EXTERMINATION OF ARMENIANS
2008-09-27
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-- ANC-WR 2008 ANNUAL BANQUET: SOLD OUT EVENT!

2008-09-25

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-- ANCA URGES SCRUTINY OF 10 FAILINGS IN U.S.-TURKEY POLICY DURING AMBASSADORIAL CONFIRMATION HEARING

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-- YOVANOVITCH SWORN IN AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ARMENIA

2008-09-03

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-- OBAMA MARKS ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

2008-09-21

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-- OBAMA / BIDEN DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL TICKET STRONG ON GENOCIDE RECOGNITION; U.S.-ARMENIA RELATIONS

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-- SENATORS BIDEN, BOXER, MENENDEZ FORCE BUSH ADMINISTRATION TO DISTANCE UNITED STATES FROM TURKEY'S GENOCIDE DENIAL POLICY

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-- U.S. AMBASSADORIAL NOMINEE RESPONDS TO OBAMA INQUIRIES ON ARMENIAN GENOCIDE POLICY

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-- SEN. OBAMA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO U.S. ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RECOGNITION

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-- ANCA WELCOMES OBAMA CLINCHING DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

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-- SENATOR OBAMA PLEDGES CONTINUED EFFORTS TO PRESS TURKEY TO ACKNOWLEDGE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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-- HIS EMINENCE OSHAGAN CHOLOYAN URGES VIGILANCE AGAINST GENOCIDE IN CAPITOL HILL MEETINGS

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-- ARMENIAN AMERICANS FOR OBAMA IN BATTLEGROUND STATE: VOLUNTEERS SWING INTO ACTION IN PENNSYLVANIA

2008-03-31

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-- ARMENIAN AMERICAN VOTING SURGES ON SUPER TUESDAY

2008-02-06

http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1384

-- ARMENIAN AMERICANS HEAD TO THE POLLS IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BARACK OBAMA

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-- SAMANTHA POWER VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS OBAMA'S SUPPORT FOR ARMENIAN ISSUES

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-- SCHIFF AND GARCETTI JOIN ARMENIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERS AT ANCA PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING OBAMA ENDORSEMENT

2008-01-31

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-- ANCA ENDORSES OBAMA IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

2008-01-30

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-- JOE BIDEN COSPONSORS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

2008-01-23

http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1368

-- BARACK OBAMA CALLS FOR PASSAGE OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

2008-01-20

http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1365

-- SEN. JOE BIDEN - RANKING MEMBER ON FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE - COSPONSORS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

2006-01-20

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-- IOWA CAUCUS WINNERS HAVE BOTH RECOGNIZED THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

2008-01-04

http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1359



Obama vs. McCain

on Armenian American Issues



Obama

Armenian Genocide recognition



"America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian Genocide and responds forcefully to all genocides. I intend to be that President" "As a U.S. Senator, I have stood with the Armenian American community in calling for Turkey's acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide. . . As a senator, I strongly support passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H. Res.106 and S.Res.106), and as President I will recognize the Armenian Genocide."

Armenia's security



"I will promote Armenian security by seeking an end to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, and by working for a lasting and durable settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict that is agreeable to all parties, and based upon America's founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self determination."

US-Armenia relations



"I am a strong supporter of a U.S. Armenian relationship that advances our common security and strengthens Armenian democracy... And my Administration will help foster Armenia's growth and development through expanded trade and targeted aid, and by strengthening the commercial, political, military, developmental, and cultural relationships between the U.S. and Armenian governments."

U.S. aid to Armenia



"As President, I will maintain our assistance to Armenia, which has been a reliable partner in the fight against terrorism and extremism."

McCain



"Condemning modern Turkey for the acts of the Ottoman Empire would serve only to harm relations with the Turkish people while injecting the Congress into the sensitive role of historian of a period clearly preceding the births of all but a very few Congressmen. That is not a development I wish to help facilitate."



Voted against Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which restricts aid to Azerbaijan due to its blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.



No record of support.



No record of support.

Source: www.barackobama.com

Source: Sen. McCain letter to constituents 10/18/07



EN ESPAÑOL

OBAMA NEWS & SPEECHES

| January 19, 2008

I am proud of my strong record on issues of concern to the one and a half million Americans of Armenian heritage in the United States. I warmly welcome the support of this vibrant and politically active community as we change how our government works here at home, and restore American leadership abroad.

I am a strong supporter of a U.S.-Armenian relationship that advances our common security and strengthens Armenian democracy. As President, I will maintain our assistance to Armenia, which has been a reliable partner in the fight against terrorism and extremism. I will promote Armenian security by seeking an end to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, and by working for a lasting and durable settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict that is agreeable to all parties, and based upon America's founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self determination. And my Administration will help foster Armenia's growth and development through expanded trade and targeted aid, and by strengthening the commercial, political, military, developmental, and cultural relationships between the U.S. and Armenian governments.

I also share with Armenian Americans – so many of whom are descended from genocide survivors - a principled commitment to commemorating and ending genocide. That starts with acknowledging the tragic instances of genocide in world history. As a U.S. Senator, I have stood with the Armenian American community in calling for Turkey's acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide. Two years ago, I criticized the Secretary of State for the firing of U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, after he properly used the term "genocide" to describe Turkey's slaughter of thousands of Armenians starting in 1915. I shared with Secretary Rice my firmly held conviction that the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. The facts are undeniable. An official policy that calls on diplomats to distort the historical facts is an untenable policy. As a senator, I strongly support passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.106 and S.Res.106), and as President I will recognize the Armenian Genocide.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Find Events
- Join Group
- Register to vote
- Volunteer

NEXT UP

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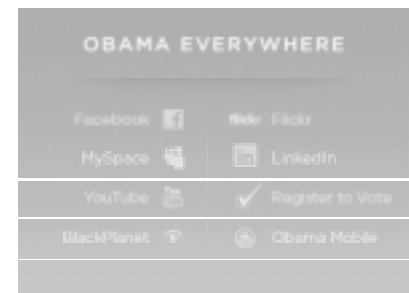
BARACK TV

VIEW MORE

Genocide, sadly, persists to this day, and threatens our common security and common humanity. Tragically, we are witnessing in Sudan many of the same brutal tactics - displacement, starvation, and mass slaughter - that were used by the Ottoman authorities against defenseless Armenians back in 1915. I have visited Darfurian refugee camps, pushed for the deployment of a robust multinational force for Darfur, and urged divestment from companies doing business in Sudan. America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian Genocide and responds forcefully to all genocides. I intend to be that President.

I look forward, as President, to continuing my active engagement with Armenian American leaders on the full range of issues of concern to the Armenian American community. Together, we will build, in new and exciting ways, upon the enduring ties and shared values that have bound together the American and Armenian peoples for more than a century.

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Statement by Senator Barack Obama on Armenian Independence Day

On this day, September 21, Armenians and friends of Armenia everywhere celebrate the independence of the Republic of Armenia, and I extend my warmest and best wishes on this happy occasion. Throughout their long history, a spirit of independence, self-reliance, and survival defines the Armenian people. After centuries of living in the Persian, Russian, and Turkish empires, Armenians first achieved their modern independence in 1918 and regained it after 70 years of Soviet rule in 1991. Their struggle continues, but in the years of renewed independence they have been able to guide their own destiny through years of war and economic dislocation. Even in the face of genocide, the pain of the past has not defeated the Armenians, either in Armenia or the far-flung diaspora.

America has benefited tremendously from the vigor and talents of the Armenian people. Armenian-Americans have made enormous contributions to American life – to our arts and academia, to business, science, and politics – while still maintaining strong ties to their ancestral home.

Recent events in the Caucasus region remind us of both the importance of rededicating ourselves to peace, and the possibility of progress even where there is a long history of alienation. The conflict in Georgia shows the danger that lurks when rising tensions are ignored and the United States pursues a diplomatic strategy of neglect. But in recent days we have also seen the hopeful step – taken by the Presidents of Turkey and Armenia -- to restart dialogue that could, in time, bring a welcome normalization of relations and offer Armenia more diversified opportunities for trade, transport, and energy supplies. American policy must build on this step, to ensure that Armenia enjoys a future not merely of independence but of partnership and cooperation with the U.S. and its allies.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, September 21, 2008

Contact: Obama Press Office; (312) 819-2423



BARACK OBAMA

October 22, 2008

Armenian Americans for Obama

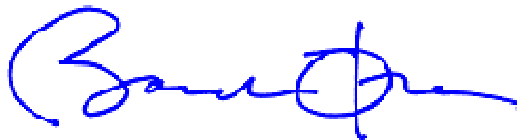
Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for all you're doing to build our movement for change. Grassroots groups have seized on the desire of ordinary Americans to take back our country, and organized this energy and enthusiasm into a strong, disciplined campaign. You've taken responsibility for reaching out to your neighbors and fellow citizens to make the case for change.

From the beginning, Armenian Americans for Obama has been one of those grassroots groups – whether it's canvassing in Nevada and Virginia or calling from home in California and New York. I know that your hard work has made *a* difference in the past two years, and I know it's going to make *the* difference in these last few days. Let me be clear: we're not there yet. This race will tighten as we get closer to the end. And *the* difference between the change we seek and more of the same is you.

We have asked a lot from our supporters, and you have taken ownership of our movement, because you know that “change happens from the bottom-up” is not just a slogan – it is the story of this campaign. At every test, you have succeeded. With the final test just a few days away, I have no doubt that you will rise to the occasion again. And together we will succeed, and together, we will change America.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama



OBAMA FOR AMERICA PO Box 8210 Chicago, IL 60680
WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM

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BARACK OBAMA: SUPPORTING U.S.-ARMENIA RELATIONS

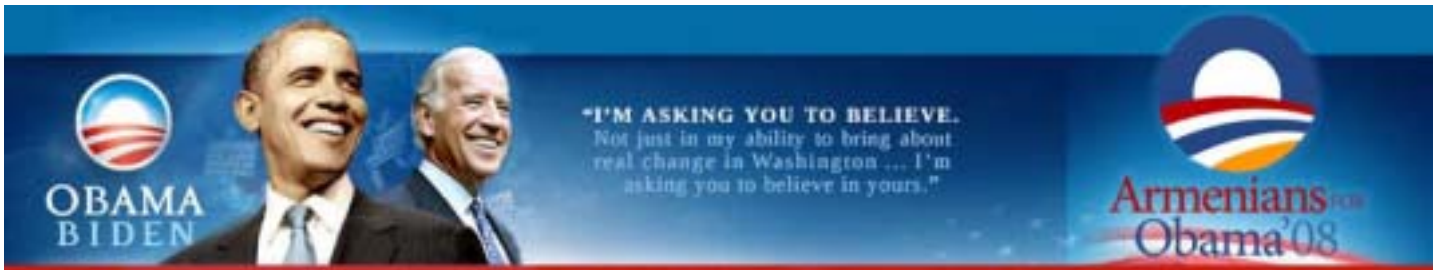
The Armenian Genocide, carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians, and approximately 1.5 million of those deported were killed. Barack Obama believes we must recognize this tragic reality and strongly supports a U.S.-Armenian relationship that advances our common security and strengthens Armenian democracy.

Recognition of the Armenian Genocide: Barack Obama shares with Armenian Americans a principled commitment to ending genocide. That starts with acknowledging the tragic instances of genocide in world history. As a senator, Obama has stood with the Armenian American community in calling for Turkey's acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide. He criticized the Secretary of State two years ago for the firing of the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, after he used the term "genocide" to describe Turkey's slaughter of thousands of Armenians starting in 1915. Obama wrote that the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence.

Barack Obama strongly supports passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.106 and S.Res.106) and will recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Genocide Prevention: The U.S. and the entire global community must remember the past and learn from these crimes against humanity to make sure that they never happen again. Sadly, genocide persists today and threatens our common security and common humanity. In Sudan, we are witnessing many of the same brutal tactics - displacement, starvation, and mass slaughter - that were used by the Ottoman authorities against Armenians in 1915. Obama has been a leading voice urging the Bush administration to take stronger steps to end the genocide in Sudan. He traveled to the United Nations to meet with Sudanese officials, visited refugee camps on the Chad-Sudan border, pushed for the deployment of a robust multinational force for Darfur, and urged divestment from companies doing business in Sudan.

Commitment to Armenian Americans: Barack Obama has a strong record on issues of concern to the 1.5 million Americans of Armenian heritage in the United States. As president, Obama will maintain our assistance to Armenia, which has been a reliable partner in the fight against terrorism and extremism. An Obama administration will help foster Armenia's growth and development through expanded trade and targeted aid. He will also strengthen the commercial, political, military, developmental, and cultural relationships between the U.S. and Armenian governments. Obama will continue his active engagement with Armenian American leaders on the full range of issues of concern to the Armenian American community to build upon the enduring ties and shared values that have bound together the American and Armenian peoples for more than a century.


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"America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian Genocide and responds forcefully to all genocides. I intend to be that President.

Senator Barack Obama
Democratic Presidential Candidate

**BARACK OBAMA:
THE RIGHT CHOICE
FOR ARMENIAN
AMERICANS**

BARACK OBAMA: A LEADER ON ARMENIAN AMERICAN ISSUES

- Reaffirmed his support for U.S. reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide during a Congressional visit to Azerbaijan, stating that the Genocide is a historical fact.
- Committed to promoting Armenia's security "by seeking an end to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades."
- Supports "a lasting and durable settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict that is agreeable to all parties, and based upon America's founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self-determination."

For more information contact Armenians for Obama • info@armeniansforobama.com

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McCain's Armenia Problem

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Obama-Biden the Right Choice for Armenian Americans



ANCA Reaffirms Earlier Primary Endorsement in January

Expands on Nine Months of Nationwide Voter Mobilization to Secure Obama-Biden Win on November 4th

The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) has formalized its longstanding support for Barack Obama with an official endorsement of the Obama-Biden campaign for the Presidency of the United States.

"The Armenian National Committee of America is proud today to formally announce our support for Barack Obama - whom we endorsed this January in the Democratic Primary and have energetically backed with sustained, grassroots voter mobilization for the past nine months," said ANCA Chairman Ken Hachikian. "Based on Senator Obama's strong record in office, his bold statements as a candidate, and our judgment as to the types of policies he will pursue as President, we believe that an Obama-Biden Administration would be far better positioned than a McCain-Palin one to reflect the views and values of the Armenian American community."

Barack Obama: The Choice for Change

In a powerful statement,



issued on January 20th, Senator Obama voiced his strong support for passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution and pledged that, as President, he would recognize the Armenian Genocide. The Presidential hopeful also reaffirmed his support for a strong "U.S.-Armenian relationship that advances our common security and strengthens Armenian democracy." Unlike other Democratic candidates, he also pledged to "promote Armenian security by seeking an end to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, and by working for a lasting and durable settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict that is agreeable to all parties, and based upon America's founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self determination."

The key elements of the Obama record that led to the ANCA endorsement include the following:

* **Public criticism of the Bush Administration for firing former U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Evans** over his truthful remarks recognizing the Armenian Genocide. He has publicly asserted that, "An official policy that calls on diplomats to distort the historical facts is an untenable policy."

* **Strong support for the passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution** currently before Congress, in his capacity as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs.

* **A written pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide as President**, clearly spelling out his "firmly held conviction that the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. The facts are undeniable."

* **A commitment to ending the cycle of genocide.** He has said, on the record, that, "America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian Genocide and responds forcefully to all genocides. I intend to be that President."

* **Letters to Pres. Bush urging him to properly recognize the Armenian Genocide** and a record of defending that position, when challenged. While visiting Azerbaijan in August 2005, in response to media inquiries about why he signed these letters, Senator Obama publicly defended his decision by stating that the Armenian Genocide was a historical fact.

* **Commitment to promoting Armenia's security** "by seeking an end to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades."

* **Support for "a lasting and durable settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh**

Additional Information



[Read Senator Obama's pledge on Armenian American Issues](#)



[Read a 2-page summary of Sen. Obama and Biden's record](#) of support for Armenian American issues



[Read a 2-page listing of Bush-Cheney's opposition](#) to Armenian American issues



[View/print an Obama/McCain comparison one-pager](#)



[View Samantha Power's YouTube video](#) in support of Senator Obama



[Read "McCain's Armenia Problem"](#) in *The Atlantic*



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conflict that is agreeable to all parties, and based upon America's founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self determination."

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Urge Congressional Candidates in your area to submit an ANCA Questionnaire [Send a Free ANCA WebMail](#)

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DISPATCH OCTOBER 8, 2008

"In the superheated world of ethnic grievance politics, rarely do presidential elections feature such a clear contrast between two candidates. In California, New Jersey, Michigan and Nevada, that contrast could hurt McCain."

BY DANIEL NICHANIAN

McCain's Armenia Problem

Eight years ago, George W. Bush was battling an unexpectedly competitive John McCain for the GOP's presidential nomination. Scheduled to vote just days after South Carolina, Michigan suddenly looked decisive—and its substantial Armenian-American population became an attractive voting block.

Three days before the vote, Governor Bush sent a letter to two Armenian-American businessmen addressing the Armenian community's biggest demand—recognition that [the 1915 extermination of Armenians](#) in the Ottoman Empire was an act of genocide. The Turkish government to this day denies that any genocide occurred, and no president since Ronald Reagan has used that term while in office. Bush pledged to correct that. "The Armenians were subjected to a genocidal campaign," he wrote. "If elected President, I would ensure that our nation properly recognizes the tragic suffering of the Armenian people." Bush lost in Michigan, won the presidency ... and then bailed on his pledge. Last fall, the House of Representatives looked set to adopt a resolution affirming the Armenian genocide. But as Turkey threatened to disrupt its commercial ties with the United States and to invade Iraq, President Bush warned that America could not afford to alienate Turkey and pushed Congress to drop the measure.

Today, Edgar Hagopian, one of the letter's two recipients, acknowledges his disappointment. "I have written to President Bush many times but have not gotten a response," he said, reeling at the remarkable turnaround that transformed Bush into the biggest obstacle to an official recognition.

Bush's record is sure to haunt McCain's 2008 presidential run, but it's not as if the Arizona senator needed any help in alienating Armenian-Americans. McCain's own stance against genocide recognition and his relative indifference toward bilateral relations with Armenia have been a matter of record since well before George W. Bush emerged on the national stage. Barack Obama, conversely, looked committed to the affirmation of the events of 1915 as a genocide long before he decided on a presidential run. In fact, in the superheated world of ethnic grievance politics, rarely do presidential elections feature such a clear contrast between two candidates. In the case of states with a substantial Armenian-American presence (including California, New Jersey, Michigan and Nevada) that contrast could hurt McCain.

Historically, neither party has owned the support of Armenian-Americans. Rather than stake their fortune with one party, national advocacy groups—starting with the [Armenian National Committee of America](#) (ANCA) and the [Armenian Assembly of America](#)—have pursued a bipartisan course.

Thanks in part to this strategy, the Armenian-American community has grown into a highly effective interest group. Cory Welt of Georgetown's Eurasian Strategy Project mentions the Armenian lobby's strength as an explanation for what he calls

the “exceptional” size of Armenian foreign aid. The [Congressional Caucus on Armenian issues](#) has a bipartisan leadership (it is co-chaired by a Democrat from New Jersey, Rep. Frank Pallone, and a Republican from Michigan, Rep. Joe Knollenberg) and a large contingent of 150 members, including 13 of Michigan’s 15 U.S. Representatives, 38 of California’s 53 and 11 of New Jersey’s 13.

As a result, there has been little partisan divide on issues like genocide recognition and Armenian foreign aid, and past presidential candidates on the left and on the right were careful to pander to Armenian-American concerns. George H. W. Bush and his son both talked of genocide prior to their election before resorting to euphemisms once in office; Bob Dole was one of the strongest advocates of recognition efforts, as was John Kerry, who also championed other issues including the opening of the Turkey-Armenia border.

Denis Papazian, the Founding Director of the [University of Michigan's Center of Armenian Studies](#), explained that a sizable share of Armenian-American voters considers candidates’ stances on Armenian issues and can be swayed by a pledge to support genocide recognition efforts. For instance, Papazian pointed to the strong support the community offered Bob Dole in 1996. He also estimated that Bush’s letter during the 2000 campaign boosted his support in the Armenian-American community. “If two relatively neutral candidates are running,” Papazian explained, “Armenian American voters will stay within the party [they usually feel the closest to]. But if one of them makes a promise to recognize the genocide, he will get a lot of votes.”

Papazian himself fits that description. A Dole supporter twelve years ago, he is now supporting Barack Obama—identifying the Illinois Senator’s stance on recognition as a crucial factor in that decision. Another prominent Armenian-American who has undergone the same transition is Oscar Tatosian, the Chairman of the [Diocesan Council of the Armenian Church of America](#). He, too, was a Dole supporter; he, too, describes himself as an independent and identifies genocide recognition as a primary issue; he, too, is supporting Obama. Both well-connected and highly-involved members of the Armenian community, Papazian and Tatosian professed to knowing many who share their outlook.

Voters like Papazian and Tatosian are giving Democrats hope they can make inroads in the Armenian community. And while this might simply be due to a coincidental combination of one-time factors—a hostile Republican Administration, an unusually enthusiastic Democratic candidate and an uncommonly skeptical Republican nominee—Armenian-American issues have a decidedly more partisan feel this year.

For one, the genocide question is only one of many issues on which the Bush Administration has attracted criticism from the Armenian community. Stephan Astourian, a professor of history at Berkeley, also lists “Bush’s attempts at cutting the allocation of foreign help for Armenia almost every year, his clear orientation towards oil-based money and pro-Azerbaijan stance”—a reference to Armenia’s conflict with Azerbaijan over the province of Nagorno-Karabagh.

As importantly, McCain is the first presidential candidate in the past two decades who is on the record as opposing genocide recognition without already being a member of the incumbent Administration. Hagopian, one of the recipients of Bush’s letter in 2000, remains a strong conservative who supports McCain’s candidacy, but he admits his frustration with the Arizona Senator’s positions. “He has not been a friend of the Armenian community,” he said.

In 1990, McCain voted against a recognition resolution that was sponsored by then-Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole. In 2000, campaigning for the Republican nomination in California, McCain confirmed that he would not support such a resolution. “It was not under this government in Turkey,” McCain said. “I don’t see what this resolution does to improve this situation one iota.” The Senator has stuck to his position in 2008, attracting widespread criticism from Armenian groups. “I think the most dangerous part of Senator McCain is that he is toeing the old Cold War era line that Turkey is this invaluable

ally we cannot offend,” warned Areen Ibranossian, the Chairman of [Armenians for Obama](#), a group promoting the Illinois Senator among Armenian-Americans nationwide. (The McCain campaign did not return my requests for an interview.)

By contrast, Obama has pledged that his Administration would recognize the 1915 extermination as an act of genocide. His campaign released two statements on this issue on January 19 and on April 28. “The facts are undeniable,” one statement said. “An official policy that calls on diplomats to distort the historical facts is an untenable policy.” Dennis Papazian predicted that Armenian voters “will shift towards Obama because of their belief that he will recognize the genocide.”

Some Republicans like Edgar Hagopian predict that a President Obama would renege on his pledge just as President Bush did, but Obama’s supporters praise the sincerity of his commitment to Armenian-American concerns and point to his familiarity with these issues. “This is an individual who is more knowledgeable about Armenian-Americans than most candidates are and have been,” said Rep. Pallone, the New Jersey Democrat who co-chairs the Caucus on Armenian Affairs. Obama spoke about the Armenian genocide well before launching his campaign, and many activists take that as reassurance that his stance is more than an electoral gimmick. Elizabeth Chouldjian, a spokesperson for the ANCA, and Areen Ibranossian both cited an Obama press conference during a congressional trip to Azerbaijan in 2005. Asked about his support for genocide affirmation in a country that has a tense relationship with Armenia, Obama did not shy away from reiterating his stance, a moment Ibranossian described as “extraordinary.” “He had no reason to put out his neck and defend himself,” he said.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

[BYSTANDERS TO GENOCIDE](#)

The author’s exclusive interviews with scores of the participants in the decision-making, together with her analysis of newly declassified documents, yield a chilling narrative of self-serving caution and flaccid will—and countless missed opportunities to mitigate a colossal crime. By Samantha Power

Nearly all of Obama’s backers also point to his relationship with a high-profile adviser who is ironically no longer part of his campaign. In her work on genocide prevention and in her book [A Problem from Hell](#), Samantha Power has focused on the international community’s failure to recognize genocides like the one that decimated the Armenians in 1915, arguing that a proper understanding of past catastrophes is crucial to preventing genocides in the present. Power resigned from the campaign after calling Hillary Clinton a “monster” in March, but many in the Armenian community believe her outlook has shaped Obama’s foreign policy views.

The campaign’s January 19 statement, for instance, connected the recognition of the Armenian genocide with broader issues of genocide prevention. “A principled commitment to commemorating and ending genocide,” the statement said, “starts with acknowledging the tragic instances of genocide in world history.”

The contrast between Obama and McCain extends more broadly to the United States’ relationship with the Republic of Armenia. Obama’s January 19th statement pledged to maintain Armenian foreign aid and to move toward a resolution of the Karabagh conflict that would respect the “principle of self-determination”—language close to Armenian demands. The ANCA’s Elizabeth Chouldjian praised Obama’s positions as “the strongest we’ve gotten from a candidate in over ten years.” (The ANCA endorsed Obama in January, just as it supported John Kerry in 2004; the group remained neutral in the 2000 election.) On the other hand, John McCain has remained largely silent on these issues, an attitude his critics deride as worrisome indifference.

The California-based Armenians for Obama group plans to educate Armenian-American voters about these differences. The organization is conducting extensive phone bank operations to contact as many Armenian-American voters in swing states as possible. “Our first objective is to make sure that all Armenians know Obama’s stance on issues,” said Ibranossian, the group’s chairman. “We take Obama’s message and try to make it more consumable by Armenian-Americans, more relatable to their concerns.”

Ibranossian argued that extensive outreach in large Armenian communities in the Detroit and Las Vegas regions could prove decisive. “If we can get them out to vote,” he said, “that could make the difference in swinging the election from red to blue.” Armenian Republicans are mounting an effort of their own to help McCain, but they are getting a late start and the organization they are relying on—the [National Organization of Republican Armenians](#) (NORA)—has been largely inoperative over the past eight years.

Like many others before him, Obama will have to weigh conflicting interests if he gets to the White House. Georgetown’s Cory Welt points out that Obama “has been insistent on the importance of reaching out to international partners and that Turkey will be one of the countries that he will want to reach out to. He will quickly find the genocide issue to be an obstacle.”

Until then, Obama’s position has given hope to many Armenian-Americans—even to those who are not planning on voting for him. A spokesperson for NORA and a McCain supporter, Peter Musurlian is nonetheless hopeful that President Obama might finally succeed in moving the United States towards genocide recognition. “I wouldn’t cry in my beer if Obama is elected, I would say let’s look at what he does on April 24th,” he said, in a reference to the commemorative date of the Armenian genocide. “Hopefully he will do better than President Bush.”

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Hopefuls split on Armenia genocide

By Michael Doyle / Bee Washington Bureau

09/14/08 22:02:56

WASHINGTON -- The two major presidential candidates differ sharply over an Armenian genocide commemoration, with Republican John McCain opposing it and Democrat Barack Obama supporting it.

The policy clash could make a political difference in the San Joaquin Valley and other regions with sizable Armenian-American populations. McCain may have more to lose, in the short term. But in the long run, based on past candidates' stances, Obama may have more to prove.

Commemoration could be in the form of a congressional resolution or presidential proclamation. Last fall, though, came the latest signal that federal commemoration is a fleeting ideal: A House resolution calling on the president to use the word "genocide" in his annual Armenian message, supported by a House committee, never reached the floor for a vote.

Now, the popular presidential vote is at stake, and the potential short-term political cost is readily apparent.

Estimates of the number of Armenian-Americans range from 385,000, in the 2000 census, to more than 1 million. Many track the genocide issue closely.

By contrast, only 117,000 U.S. residents nationwide claimed Turkish ancestry.

"There are many Armenians in states such as Michigan and Florida," said Barlow Der Mgrdechian, coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. "Since the race is expected to be close in these states, and many others, the Armenian vote could prove to be the difference."

The long-term challenge is different. If Obama is elected, he would face tremendous pressure from the State Department, the Pentagon, other countries -- and maybe even his own advisers - - to back away from emphatic Armenian genocide language. That is what other presidents have done.

In 1988, for instance, a campaigning George H.W. Bush declared the United States should "acknowledge the attempted genocide of the Armenian people." As president, Bush instead stressed "the differing views of how the terrible events of 1915-23 should be characterized."

Bush's son, while campaigning in 2000, similarly referred to a "genocidal campaign" against the Armenians. Once elected, he avoided the genocide term, and his State Department withdrew a U.S. ambassador who dared use it.

"I think the Armenian community is very leery of any candidate who says he will support a genocide resolution, because those promises haven't necessarily been kept," said Rep. George Radanovich, R-Mariposa. "When push comes to shove, the State Department gets in there and has its way."

Genocide is what Armenian-Americans and many scholars say happened in the dying years of the Ottoman Empire, between 1915 and 1923. By this account, the slaughter and violent exile of some 1.5 million Armenians met the definition of genocide and should be commemorated as such.

Genocide means the systematic and intentional destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious or national group.

Presidents traditionally deliver a public statement about what happened between 1915 and 1923 each April 24 -- Martyrs Day, considered by Armenians the day that the genocide began in 1915. The question thus becomes: Will the statement next spring include the word genocide?

Obama's stance

"There was a genocide that did take place against the Armenian people," Obama said while campaigning this year.

He hasn't been very active on the issue in his four years in the Senate, despite serving on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Obama has not co-sponsored the Senate's Armenian genocide resolutions, and he did not attend confirmation hearings for President Bush's nominees to serve as U.S. ambassador to Armenia.

Obama's rhetorical support now for recognizing the genocide nonetheless helped secure the endorsement in January of the Armenian National Committee of America. It's a view long held publicly by Obama's vice presidential candidate, Sen. Joe Biden, the Delaware Democrat who

chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It's also a position being deployed on the campaign trail.

Samantha Power, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Harvard scholar who has advised Obama on foreign policy, posted on YouTube a campaign-style video explicitly addressed to the Armenian-American community. Power declared that a President Obama would "call a spade a spade" and publicly acknowledge the genocide.

Power, a strong proponent of Armenian-American issues, no longer has a formal role advising Obama. One top adviser, Anthony Lake, was national security adviser to Bill Clinton during the period that Clinton avoided the genocide word in his annual proclamations. Another top Obama adviser, Susan Rice, was Clinton's assistant secretary of state in fall 2000 when Clinton blocked a genocide resolution written by Radanovich.

McCain's reasoning

McCain's position is the opposite, as he cites the diplomatic and strategic risks associated with alienating Turkey.

"I was disappointed that many in Congress were ready to legislate a historical judgment of the Armenian genocide whatever the cost to our relations with Turkey," McCain declared in Iowa last October. "Turkey is essential to stabilizing Iraq, containing Iranian power, and encouraging economic and political reform in the Arab world. We should be strengthening our partnership, not erecting new barriers to it."

The reporter can be reached at mdoyle@mcclatchydc.com or (202) 383-0006.

A banner for credit scores. On the left, a blue box asks "What Are Your 3 Credit Scores?". In the center, three credit scores are displayed: TransUnion with a score of 764 (green bar), Experian with a score of 752 (blue bar), and Equifax with a score of 741 (red bar). On the right, a purple button says "Find Out Instantly!".

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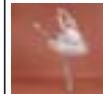
Turkish President **Abdullah Gul** discusses relations with Armenia and the region in a UPI interview
Page 7

ELECTION 2008



Asbarez and the **ANCA** teamed up to bring a comprehensive 2008 Election Guide
Pages 11

DANCE



A visit with iconic dance **Marina Mavian** as she details her life in Italy.
Page 16

Asbarez

ASBAREZ ARMENIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008 VOLUME 100, NO.13,325 • 1203 N. Vermont Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90029, 323.284.9222 • \$1.00

EDITORIAL

Obama For President

It has certainly been an exciting race to the White House, which will culminate next week—November 4—with the General Elections and our country will have a new president come January. It is our belief that in these changing times, both here and abroad, Sen. Barack Obama and his running mate Sen. Joseph Biden would be the best team to lead our country. Both Obama and Biden have also demonstrated through their strong support for Armenian-American issues that they would be the best choice to push forward the principles of justice and human rights for all.

In following the campaign from its beginning stages of the primaries to the dramatic twists and turns, Sen. Obama has stayed true to his pledge to fight injustice, wherever injustice is taking place. From his acceptance speech at the end of the primaries to his countless public appearances and to the presidential debates he has emphasized his commitment to wiping out genocide in the world and to punish those who perpetrate it.

As Armenian-Americans, we have the power and a unique opportunity to elect a leader who, along with his running mate, has a demonstrated record of standing up for the truth and speaking out against abuses of human rights, the most disgusting of which is the systematic annihilation of a people—Genocide.

Our newspaper has devoted a considerable amount of space to report on both Obama's and Biden's actions on behalf of the Armenian-American community. This week's election special (See Page 11) also highlights their record and demonstrates how their opponents—Sen. John McCain and Gov. Sarah Palin—record pales in comparison with the advocacy and commitment the two have demonstrated during their public service.

Obama and Biden have been waging a campaign for change—overall change. Their position and platform on domestic, economic and social issues have also demonstrated their commitment to address the needs of all Americans regardless of their background or economic standing.

The Obama-Biden ticket is the team for progressive change. Their election would ensure true leadership that will guide us out of the current crisis and would address the national aspirations of the Armenian community.

Vote on November 4 and vote for Obama.

ANCA Endorses Obama-Biden



The ANCA made its long-anticipated endorsement of the Obama-Biden official this week. Please turn to Page 11 for the endorsement as well as our Asbarez/ANCA 2008 election guide. You can learn more about the elections by visiting asbarez.com or anca.org

New Photo of Armenian Genocide Uncovered



The original photograph is now at the Armenian Genocide Museum and Institute

YEREVAN—The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (AGMI) recently revealed a rare photograph that depicts the massacres of the Armenian population of Mush, a historic Armenian province decimated during Ottoman Turkey's Genocide of the Armenians in 1915-1923.

The photo, recently acquired by the AGMI, was taken by Russian soldiers on the Caucasus front in 1915. It portrays the remains of the Armenian villagers who were burned alive during the massacres of Mush.

The one of a kind photo is well preserved and was found in a photo album of genocide refugees, published in Tiflis in 1917. The album contains 62 unique photos that

document the Armenian Genocide. Only a few of the original 62 have survived and most of them are in dire conditions, with the Mush photo being surprisingly well preserved.

On the back of the picture is a quote in Russian that says: "Armenians burnt alive in Sheykhalan by Turkish soldiers." The photo is also marked with the number 74, which indicates the existence of a larger collection of photographs captured by Russian soldiers during WWI.

The AGMI has been collecting and cataloguing photos documenting the Armenian Genocide to put together a complete picture of the first genocide of the 20th century.

Obama Applauds Armenian Community

LOS ANGELES—Senator Barack Obama today personally thanked Armenians for Obama for its far-reaching grassroots efforts and encouraged the growing nationwide Armenian American movement in support of the Obama-Biden ticket to escalate its voter outreach in the final days before the November 4th election.

In a letter sent today to Armenians for Obama, Senator Obama personally expressed his thanks to the voter outreach organization, noting that, from the beginning Armenians for Obama has "been one of those grassroots groups—whether its canvassing in Nevada and Virginia or calling from home in California and New York. I know your hard work has made a difference in the past two years, and I know it's going to make the difference in these last few days."

Welcoming Senator Obama's warm words of appreciation, Ibranosian said, "On behalf of all our Armenians for Obama activists around the country, I want to thank Senator Obama for his sincere expression of gratitude to our grassroots organization and community. We are inspired by his kind words to our team and take from them an added measure of energy and devotion, in these last days, to engage in fieldwork, media outreach, and get-out-the-vote efforts, to do our part to ensure that Senator Obama wins a decisive victory on November 4th."

Separately, the campaign has issued a campaign certificate, bearing the Armenians for Obama logo, in which the Armenian American National Leadership Committee officially endorses the Obama-Biden ticket. Serving on this select Leadership Committee are U.S. Representatives Anna Eshoo, Jackie Speier, and Adam Schiff, California Assemblyman Paul Krekorian, and former South Carolina State Democratic Chairman Richard Harpootian.

The complete text of Senator Obama's letter is provided below.

Dear Friends,
I want to thank you for all you're doing to help our movement for change. Grassroots groups have seized on the desire of ordinary Americans to take back our country, and organized this energy and enthusiasm into a strong, disciplined campaign. You've taken responsibility for reaching out to your neighbors and fellow citizens to make the case for change.

From the beginning, Armenian Americans for Obama has been one of those grassroots groups—whether it's canvassing in Nevada

(Continued on Page 4)

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ASBAREZ ARMENIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER

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ՊԼԵՏՆԱԹԵՐԻՔ 2, 3, ԳԱՇՆԱԿՑՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԱՐԵՐՄԵԱՆ ԱՐԵՐԳԱՅԻ ԿԵԴՐՈՆԱԿԱՆ ԿՈՄԻՏԵ

ՕՐԸ ՕՐԻՆ

Օպամային Զօրակից

«ԱՍՊԱՐԷՅ»

Ամերիկայի Հայ Դատի յանձնախումբը երեկ հրապարակեց Ամերիկայի Միացեալ Նահանգներու նախագահական ընտրութիւններուն իր նախընտրած թեկնածուին մասին զօրակցութեան պաշտօնական յայտարարութիւնը:

«Ամերիկայի Հայ Դատի Յանձնախումբը հայտարարեցամբ այսօր կը յայտարարեմ, որ թիկունք կը կանգնեմք Պարաֆ Օպամային, որուն մեր զօրակցութիւնը յայտնած է իմք անցեալ Յունուարին եւ որուն ի նպաստ բուժահաւաք լայնամասշտապ ու ծաւալուն աշխատանքի տարիներ անցեալ ինը ամիսներու ընթացքին», կ'ըսէ յանձնախումբի ատենակապ Քէմ Խաչիկեանի անունով կատարուած յայտարարութիւնը:

Հայ Դատի յանձնախումբը Օպամային, այլ չ'աճաճ ՄըԲէյ-Ուն, զօրակցութիւն յայտնելու որոշումը հիմնած է «Մերակուտական Օպամային աշխատանքային անցեալի իրագործումներուն, անոր թեկնածութեան ընթացքին կատարած յանդուգն ու խիզախ յայտարարութիւններուն, կեցցուածքներուն եւ մեր դատողութեան վրայ, թէ իբրեւ նախագահ՝ ան ինչպիսի բաղաժանան վարժագիծ պիտի բռնէ: Այդ բոլոր հիմնաւորումները կը հաւաստեն, որ Օպամա-Պայտըն վարչակազմը աւելի ճիշդ կ'ողմնորոշուի ու կեցցուածք պիտի ունենայ բան ՄըԲէյ-Փէյլին զոյգը՝ աՄերիկահայ համայնքին ազգայնաբարեկամ ու անոնց որդեգրած արժեքներուն հանդէպ: Ընտրութիւններուն մնացած է շատ քիչ ժամանակ: Նոյեմբեր չորսին այս մեծ երկրի տարածքին հայկական բաժնի պէտք է արժեքներ իր միահամուտ կեդրոնացումով՝ հայկական շահերու տեսակէտէն ամենէն նպատակաշարժար նկատուած թեկնածուին՝ Պարաֆ Օպամային օգտին:

Նկատի ունեցէ՛ք, որ ձեր բաժնի կարեւոր է, ձեր բաժնի արժեք ունի: Մասնակցեցե՛ք այս ժողովրդավարական եղանակաւ գործընթացին:



Անճար Թուրք

Դիւրտ Ղեկավարը Տեղասպանութեամբ Կ'ամրաստանէ Թուրքիան

ԱՆԳԱՐԱ, «ՏԻ.Փի.էյ.», «Մարմարա».- Զորքըշարքի, Հոկտեմբեր 22ին, Թուրք դատախազներ Հեւտաքննութիւն մը բացին երկրին ջրտակա թաղարական միակ կուսակցութեան՝ Ժողովրդավարական ղեկավար Աւնատ Թուրքի դէմ, որ մէկ օր առաջ Տիւրքիայի մէջ տեղի ունեցած Հաւաքի մը ընթացքին, խառնուրդ դատապարտած էր քիւրտերու դէմ Թուրքիոյ վարած քաղաքականութիւնը:

Պուշի Նախկին Խորհրդական Մը Հայկական Տեղասպանութեան Հանաչման Դէմ Կը Պայքարի

ՈՒԱՇԻՆԿՔԸՆ.- Ամերիկայի Հայ Դատի յանձնախումբը բացառապէս է, թէ Միացեալ Նահանգներու նախագահ Չորձ Պուշի նախկին խորհրդական Նոմ Նէսնըր Սպայտները 2007էն ի վեր վարձուած է Թուրքիոյ իշխանութեանց կողմէ, Բոնկըէսին մէջ Թուրքիոյ ի նպաստ քաղաքական կատարելու եւ յատկապէս Հայկական Տեղասպանութեան ճանաչման բանաձեւին դէմ ղեկու նպատակով:

Ամերիկայի Հայ Դատի յանձնախումբի վարիչ-գործակալ Արամ Համբարեան ցաւ կը յայտնէ, թէ (Տար. 12րդ էջ)

Թուրք յայտարարեց, թէ Թուրքիոյ 1980ի զինուորական յեղաշրջումը քիւրտերուն դէմ «քաղաքական, ընկերային եւ մշակութային ցեղասպանութեան» առաջնորդեց եւ ճամբան հարթեց Գրտական բանուորական կուսակցութեան (ԲԲԿ) հիմնադրութեան դիմաց: Աւնատ Թուրք սոյն յայտարարութիւնը կատարեց, մինչ Թուրքիոյ ջրտակա շրջաններուն մէջ լայնածաւալ ընթացքներ է այն տեղեկութիւններէն ետք, թէ ԲԲԿ արգելափակուած ղեկավար Ապ- (Տար. 12րդ էջ)

Կոմիտասի Մահուան Տարելիցը Կը Յիշուի «Թարաֆ»ի Մէջ

ՊՈԼԻՍ, «Մարմարա».- «Թարաֆ» թերթի երկուշաբթի, Հոկտեմբեր 20ին հրատարակած յանդիման մէջ շատ կարեւոր բաժին մը յատկացուած է Կոմիտաս վարդապետին, որուն մէկ զիմանկարը հրատարակուած է առաջին էջին վրայ: Ներսի էջերուն մէջ, էջովէն էրթմանի ստորագրութեամբ հրատարակուած է Կոմիտաս վարդապետին մասին խորհրդանշական ու արդիւնաւոր գրութիւն մը: «Այս պատմութեամբ ձեզի Համբարէ Հայր (Տար. 12րդ էջ)

Ըստ Սարգսեանի՝ Հայ-Ամերիկեան Յարաբերութիւնները Նոր Փուլ Սկսած Են

ԵՐԵՒԱՆ, «Արմէնպրէս».- Հայաստանի վարչապետ Տեղաւոր Սարգսեան Հոկտեմբեր 9-15 ԱՄՆ կատարած իր այցելութիւնն ու Հանդիպումները կը նկատէ Հայաստանի նախագահի՝ Նախորդ ամիս ունեցած Հանդիպումներու տրամաբանական շարունակութիւնը: Սարգսեան երէկ Ազգային ժողով-կառա (Տար. 2րդ էջ)



ՀՕՄԻ Համահայկական ԹՊՊ պարզամատարական ժողովը կը շարունակուի

120 Հազար Տոլարի Նուիրատուութիւն ՀՕՄԻ Կեդրոնական Վարչութեան

ՀՕՄԻ Համահայկական ԹՊՊ պարզամատարական ժողովը, 21 Հոկտեմբերի իր նիստին ընթացքին, մանրամասնօրէն ծանօթացան միութեան ու անոր Կեդրոնական վարչութեան ֆինանսական տաղանթային վիճակին: Այս կացութեան ի տես, ՀՕՄԻ

Արեւելեան Ամերիկայի Շրջանային վարչութիւնը յայտարարեց, որ սրտաբանի եւ իր նիւթական պարտաւորութիւններէն անդին, Հազար տոլարի անմիջական յատկացում մը կը կատարէ Կեդրոնական վարչութեան: Այս յայտարարութիւնը (Տար. 12րդ էջ)

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The Armenian Weekly

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America Deserves

By KHATCHIG
MOURADIAN

"I know I haven't spent a long time to learn the ways of Washington, but I've been there long enough to know that the ways of Washington must change."

—Barack Obama

The ANCA this week decided to endorse Barack Obama as the Democratic Presidential candidate who can change "the ways of Washington" when it comes to issues of concern for Armenian-Americans and the anti-genocide community in the U.S.

The decision was made because the ANCA, and the Armenian-American community on the whole, are sick and tired of the ways of Washington—the way continuous administrations have insulted the memory of the victims of the genocide and the ever-dwindling numbers of genocide survivors by trivializing their suffering. These survivors have since become citizens of this country, have fought and struggled for this nation, while their presidents—leaders of the free world—have yet to validate their history.

The Armenian-American community—and, we believe, every informed and concerned citizen of this country—cannot help but be sick and tired of how the ways of Washington and the ways of Ankara merge when it comes to denial, the falsification and complete disregard to the suffering of an entire people.

The Armenian-American community is also sick and tired of the way the Bush Administration has treated Armenia and the Karabakh question, succumbing more often than not to policies dictated by a country considered to be America's ally—Turkey.

For all these, and many other reasons, America deserves a leader...

America deserves a leader who will not say, "It is not the right time" when it comes to recognizing genocide.

America deserves a leader who will not say that there's "more important work to do" for Congress than setting the historical record straight.

America deserves a leader who will stand up against human rights violations, atrocities and genocide, whether past or present, whether committed by allies or enemies.

America deserves a leader who says, "I'm asking you to believe. Not



just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington... I'm asking you to believe in yours."

And, finally, America deserves a leader who says, "America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about

the Armenian Genocide and responds forcefully to all genocides. I intend to be that President."

And stands by what s/he says.

We look to Barack Obama to be that leader.

The Hairenik Association thanks

Vahe and Hasmik Dombalagian
(Glenview, Ill.)

for their generous donation of

\$ 5,000

in recognition of the efforts
by the Weekly's editorial team
to improve the paper.

To make a donation to the Armenian Weekly,
please send a check to the Hairenik Association,
80 Bigelow Ave., Watertown MA 02472.

And thanks.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

To be born before World War I and live 100 years is amazing in itself. To have to run for your life as a seven-year-old while most of your world has crumbled at your feet is a completely different story. Esther Melikian Kaloustian was born in Kharpet, once a thriving commerce and educational center in what is now Turkish-occupied Armenia. She married at 33 years of age and was with her husband for 60 years. They were founding members of the First Armenian Protestant Church in Montreal.

For those of us who take the time to go to the Armenian Martyrs Memorial Monument at the North Burial Grounds every April, you would have seen her there year after year in her place with the survivors.

From what little we knew about Esther it seems like even an entire section wouldn't tell her life's story. The same goes for all those that went before her: our parents, and their parents, and even their parents. Priests were nailed to the churches where they once held services. Men were hung on "display" in the center of town. Children were tossed into the Tigris and Euphrates like toys. The rivers flowed red with blood. What was done to the girls and women was unimaginable even by today's ugly standards.

Just about one year ago Hrant Dink, a modern-day martyr, was brutally murdered in that same place that can't seem to bury its dirty and very ugly past.

When you hit your pillows tonight, send up a few kind words for Esther and her comrades. I'm pretty sure she will smile just as she always seemed to do whenever you saw her face.

Rest in peace, Esther.

Steve Elmasian
ANC-Rhode Island, co-chairman

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նուազանացող յարձակումներու
գիւղով: Էլլալան աւելի՜ վարկա-
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ականութիւնները ցուրդի կը վիրա-
ւեն ադրէն անոնց ձոյ մայաւ
սաստմունահաննոյ: Ժողքը Պու-

Publisher's Views

Obama-Biden: The Better Team for Armenians, the Nation, and the World

By Harut Sassounian

The long and painful tenure of one of the most anti-Armenian U.S. administrations is finally coming to an end. Armenian-Americans, along with most Americans and the rest of the world, are fed up with the Bush-Cheney team and their bellicose neo-con agenda.

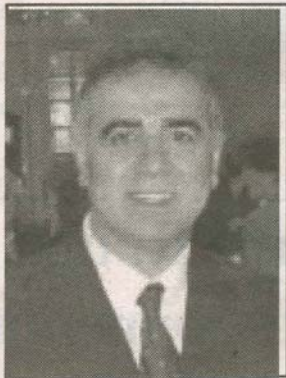
The list of blunders committed by the Bush administration is very long: the invasion of Iraq based on false premises, mismanaging the U.S. economy with the national debt reaching ten trillion dollars, and taking deeply offensive positions on key Armenian issues.

After promising to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide during his first campaign, Pres. Bush failed to keep his word. In fact, when the House of Representatives was considering a commemorative resolution on the Armenian Genocide, Pres. Bush personally lobbied members of Congress to block its consideration. Furthermore, he recalled U.S. Ambassador John Evans from Armenia, simply because he had the courage to tell the truth about the Armenian Genocide. Despite repeated requests by Armenian-

American organizations to meet and discuss these serious issues, Pres. Bush refused to receive them even once in eight years!

Armenian-Americans have a clear choice. Do they want more of the same anti-Armenian policies for the next four or eight years with McCain-Palin or do they prefer to change the disastrous last eight years by supporting Obama-Biden — the most pro-Armenian team in the history of U.S. Presidential elections!

Sen. Obama, long before running for the Presidency, was making supportive statements on Armenian issues. He called for



Turkey's acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide and criticized the Secretary of State for dismissing Amb. Evans. Sen. Obama declared: "The Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. The facts are undeniable.... As a senator, I strongly support passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution, and as President I will recognize the Armenian Genocide.... America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian Genocide and responds forcefully to all genocides. I intend to be that President."

Sen. Obama also pledged to seek "an end to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades" of Armenia; to try to bring "a lasting and durable peace settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict that is agreeable to all parties, and based upon America's founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self determination."; to expand "trade and targeted aid" to Armenia; and to strengthen "commercial, political, military, developmental, and cultural relationships between the U.S. and Armenian governments."

Sen. Biden, who has served in the U.S. Senate since 1972, has an even more extensive record of support for various Armenian causes. Sen. Biden has co-sponsored every Armenian Genocide resolution going back to 1984. He is one of the staunchest supporters of Armenia and Armenians in the Senate.

Sen. McCain, on the other hand, has opposed all congressional resolutions on the Armenian Genocide over the years and has remained silent on the Artsakh (Karabagh) conflict, Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades of Armenia, U.S. aid to Armenia, and U.S.-Armenia relations. In other words, a vote for Sen. McCain is simply a vote for the continuation of Pres. Bush's anti-Armenian policies.

Even though most Armenian-Americans are justifiably skeptical, given their many disappointments with promises made by previous presidential candidates, they can take comfort from the fact that Senators Obama and Biden have repeatedly acknowledged the Armenian Genocide, while Sen. McCain has consistently and strongly opposed this critical issue. If statements by presidential candidates are not politically significant, why are then various Turkish and Azerbaijani analysts angrily denouncing Senators Obama and Biden, while heaping lavish praise on Sen. McCain? And why are Greeks and Greek Cypriots pleased with Obama and Biden and not McCain and Palin?

Assuming that Obama-Biden are planning to keep their promises on the Armenian Genocide, even then, Armenian-Americans must not sit on their hands for the next six months waiting to see what Pres. Obama will say on April 24. Instead, they need to immediately start preparing for the inevitable onslaught by the Turkish government with the help of its highly paid lobbyists in Washington. As in the past, Turkey is expected to unleash a massive public relations campaign and a steady barrage of threats against the United States trying to convince American officials and the public at large that "now is not the right time to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide!"

To defuse the Turkish threats and make the new administration less apprehensive about any possible consequences of acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, Armenian-American organizations should advise the Obama-Biden team that they would be simply reconfirming what Pres. Ronald Reagan recognized in his Presidential Proclamation in 1981.

One of the reasons to secure such a repeat statement from the next U.S. President is to undermine the joint historical commission that has been proposed by the Turkish government, aiming to impede third parties from acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

The victory of the Obama-Biden ticket would obviously have a far-reaching impact on many national and international issues. The Obama administration would withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq, concentrate on fighting terrorism in Afghanistan, and reverse the growing trend of anti-Americanism around the globe by using a less confrontational approach than Bush or McCain. The tens of billions of dollars saved by staying out of unnecessary military engagements could be put to better use by helping create new jobs, reduce taxes, and bring economic prosperity to America and the world!

Editorial

the armenian
reporter

Elect Barack Obama and Joe Biden

Seldom do we face such a straightforward choice. As we compare the records of the candidates for president and vice president of the United States, we find that, as U.S. citizens and as Armenian-Americans, we have every reason to throw our strong support behind Senator Barack Obama and Senator Joe Biden.

The Armenian-American agenda

On Armenian issues, the contrast between the records and commitments of the two pairs of major-party candidates could not be more stark.

Senator Barack Obama has repeatedly made a clear and unequivocal commitment to recognize the Armenian Genocide and work toward an equitable resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

"As President, I will recognize the Armenian Genocide," he pledged in a January 24 statement: "On the importance of U.S.-Armenia Relations." On April 24, he reiterated his strong support for the affirmation of the Armenian Genocide. "It is imperative that we recognize the horrific acts carried out against the Armenian people as genocide," he said in a statement submitted into the Congressional Record.

In his January 24 statement, Senator Obama also pledged to support Armenia's development and supported a settlement of the Karabakh conflict "based upon America's founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self-determination."

Senator Obama's commitment is consistent with his actions in the Senate. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he asked the ambassador-designate of the United States to Armenia what actions she would take to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide and how she would work with her counterpart in Ankara to de-escalate the discussion of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey.

Senator Joe Biden has a record of more than 25 years of consistent support of Armenian-American issues. He has supported Armenian Genocide resolutions introduced in the Senate since 1993.

On July 23, during a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which he chairs, Senator Biden noted, "Recognition by the United States of the Armenian Genocide is not the final goal. The final goal is the recognition of Turkey - of the Turkish Government - of the Armenian Genocide and the establishment of a genuine Turkish-Armenian understanding of the events and tragedy that took place."

This level of demonstrated commitment to Armenian-American issues is a rarity on the presidential ticket.

What makes Senator Obama a commitment in matters of interest to Armenian-Americans particularly credible is the candor and confidence with which he has made those commitments, further bolstered by Senator Biden's consistent and long record as an ally of our community. The more we as Armenian-Americans get involved in the Obama-Biden campaign, support the campaign, develop relationships with campaign staff, and help Senators Obama and Biden get elected, the stronger our position to follow up and work with the administration to make sure those commitments are fulfilled in the best possible way.

By contrast, just last October, Senator John McCain publicly opposed the Congressional resolution acknowledging the U.S. wound in the Armenian Genocide. In 1999 he voted to lift restrictions on U.S. aid to Azerbaijan over its blockade of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. In 2001 he opposed the Armenian Genocide resolution introduced by fellow Republican Senator Bob Dole.

In 26 years in Congress, Senator McCain has either opposed or been indifferent to initiatives supported by the Armenian-American community. The 2006 resolution to support supporting a peaceful and fair settlement of the Karabakh conflict, and he initially supported restrictions on U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan introduced in 2002, but he reversed that position in 2005. He issued a letter to Armenian-Americans this week. But the letter goes no indication that as president he would take a different approach to Armenian-American issues.

And his running mate has no record on Armenian-American issues.

A stronger America

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States attained such military and economic superiority - and with it, influence over other countries - that many people believed American power, if managed wisely, could ensure unopposed for generations.

Strong as America was, however, it could never expect to sustain its leadership role through brute force. The countries and peoples of the world expected to see in America a force for the common good, one that would inspire friendship and loyalty. Everyone understood that the United States had to pursue its own interests, but it was expected to define those interests in a way that was inclusive, and could serve as an example and inspiration to others.

Thus, for example, President George W. Bush was able to invoke the leadership role of the United States by speaking out in favor of democracy around the world. He championed the creation of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which was established at his initiative and from which Armenia is benefiting.

But a succession of actions and inactions over the last several years has served to discredit American leadership and weaken the United States with direct and indirect consequences for Armenia and the U.S.-Armenia relationship. Among those missteps is America's timid response to genocide, first in Rwanda and now in Darfur - and the support of the campaign against recognition of the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide. Other missteps include the invasion and continued occupation of Iraq, a sovereign state, as a trumped-up pretext; unabated support for neo-fascism, racial hostilities, and other forms of terrorism directly and through "extraordinary rendition" - the handing over of suspects to foreign states that have no comparisons about torture; and a refusal to cooperate with the rest of the world in key matters, witness the refusal to join the Kyoto agreement on global warming and the refusal to accept the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.



Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE), left, talks with committee member Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), on Capitol Hill in Washington on April 4. AP Photo: Public Relations Photo.

Meanwhile, U.S. relations with countries in and around the Caucasus, especially with powerful states like Russia and Iran, have deteriorated, increasing regional instability. In any regional conflict, Armenia suffers.

Time for change

Senator McCain has supported many of these failed policies, and has expounded his intention to pursue a similar foreign policy. To his credit, he disagreed with the Bush administration on the matter of torture, but he does not give us cause to believe that a McCain administration would introduce significant changes in U.S. foreign or economic policy.

We do not expect Senator Obama to radically transform U.S. foreign policy. Like Senator McCain, he has made it clear that in the Middle East, the United States would continue to be a strong supporter of Israel. He has joined President Bush and Senator McCain in their condemnation of Russia for its intervention in Georgia.

On the other hand, however, as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, Mr. Obama opposed the invasion of Iraq and the Iraq War, and he has since called for a withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. He also opposed the war in Afghanistan, and he has since called for a withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. He has also called for a withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq.

Senator Obama is an advocate of alliance-building, cooperation with other nations, and good faith efforts at resolving conflicts through diplomacy and direct negotiations. An Obama administration should help rebuild U.S. credibility and influence in world affairs.

Real and present danger

Coming back to the neighborhood that concerns us the most, we have a real fear that a President McCain would be more inclined to assault Armenia's southern neighbor, Iran. He had no reservations about publicly and calmly stating a war about bombing Iran (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jgk_r7gI). Moreover, it is consistent with the foreign policy approach he advocates. Such a course of action could bring about numerous potential disasters, including catastrophic consequences for Armenia.

Unable to move beyond the mentality of the Cold War, Senator McCain is promising to reach along Georgia's membership in NATO - and thereby potentially engage the United States in a new and hot confrontation with Russia - a big risk with no clear benefit. Any regional military action could easily spill over into Armenia, with potentially dire consequences. It is a result we should fight to avoid. While Senator Obama is committed to approaching Russia from a position of strength, he is also committed to diplomacy.

On November 4, we, the people of the United States, will elect a new president. We have noted the stark contrast between the record and the commitments of the Obama-Biden ticket on the one hand and the McCain-Palin ticket on the other.

For us, for Armenian-Americans, the choice is clear. Let us come together and work hard, very hard, to elect Barack Obama and Joe Biden as president and vice president of the United States.

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While Obama Adopts Sound Position On Crucial Issues, McCain Beats Around The "Bush"

During this presidential election season, many readers have asked me as to how one may reach a decision on voting in favor of one candidate over another.

The process that I have adopted during this and many other election seasons has enabled me to reach a decision that I can live with.

The determining factor is the candidates' position on the most important issues for me as an Armenian American.

Each candidate's intellectual preparedness, honesty, courage, sense of initiative, overall presence and manner are also important.

In my opinion, the most important issues are:

1. The Armenian Cause/The Armenian Genocide;
2. The Economy;
3. Foreign Policy;
4. War In Iraq;
5. The Tax Policy;
6. Healthcare Policy;
7. Corruption/Greed in government and major corporations.

During the past several weeks, both major parties' presidential candidates, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), and Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) have expressed their opinion and position. On Tuesday October 7, they have reiterated their ideas during the second presidential debate in Nashville, TN.

Below is the compilation of their position on each of the issues:

1. The Armenian Genocide

Sen. McCain sparked controversy on Tuesday, February 29, 2008 when he said that he would not support a congressional resolution calling on the government of Turkey to acknowledge the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

Sen. Obama wrote in June 2008: "The United States must recognize the events of 1915 to 1923, carried out by the Ottoman Empire, as genocide. . . We must recognize this tragic reality. The Bush Administration's refusal to do so is inexcusable, and I will continue to speak out in an effort to move the Administration to change its position."

2. The Economy

Sen. McCain misguidedly said on Sept. 15 that the "fundamentals" of the U.S. economy were "strong." During the primary election season, he has admitted that the

economy is not his expertise. Although he has promised reform and expressed optimism about its future, most Americans remain skeptical about his ability to lead America into better economic times.

Sen. Obama has continuously shown deep understanding of the economic woes faced by the majority of fellow Americans, and has genuinely vowed to take bold initiatives to make life more bearable for the Main Street, and not let Wall Street get away with greed and corruption.

3. Foreign Policy

Sen. McCain's foreign policy statements sound similar to the current Republican Pres. George W. Bush's administration's positions on crucial issues ranging from the war in Iraq to confrontation/cooperation with Russia. Many independent observers rate the current U.S. foreign policy as the poorest in many decades. They also agree that it was under Bush that the United States has experienced the greatest loss of prestige in the international political arena.

Sen. Obama offers a high level of understanding of the international issues affecting the United States. On many occasions, he has illustrated that he has the ability to launch a fresh and insightful beginning, bringing this country out of its current confrontational modus operandi. Under Pres. Obama, the United States would offer to its potential adversaries both diplomacy and decisiveness backed by military firmness.

4. War In Iraq

Sen. McCain has shown poor judgment in claiming that the war in Iraq would be "swift and short" and that the American soldiers would be welcomed as "liberators." He was wrong. Pres. Bush's claims for "Weapons of Mass Destruction" proved to be Words of Mass Distraction. During a town hall meeting in Derry, New Hampshire on Jan. 3, Sen. McCain told a crowd of roughly two hundred people that it "would be fine with" him if the U.S. military stayed in Iraq for "a hundred years" - (Source: Various media outlets)



APKO K. JABARIAN
Executive Publisher
& Managing Editor

Continued on page 3

Second Front Page

While Obama Adopts Sound Position On Crucial Issues, McCain Beats ...

Continued from page 2

Sen. Obama stresses that it was a mistake to send the U.S. troops to Iraq when in fact they were direly needed for a more effective military campaign to confront and root out Al-Qaeda and the other anti-U.S. militants in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He offers a responsible and gradual deployment of U.S. troops out of Iraq, and encouragement of firm increase of Iraqi responsibility in running that country. Obama stresses the fact that the U.S. taxpayers should be relieved from the \$10 billion a month burden of financing that misguided war, and that the Iraqi government which has a surplus of nearly \$80 billion, should spend its own money in governing its people.

5. The Tax Policy

Sen. McCain offers to reduce the taxes for the top 5-7% of the taxpayers, namely the oil companies and other major corporations and their executives.

Sen. Obama vows to oppose such elitist taxation policy pursued by Sen. McCain. He considers McCain's lavish tax breaks for the super rich amounts to an increase of federal spending costing the taxpayers over \$350 billion. Instead, he proposes tax reduction for the 95% of the taxpayers. He offers tax reduction to those who make \$200,000/year or less.

6. Healthcare Policy

Sen. McCain offers \$5,000 tax rebate to every citizen. He offers them to go out and buy their own insurance. Yet the recipients of such rebates would sustain additional taxes.

While Sen. McCain thinks that the healthcare is a "responsibility" without making it clear as whose responsibility it is, Sen. Obama underlines that the

healthcare is a "right" which should be enjoyed by every citizen. He insists on healthcare for everyone fostered by the federal government.

7. Corruption/Greed in government and major corporations

Sen. McCain, a 26-year veteran member of the Washington establishment, and a longtime ally of the major business circles, is closely connected with special interests that have "demanded" and received deregulation of the financial industry. As a direct result of the deregulation policies championed by elected officials like Sen. McCain, the corruption and greed has infested the U.S. financial markets. During the second debate, he proposed further bailout of the abusive mortgage lenders by way of buying bad loans costing an additional \$300 billion above and beyond the recent \$700 billion bailout promoted by Pres. Bush.

Sen. Obama criticized the corruption and greed on Wall Street and in the corridors of corporate America. He even called for apprehending those corrupt corporate executives and getting the U.S. taxpayers' monies back. He stressed the importance of re-establishing the federal regulations for the purpose of taming the uncontrollable financial appetites and of taking away the "golden parachutes" of certain corporate officials.

I hope the above facts can be instrumental in helping our readers reach a healthy decision. As for my decision, my choice is clear between the 20th century candidate Sen. McCain and the 21st century candidate Sen. Obama.

My support and vote go to Sen. Barack Obama.

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Sarkisian Agrees To Establish Historians Commission After Formal Diplomatic Relations Claims Armenia Does Not Have Any Territorial Demands From Turkey

Senior diplomats from Armenia and Turkey have held more confidential negotiations in an effort to deepen an unprecedented thaw in the historically strained relations between their nations that was underscored by Turkish President Abdullah Gul's recent visit to Yerevan.

Reports in the Turkish media have said that the talks took place in Switzerland early last week and centered on a joint Turkish-Armenian declaration that could be issued after the upcoming meeting in New York be-

tween the two countries' foreign ministers.

According to the "Hurriyet" daily, the Turkish side was represented by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ertugrul Apakan and his deputy Unal Cevikoz. Diplomatic sources in Yerevan confirmed the information, telling RFE/RL that the Armenian delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosian.

"There have always been con-

Continued on page 4

Demand That Foreign Minister Refute Treacherous Information

YEREVAN -- The Central Committee of the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party in Armenia sent an open letter to the Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandyan demanding the Minister refute the allegations that the current Armenian regime is in favor of establishing a commission of Armenian and Turkish historians to examine the events of 1915-1918 in Anatolia, specifically to scrutinize the Armenian Genocide, as had been reported and circulated in the Turkish mass media.

As the first Armenian political party, the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party demands on behalf of thousands of its members, supporters, and ethnic Armenians from Uruguay to Syria, Australia to the United States, Egypt to Canada, that the Minister "refute this treacherous information circulated in the Turkish press."

The statement also examines the reliability and more importantly the international consequences of such a commission. Dozen of nations and world leaders have recognized the fact of the Armenian Genocide, supported by international historians; such a commission would run contrary to this reality. "Mr. Nalbandyan, we are convinced that you are aware of the serious and disastrous consequences of this step for the Republic of Armenia and Armenians everywhere... We demand publicly that you officially refute this information. And if there is such an initiative, we forcefully demand to refrain from such a treacherous and immoral step. The Armenian Genocide is not nor should it ever become a political tool internationally or domestically."

Thousands Attend Armenian Independence Day Festival



GLENDALÉ -- Organized by the Nor Serout (New Generation) Cultural Association, the Gaidz Youth Organization and the Armenian Athletic Association, with co-sponsorship by the City of Glendale, the tenth

annual Armenian Independence Day Festival was held on Sunday September 21, 2008 at Verdugo Park in Glendale.

Continued on page 4

Armenian Council Of America Endorses Senator Barack Obama For President

"I am a strong supporter of a U.S.-Armenian relationship that advances our common security and strengthens Armenian democracy."

Senator Barack Obama
"I will promote Armenian security by seeking an end to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, and by working for a lasting and durable settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict that is agreeable to all parties, and based upon America's founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self determination."

Senator Barack Obama
"The Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. The facts are undeniable."

Senator Barack Obama

Given his strong advocacy and commitment to issues of interest to Armenian-Americans nationwide, Armenian Council of America - Political Action Committee announces its endorsement of Senator Barack Obama's candidacy for the upcoming Presidential Election.

Senator Obama, along with his Vice Presidential candidate Joe Biden, has been vocal champion of stronger U.S.-Armenia relations. Senator Biden has relentlessly supported legislative initiatives to recognize the Armenian Genocide, and has been a trusted friend of Armenian-Americans in the Senate as the Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee.

In addition to specific Armenian-American issues, we, as Americans, strongly believe that as the next president, Senator Obama will be best qualified to tackle domestic as well as international challenges the nation is currently facing and will face in the future. His strong character and principles will restore the values that have



always made America an economic superpower and a leader in the free world. His plans to create good-paying jobs, make health care accessible for all Americans, modernize and strengthen America's military will certainly restore America's dignity both at home and abroad.

With the election expected to be very close, we strongly urge all Armenian-American voters to actively participate in the upcoming Presidential Elections in November and cast their vote for the Obama-Biden ticket.

Statement By Senator Barack Obama On Armenian Independence Day

On this day, September 21, Armenians and friends of Armenia everywhere celebrate the independence of the Republic of Armenia, and I extend my warmest and best wishes on this happy occasion. Throughout their long history, a spirit of independence, self-reliance, and survival defines the Armenian people. After centuries of living in the Persian, Russian, and Turkish empires, Armenians first achieved their modern independence in 1918 and regained it after 70 years of Soviet rule in 1991. Their struggle continues, but in the years of renewed independence they have been able to guide their own destiny through years of war and economic dislocation. Even in the face of genocide, the pain of the past has not defeated the Armenians, either in Armenia or the far-flung diaspora.

America has benefited tremendously from the vigor and talents of the Armenian people. Armenian-Americans have made enormous contributions to American life -- to our arts and academia, to business, science, and politics -- while still maintaining strong ties to their ancestral home.

Recent events in the Caucasus region remind us of both the importance of rededicating ourselves to peace, and the possibility of progress even where there is a long history of alienation. The conflict in Georgia shows the danger that lurks when rising tensions are ignored and the United States pursues a diplomatic strategy of neglect. But in recent days we have also seen the hopeful step -- taken by the Presidents of Turkey and Armenia -- to restart dialogue that could, in time, bring a welcome normalization of relations and offer Armenia more diversified opportunities for trade, transport, and energy supplies. American policy must build on this step, to ensure that Armenia enjoys a future not merely of independence but of partnership and cooperation with the U.S. and its allies.

Senator Barack Obama



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ՄԱԿ-ի Ընդհանուր ժողովի 63-րդ նստաշրջանի առջին իր ունեցած լույսի ընթացքին թուրք-իոյ նախագահ Արդուլա Գիւլ յայտարար է թէ, իր երկրի կողմէ առաջարկուած Համագործակցութեան եւ կայունութեան ծրագիրը կը նպաստէ կովկասի մէջ ստեղծուած հակամարտութիւններու լուծման, որոնց շարքին՝ դարաքաղեան հակամարտութեան կարգաւորման։

«Ես անկեղծօրէն կը հաւատամ՝ դրական հեռանկարը, որ այժմ ստեղծուած է, կը նպաստէ ստեղծուած հակամարտութիւններու, որոնց շարքին գրաւուած Լեռնային Ղարաբաղի խնդրի լուծման՝ տարածքային ամբողջականութեան սկզբունքի համաթեքստին մէջ», - աւելցուցած է ան։

Յայտարարելով, որ իր գաղափարին հաւանութիւն ստանձնող տարածաշրջանի բոլոր երկրները, Գիւլ միաժամանակ համոզմունք յայտնած է, թէ այդ փլաթթորմը կրնայ գործիք դառնալ տարածաշրջանին մէջ վստահութեան միջնորդ ստեղծելու եւ ընդհանուր խնդիրները ժողովրդավարական ճանապարհով քննարկելու համար։

Թրքական լրատուամիջոցներու հաղորդմամբ, թուրքական փլաթթորմի մանրամասնութիւնները քննարկուած են նաեւ երկրի

Շաբ.ը էջ 4



Հայաստանի անկախութեան տարեգարձի փառատօնը կ'ընթակի մէջ

կէնտէլլ քաղաքի հայահոս գանգուածը մեծ սպասումով, ամէն տարի, Սեպտեմբեր 21-ին կը հաւաքուի քաղաքի «Verdugo Park»-ին մէջ, նշելու համար Հայաստանի անկախութեան տարեգարձը։ Ձեռնարկը տեղի կ'ունենայ առաւօտեան ժամը 11էն սկսեալ եւ կը տեւէ մինչեւ երեկոյան ժամը 7:00։

Այս տարի եւս, կազմակերպութեամբ Նոր Մերուճկ Մշակութային Միութեան, Հ.Մ.Մ.ին, Հայ Ամերիկեան Խորհուրդի եւ «Կաթ» Երիտասարդական Միութեան, շուրջ 10,000 հայերու եւ օտարներու ներկայութեամբ

թեան նշուեցաւ Հայաստանի Անկախութեան 17րդ տարեգարձը, ժողովրդային հաւաք-ֆեսթիվային ձեւին տակ։ Առաւօտեան ժամերէն սկսեալ, խանդավառ եւ հայրենասէր անհատներու, շատեր իրենց ամբողջ ընտանիքներով, ամբողջ օրը ներկայ գտնուեցան տոնակատարութեան, որու ընթացքին տեղի ունեցան պաշտօնական ելոյթներ, ազգային երգեր, պարային կատարումներ, փոքրիկներու եւ մեծերու համար տարբեր տեսակի խաղեր, համադրամ ճաշերու մատուցում, ինչպէս նաեւ բազմատեսակ առարկայաւոր շնորհներ։

ներու վաճառք, լատուկ կառուցուած տաղաւարներու մէջ։ Ամբողջ օրը մարդիկ վալէլեցին լայնազիրը, որուն հեղասահ ընթացքին կ'ընկերանար Սեպտեմբերի եղանակին մեղմ եւ տանելի հանգամանքը։

Օրուայ հանդիսավարութիւնը, ինչպէս անցնող տարիներուն, այս տարի եւս ստանձնած էր հաւատաւոր Ներ Մերուճկան, եւ «Նոր Մերուճկ» հեռատեսիլի համակրելի հաղորդավար, ընկ. Ստեփան Յովակիմեան, իրեն գործակից ունենալով

Շաբ.ը էջ 5

Ս.Դ.Գ.Կ. ՀԱՅ ԱՍԵՐԻԿԵԱՆ ԽՈՐՀՈՒՐԴԸ ԿԸ ԶՕՐԱԿՑԻ ՊԱՐԱԸ ՕՊԱՍՄԱՅԻ ԹԵԿՆԱԾՈՒԹԵԱՆ

Յառաջիկայ Նոյեմբեր 4-ին տեղի ունենալիք Միացեալ Նահանգներու նախագահական ընտրութիւններուն առթիւ, Ս.Դ. Հայկական Կուսակցութեան Հայ Ամերիկեան Խորհուրդը (ՀԱԽ) պաշտօնական կան յայտարարութեամբ մը իր գորակցութիւնը յայտնեց Դեմոկրատ Կուսակցութեան թեկնածու՝ Պարաք Օպամային։

«Նկատի առնելով Ամերիկահայութիւնը շահաքրքրող հարցերու շուրջ անոր կողմէ հետապնդումը եւ յանձնառու կեցողութիւնը, Հայ Ամերիկեան Խորհուրդը կը յայտարարէ իր գորակցութիւնը ծերակուտական Պարաք Օպամային՝ լատաշիկայ նախագահական ընտրութիւններուն», - ըստով է ՀԱԽ-ի յայտարարութեան մէջ։

Ծերակուտական Պարաք Օպամա եւ փոխնախագահ թեկնածու ձօ Պայտըն միշտ եղած են թուրք պաշտպաններ՝ Միացեալ Նահանգներու եւ Հայաստանի միջեւ յարաբերութիւններու սերտացման։ Ծերակուտական Պայտըն անխոնջ կերպով պաշտպանած է Հայկական



Դեմոկրատ Կուսակցութեան մարտաշարական թեկնածու՝ Պարաք Օպամա

Ցեղասպանութեան ճանաչման բանաձեւերը եւ որպէս նախագահ, Ծերակուտի արտաքին յարաբերութեանց յանձնաժողովի ան եղած է Ամերիկահայութեան վստահելի

Շաբ.ը էջ 4

ՍԵՐԺ ՍԱՐԳՍԵԱՆ ՑԵՂԱՍՊԱՆՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ ՔՆՆԱՐԿՈՂ ՅԱՆՁՆԱԺՈՂՈՎ ՍՏԵՂՈՇԸ ԿԸ ԿԱՊԵ ՍԱՀՄԱՆՆԵՐՈՒ ԲԱՅՄԱՆ ՀԵՏ

Հայաստանի գործող նախագահ Սերժ Սարգսեան Թրքական «Միլլիէթ» թերթին տրուած հարցազրույցի մը ընթացքին եկաւ անուղղակի կերպով հաստատելու Թրքական մամուլին կողմէ այս օրերուն շրջան ընող այն տեղեկութիւնները թէ, Հայաստանի եւ Թուրքիոյ արտաքին գործոց նախարարները, այս շաբթուայ ընթացքին Նիւ Եորքի մէջ պիտի ստորագրեն համաձայնութիւններու փաթեթ մը, որոնց շարքին նաեւ՝ Հայոց ցեղասպանութիւնը քննարկող պատմաբաններու յանձնաժողովի կազմութեան շուրջ։

«Որեւէ յանձնաժողով ստեղծելուց առաջ լաւ կը լինէր դիւանագիտական յարաբերութիւններ հաստատել եւ բացել սահմանը։ Այդ ժամանակ մենք կարող ենք ստեղծել տարբեր յանձնաժողովներ եւ եմ հիմա յանձնաժողովներ՝ ցանկացած հարցով», - յայտարարած է Սերժ Սարգսեան թուրքական «Միլլիէթ» թերթին, անդրա-

դառնալով պատմաբաններու հայ-թրքական համատեղ յանձնաժողովի թեմային։

Սարգսեան տարօրինակ նկատած է Հայոց ցեղասպանութեան առնչութեամբ նման յանձնաժողովի կախացնելիք որոշումներու ճանաչման վերաբերող հարցերը. «Քանի որ, ի վերջոյ, մի խումբ ակադեմիկոսներ եւ պատմաբաններ նստելու են եւ ինչ-որ բան սաննդ։ Ասեմք, ես ընդունում եմ նրանց որոշումը։ Իսկ իմէ՛ք իմ լավորը՝ զայ եւ ասի՝ «Ես չեմ ընդունում»։ Այլ խօսքով, այդ յանձնաժողովի որոշումը չի կարող պարտաւորեցնող լինել։ Դա կարող է լինել միայն առաջարկ կառավարութիւններին եւ որոշում ընդունողներին»։

Իսկ «Թրքի Տէլիքի»-ի կը տեղեկացնէ, որ Նոյն հարցազրույցի ընթացքին Սերժ Սարգսեան նաեւ յայտարարած է, թէ Հայաստան տարածքային պահանջներ չունի Թուրքիայի նկատմամբ։

ԼՈՒՐԵՐ

«ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՍԱՀՄԱՆԱԳՐՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ ԵՐԱՇԽԱՒՈՐՈՒՄ Ե ԿՐՕՆԻ ԱՋԱՏՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ, ԻՍԿՕՐԵՆՔԸ ՍԱՀՄԱՆԱՓԱԿՈՒՄՆԵՐ Ե ՄՏՅՆՈՒՄ»

«ԱՋԱՏՈՒԹԻՒՆ ԻՆՍՏԻՏՈՑ»:
«Հայաստանի Սահմանադրությունը երաշխավորում է կրթի ազատությունը, այդուամենայնիվ, օրենքը որոշակի սահմանափակումներ է մտցնում կրթական փորձամասնությունների ազատությունների նկատմամբ», - արձանագրել է աշխարհում կրթի ազատության վերաբերյալ Միացյալ Նահանգների Պետության պարտավորությունները հանձնառվ դեկլարացիայի միաժամանակ ընդգծելով, որ կառավարությունը այդ սահմանափակումները կենսի կոչելու ուղղությամբ քայլեր չի կատարել:

Ըստ գեկոյցի, հաղորդումներ են եղել հասարակ կամ կրթական պատկանելության վրա հիմնված վատ վերաբերմունքի և խտրականության մասին:

Ուսումնասիրելով 2007 թվականի ՅուՆԵՍԿՕ-ի միջին 2008 թվականի ՅուՆԵՍԿՕ-ի ընկած ժամանակահատվածը՝ Պետության պարտավորությունները, մասնաւորապէս, «կրթի ազատության սահմանափակումները» բաժնում փաստել է. - «2008 թվականի Մայիս և Յունիս ամիսներին իշխանաձեռն «Հայոց Աշխարհ» և «Գոյու Արմենի» թերթերը հակասեմիտական մեղադրանքներ են հրապարակել նախկին նախագահ, ներկայիս ընդդիմության առաջնորդ Լեւոն Տէր-Պետրոսյանի դէմ: Տեղական հիտորիկները հրահրել այդ հրապարակումները դիտարկում են որպէս ընդդիմության առաջնորդին երկրի դաւաճան ներկայացնելու և սեւեռանքներ փորձել:

Զեկույցը ընդգծում է, որ նորնաբովարդակ հաղորդումներ է հնարածակել նաեւ Հանրային հեռուստատեսությունը, և նշում է, որ Միացյալ Նահանգների պաշտոնականը հրապարակա քննադատել են ու լորդորել կառավարությանը ՀՀ-ի երկրում անյապաղ դադարեցնել հակա-

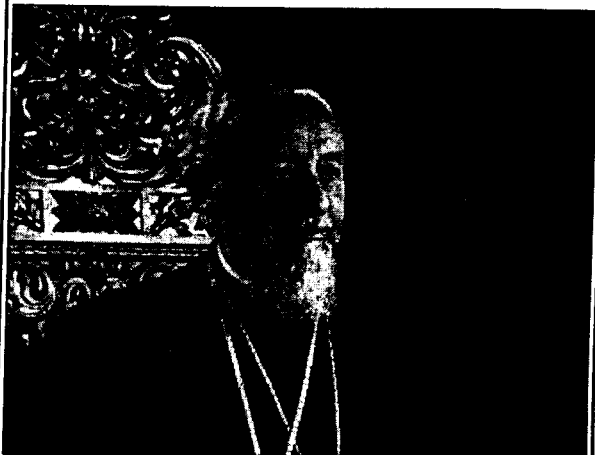
սեմիտական յարձակումները Լեւոն Տէր-Պետրոսյանի և նրա՝ ազգութեամբ հրեայ կնոջ նկատմամբ:

ՅուՆԵՍԿՕ-ի որոշ դիտորդները՝ ուսումնասիրությունը փաստում է, որ Հայաստանում բնակչության մեծ մասը բացասական վերաբերմունք ունի կրթական փորձամասնությունների, յատկապէս «ԵՆՕՎԱԿի Վկաների» նկատմամբ, քանի որ վերջիններս հրաժարում են ծառայել բանակում: «Բացի այդ, կա համատարած, սակայն չհիմնադրուած համոզմունք, որ «ԵՆՕՎԱԿի Վկաները» հոգեւորութեամբ են զբաղւում յատկապէս ընչազուրկների շրջանում», - ասում է գեկոյցում:

«ԵՆՕՎԱԿի Վկաները», իրենց հերթին, շարունակում են բողոքել, որ դատաւորները այլընտրանքային գիծնաւայութիւնից խուսափելու համար սահմանում են օրենքով նախատեսւած ամենախիստ պատիժը, ըստ ուսումնասիրութեան՝ 2007-ի ՅուՆԵՍԿՕ-ի միջին 2008-ի ՅուՆԵՍԿՕ-ի այլընտրանքային գիծնաւայութիւնից խուսափելու համար դատաւարտուել է 36 «ԵՆՕՎԱԿի Վկայ», որոնցից 19-ը ստացել է 30 ամսուա, 3-ը՝ 36 ամսուա պատառակում, ինչը օրենքով նախատեսուած առաւելագոյն պատժապահ է:

Կրթի ազատութեան մասին 1998 թվականի օրենքի համաձայն՝ ԱՄՆ-ի Պետդեպարտամենտը ամէն տարի ներկայացնում է գեկոյց աշխարհի երկրներում կրթի հանդէպ վերաբերմունքի, տարբեր դասանակների պատկանող համայնքների միջին հաստատուած յարաբերութիւնների և կրթական հանդուրժողականութեան մասին: Այս տարուայ գեկոյցում ընդգրկուած են 2007 թվականի ՅուՆԵՍԿՕ-ի 1-ից մինչեւ 2008 թվականի ՅուՆԵՍԿՕ-ի 30-ը արձանագրուած զարգացումները:

ՊԱՏԱՐԱԳ ՎԱԶԳԵՆ ԱՌԱՋԻՆ ԿԱԹՈՂԻԿՈՍԻ ԾՆՆԴԵԱՆ 100-ԱՄԵԱԿԻ ԱՌԻՈՎ



Մեկտեղեցի 20-ին էջմիածնի Մայր տաճարում, հանդիսացանութեամբ Ամենայն հայոց կաթողիկոս Գարեգին Երկրորդի, պատարագ է մատուցուել Վազգէն Առաջին կաթողիկոսի ծննդեան 100-ամեակի առիթով:

Մայր Աթոռի տեղեկատուական համակարգի փոխանցմամբ, պատարագէլը՝ Եզնիկ Արքեպիսկոպոս Պետրոսեանը, իր քարոզում անդրադարձել է Հայ Առաքելական Եկեղեցու կենսութեամբ Վազգէն Առաջին Վեհափառի բացառիկ դերակատարութեանը, ով խորհրդային անաստուածութեան տարիներին ոչ միայն կարողացաւ դիմադրաւել բոլոր փորձութիւնները և դժուարութիւնները, այլեւ շէնացրեց ու պայծառացրեց Մայր Աթոռ Սուրբ Էջմիածինը, կարողացաւ ջերմ յարաբերութիւններ հաստատել քրիստոնէական միւս եկեղեցիների հետ և արժեւորել Հայ Եկեղեցու դերը:

Պատարագից յետոյ Վազգէն Առաջին կաթողիկոսի շիրիմի մօտ նախապահութեամբ Գարեգին Երկրորդ Վեհափառի կատարուել է հոգեհանգստեան արարողութիւն:

ՀԱՅ ԱՄԵՐԻԿԵԱՆ ԽՈՐՀՈՒՐԴ ԿԸ ԶՕՐԱԿՑԻ ՊԱՐԱՔ ՕՊԱՄԱՅԻ ԹԵԿՆԱԾՈՒԹԵԱՆ

Մարտնախուած էջ 1-էմ

բարեկամը:

«Ամերիկահայութիւնը յուզող հարցերու կողքին, մենք որպէս ամերիկացիներ կը հաւատանք, որ Պարաք Օպամա որպէս յաջորդ նախագահ, համապատասխան կաթողութիւնը ունի լաւագոյնս լուծելու ներքին և արտաքին մարտահրաշքները, որոնք կանգնած են երկրին առջեւ և պիտի դիմադրաւէ ապագային: Անոր ունեցած զօրաւոր անհատական բարեմ անհոգիութիւնները և սկզբնաւորային կեցութեանը պիտի վերականգնեն այն արժէքները որոնք դարձուցած են Ամերիկան տնտեսական գերպետութիւն:

և առաջնորդող երկիր՝ աշխարհի մէջ», - ըստած է յայտարարութեան մէջ:

Յայտարարութիւնը նաեւ կ'անդրադառնայ Օպամայի ծրագրերնուն, որոնք պիտի զանբարձր վարձատրութեամբ գործատեղեր ստեղծելու և առողջապահութիւնը մատչելի դարձնելու բոլոր ամերիկացիներուն համար:

Նկատելով որ, կը ապաւուրբուուն պայթար և շատ մօտ ընտրութիւններ, Հայ Ամերիկեան Խորհուրդը կը կ'ընէ բոլոր Ամերիկահայերուն, որպէսզի գործնական մասնակցութիւն ունենան յայտարարական ընտրութիւններուն և Նոյեմբերին իրենց ձայնը տան Օպամա-Պայտըն ցանկին:

ԹՈՒՐԻՔՈՅ ՆԱԽԱԳԱՎԸ ԼԱԻՄԵՍ ԿՈՎԱՍՍԵԱՆ ԻՐ ԾՐԱԳԻՐՈՎ

Մարտնախուած էջ 1-էմ

արտգործնախարար Ալի Բաքալանի և Միացյալ Նահանգներու Պետական Գարտուղար Կոնդոլիզա Ռայսի հանդիպման ժամանակ:

«Թուրքիա շատ կարեւոր ուժ է տարածաշրջանէն ներս, և կը փորձէ աւելի խաղաղ դարձնել Կովկասը», - ըստ Թրքական «Ջա-

ման» թերթին, ըսած է Կոնդոլիզա Ռայսը:

Ուրբաթ օր, Նիւ Եորքի մէջ կը հանդիպին Հայաստանի, Ատրպէյճանի և Թուրքիոյ Արտաքին Գործոց նախարարները. բանակցութիւններու առանցքը կը կազմէ պաշտօնական աղբիւրներու հաղորդմամբ, դարձաբաղեան խնդրի կարգաւորումն է:

ՀՀ ԻՇԽԱՆՈՒԹԻՒՆՆԵՐԸ Կ'ԱՋԱԿՑԵՆ

Սերժ Սարգսեանին Սեպտեմբեր 22-ին իր հաւատարմագրերն է յանձնել Հայաստանում Ամերիկայի Միացյալ Նահանգների նորնաշանակ արտակարգ և իրազօր դեսպան Մարի Եովանովիչը:

Շնորհաւորելով դիմանագիտին՝ պաշտօնը ստանձնելու առթիւ, նախագահ Սարգսեանն ասել է, որ Հայաստանը կարեւորում է Միացյալ Նահանգների հետ բազմաբնոյթ յարաբերութիւնների զարգացումը: Նա երախտագիտութիւն է յատկնել ամերիկեան կառավարութեան՝ անկախութիւնից ի վեր մեր երկրին ցուցաբերած հետեւողական օժանդակութեան համար: Սերժ Սարգսեանը բարձր է գնահատել նաեւ Միացյալ Նահանգների՝ որպէս համաշխարհային երկրներից մէկի, դերը դարաբաղեան հակամարտութեան կարգաւորման գործընթացում:

Նորանշանակ դեսպանը Հանրապետութեան նախագահին է փոխանցել ԱՄՆ նախագահ Ջորջ Բուշի շնորհաւորական ուղերձը՝ Հայաստանի անկախութեան տօնի առթիւ:

Ընդգծելով Միացյալ Նահանգների պատրաստակամութիւնը՝ աջակցելու Հայաստանի առաջընթացին դէպի ժողովրդավարութիւն ու չլուրջական տնտեսութիւն, դիւանագիտն ասել է, որ կը ձեռնար-



չալնման համար:

Մարի Եովանովիչը Միացյալ Նահանգների կառավարութեան անունից ողջունել է Թուրքիայի նախագահին Հայաստան հրաւիրելու նախագահ Սարգսեանի համարձակ նախաձեռնութիւնը, և նշել, որ այն շրջադարձային նշանակութիւն ունի տարածաշրջանի համար և կը խթանի խաղաղութեան ու կայունութեան հաստատմանը:

Ջրոյցի ընթացքում կողմերն անդրադարձել են նաեւ հայ-ամերիկեան տնտեսական գործակցութեան խնդիրներին, մտքեր են փոխանակել տարածաշրջանային զարգացումների վերաբերելով:

Սարգսեանը վստահեցրել է, որ տիկին դեսպանն իր գործունեութեան ընթացքում ամենայն աջակ-

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Samantha Power on Obama and Armenian American Issues



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The need for change:

The Obama-Biden Record of Support for Armenian American Issues

Both Senators Barack Obama and Joe Biden have longstanding records of support for the full range of issues of special concern to Armenian American voters.

The Obama Record in the U.S. Senate:

- * In September 2008, Sen. Obama issued a statement on Armenia's Independence.
http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1590
- * In June 2008, Sen. Obama submitted numerous questions on the Armenian Genocide to the nominee to be Ambassador to Armenia.
- * In April 2008, Sen. Obama issued a statement commemorating the Armenian Genocide.
http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=2008_record&page=S3438&position=all
- * In January, 2008, Sen. Obama issued a statement on U.S.-Armenia relations”
http://www.barackobama.com/2008/01/19/barack_obama_on_the_importance.php
- * In September 2007, Sen. Obama sent a letter to Secretary of State Rice expressing concern and requesting more information about the plight of Christians in Iraq, including Armenians in Iraq.
<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/query/C?r110:./temp/~r110gO6Jld>
- * On July 28, 2006, Sen. Obama sent a letter to Secretary of State Rice criticizing the firing of Ambassador Evans for recognizing the Armenian Genocide.
- * In both 2005 and 2006, Sen. Obama cosigned Senatorial sign-on letters to President Bush urging him to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

The Biden Record in the U.S. Senate:

- * In September 2008, the nominee to be Ambassador to Turkey admitted, after questioning by Sen. Biden, that American diplomats during the Ottoman Empire did indeed document Ottoman Turkey's intent to exterminate the Armenian population.
http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=1603
http://www.anca.org/assets/pdf/misc/092408_tambnomination/Biden_Responses_092608.pdf
- * In July 2008, the State Department responded to Sen. Biden's inquiries concerning the Administration's policy on the Armenian Genocide, which include critical admissions stating that the Administration “hold Ottoman officials responsible for . . . crimes [committed against Armenians.]”

- * In June 2008, Sen. Biden submitted numerous questions to the nominee to be Ambassador to Armenia, concerning the Armenian Genocide, Turkey's blockade, and Azerbaijan's alarming war rhetoric.
- * On April 24, 2008, Sen. Biden issued a statement commemorating the Armenian Genocide, as he has done for numerous years dating back to the 1980s.
http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi?dbname=2008_record&page=S3391&position=all
- * In 2007, Sen. Biden authored resolution condemning murder of Hrant Dink and urging tolerance in Turkey.
<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d110,d110:3:./temp/~bduVnd:@@@P|/bss/d110query.html>
- * On August 24, 2006, Sen. Biden wrote a follow-up letter to Secretary Rice outlining concerns regarding the firing of Ambassador Evans', the Administration's policy towards the Armenian Genocide, and Turkey's blockade of Armenia.
- * In August 1, 2006, Sen. Biden postponed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's consideration of Amb. Hoagland until the State Department provided answers concerning the firing of Amb. Evans for recognizing the Armenian Genocide.
http://www.anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=985
- * In June 2006, Sen. Biden submitted numerous questions to the nominee to be Ambassador to Armenia Richard Hoagland.
http://www.anca.org/assets/graphics/2006/hoagland/biden_hoagland_resp.pdf
- * On June 23, 2006, Sen. Biden wrote a letter to Secretary of State Rice stating that he would not be prepared to allow the nominee to replace Ambassador to Armenia John Evans to move forward until the State Department answered questions concerning the firing of Ambassador Evans and the involvement of the Turkish government in his firing.
http://www.anca.org/assets/graphics/2006/hoagland/biden_let.pdf
- * In April of 2005, Sen. Biden cosigned a Senate sign-on letter to President Bush urging him to recognize the Armenian Genocide.
- * In August, 2003, Sen. Biden placed a "hold" on a Bush Administration request to increase military aid to Azerbaijan, ensuring that military aid parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan is maintained.
- * In 1999, Sen. Biden voted to maintain Section 907, which restricts aid to Azerbaijan because of its blockade of Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia. (Senator McCain voted to strip Section 907 and allow aid to Azerbaijan).
- * In 1995, Sen. Biden cosponsored the D'Amato bill to cut \$500,000 a day in US aid to Turkey until it meets several human rights conditions, including ending its blockade of Armenia.
- * In 1995, Sen. Biden supported the D'Amato amendment to cut aid to Turkey in half. (Senator McCain opposed this amendment).
- * Cosponsored every Armenian Genocide resolution in the Senate, dating back to 1984.
- * Supported Nagorno Karabakh's right to self-determination dating back to 1990.



The need for change:

The Bush-Cheney Record of Opposition to Armenian American Issues

The need for change in how the U.S. addresses Armenian American issues is highlighted by a review of the Bush Administration's record in 12 key areas:

1) Broken campaign pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide

Almost immediately after taking office, President Bush abandoned his campaign pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Rather than honor his promise, the President has, in his annual April 24th statements, used evasive and euphemistic terminology to avoid describing Ottoman Turkey's systematic and deliberate destruction of the Armenian people by its proper name - the Armenian Genocide. The Administration has echoed the Turkish government's denial by claiming that the Armenian Genocide, one of the most studied genocides in history, "should be a matter of historical inquiry, not legislation." On October 17, 2007, after the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed the Armenian Genocide Resolution, President Bush said that, "one thing Congress should not be doing is sorting out the historical record of the Ottoman Empire," claiming there was "more important work to do."

2) Opposition to the Congressional Genocide Resolution

The Bush Administration, throughout its tenure, actively sought to block the adoption of the Genocide Resolution in both the House and Senate. As recently as October of 2007, the President spoke to the national media from the White House, on more than one occasion, against the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and personally lobbied Members of Congress to prevent the commemoration of this crime.

3) The Evans firing and the Hoagland nominations

The Bush Administration fired U.S. Ambassador John Evans, a career Foreign Service officer with 35 years of experience, simply for speaking truthfully about the Armenian Genocide. Despite numerous Congressional inquiries, his Administration attempted to cover up the true reasons for Evans' removal and the Turkish government's protests over his statements. When the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) awarded John Evans the Christian Herter prize for constructive dissent, Administration officials forced AFSA to rescind the award just days before Turkish President Erdogan came to Washington, DC to meet with President Bush.

The President's nominee to replace Ambassador Evans, Dick Hoagland, denied the Armenian Genocide in response to Senate inquiries during his confirmation process. After being blocked by a Senate "hold" placed by Robert Menendez in the 109th Congress, the President again nominated Ambassador Hoagland, only to have him blocked once again on the grounds that a diplomat who denies the Armenian Genocide cannot serve effectively as the U.S. representative to Armenia.

4) The Waiver of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act

The Bush Administration, in 2001, aggressively pressured Congress into granting the President the authority to waive Section 907, a provision of law that bars aid to the government of Azerbaijan until it lifts its blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. President Bush has subsequently used this authority to provide direct aid, including military assistance, to the government of Azerbaijan, despite their continued violation of the provisions of this law.

5) Reduction in aid to Armenia

In the face of the devastating, multi-billion dollar impact of the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades on the Armenian economy, President Bush has, in each of his years in office, proposed to Congress that Freedom Support Act humanitarian and developmental aid to Armenia be reduced. In his FY09 budget, the President proposed a dramatic 60% cut in aid to Armenia, sharper than his recommended reductions to any of the other former Soviet republics.

6) Abandonment of the Military Aid Parity Agreement

The Bush Administration abandoned its November 2001 agreement with Congress and the Armenian American community to maintain even levels of military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan. In successive budgets submitted to Congress, the President effectively sought to tilt the regional military balance in favor of Azerbaijan, undermining the role of the U.S. as an impartial mediator, despite Azerbaijan's increasingly violent threats of renewed aggression.

7) Lack of U.S.-Armenia Presidential visitations

The President neither visited Armenia nor did he invite the President of Armenia to visit the United States, despite similar visits by the leaders of Georgia and Azerbaijan.

8) Mistaken Listing of Armenia as a Terrorist Country

The Bush Administration sought, unsuccessfully, in December of 2002 to place Armenia on an Immigration and Naturalization Service watch list for terrorist countries. This obvious error was reversed only after a nation-wide protest campaign. Neither the White House nor the Department of Justice has apologized for the offense caused by this mistake.

9) Failure to maintain a balanced policy on Nagorno Karabagh

The Bush Administration, to its credit, took an early initiative to help resolve the Nagorno Karabagh issue in the form of the Key West summit meeting in 2001 between Secretary of State Powell and the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan. After Azerbaijan's failure to honor its Key West commitments, however, the Administration failed to hold Azerbaijan accountable for unilaterally stalling the Nagorno Karabagh peace process. In the final weeks of his Administration, senior officials, including Vice President Cheney, have abandoned the "honest-broker" role of the U.S. by prioritizing the principle of territorial integrity over the core American value of self-determination in the resolution of this conflict.

10) Taxpayer financing of the Baku-Ceyhan bypass of Armenia

The Bush Administration supported American taxpayer subsidies for the politically motivated Baku-Ceyhan pipeline route that, at the insistence of Turkey and Azerbaijan, bypassed Armenia.

11) Refusal to pressure Turkey and Azerbaijan to end their blockades

The Bush Administration has not forcefully condemned the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades as clear violations of international law, nor, outside of occasional public statements, has it taken any meaningful steps to pressure the Turkish or Azerbaijani governments to end their illegal border closures.

12) Neglect of relations with the Armenian American community

Breaking with the tradition of the last several Administrations, the Bush White House failed to reach out in any meaningful way to our nation's one and a half million citizens of Armenian heritage. While the State Department, Pentagon and National Security Council maintained their long-standing, policy-level dialogue with the Armenian American community leadership, the White House itself essentially neglected Armenian Americans as a civic constituency.