



ARMENIAN ASSEMBLY OF AMERICA

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REPRESENTATIVE CROWLEY INTRODUCES RESOLUTION IN CONGRESS CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF HRANT DINK

Washington DC – The Armenian Assembly today commended Armenian Caucus Member Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-NY) for introducing a resolution in the House of Representatives condemning the assassination of Armenian journalist and citizen of Turkey Hrant Dink. Prior to his murder he was convicted under Turkish Law for his public comments on the Armenian Genocide.

“It is of utmost importance that the U.S. Congress adopt this resolution condemning the brutal killing of Hrant Dink and send a message that Turkey must protect the rights of all religious and ethnic minorities indiscriminately,” said Representative Crowley. “It is past time for Turkey to abolish Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code which precipitated this heinous crime.”

The bipartisan resolution calls on the House to strongly condemn the tragic murder of Hrant Dink, as well as urge Turkey to continue its investigation and prosecution of those individuals responsible for his death. Furthermore, the legislation encourages Turkey to take appropriate action to protect freedom of speech by repealing Article 301, which criminalizes public discussion on the Armenian Genocide.

“The Assembly thanks Congressman Crowley for introducing this timely and appropriate legislation condemning this deplorable crime,” said Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. “Hrant Dink was a fierce defender of freedom of the press and an outspoken advocate for democratic reform. His death should serve as an impetus for true and honest reforms in Turkey. Denial of the historical truth is not in anyone's best interest and affirmation of the truth will provide a basis to move forward. We just witnessed the worse consequence of denial with the murder of Hrant Dink in Turkey.”

Cosponsors of the resolution include: Joe Baca (D-CA), Lois Capps (D-CA), Michael Capuano (D-MA), John Conyers (D-MI), Jim Costa (D-CA), Raul M. Grijalva (D-AZ), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Mark S. Kirk (R-IL), Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI), Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Frank A. LoBiondo (R-NJ), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Betty McCollum (D-MN), James P. McGovern (D-MA), Michael R. McNulty (D-NY), Richard E. Neal (D-MA), Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Jon C. Porter (R-NV), George P. Radanovich (R-CA), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), Steven R. Rothman (D-NJ), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Fortney "Pete" Stark (D-CA), Diane Watson (D-CA) and Anthony D. Weiner (D-NY).

The Assembly has been mobilizing its grassroots activists to honor Hrant Dink and his vision, through their support of congressional actions and participation in various memorial services and

vigils across the country. As a part of this effort, the Assembly last week placed a full page ad in *Roll Call* - a leading Capitol Hill newspaper - encouraging congressional passage of this resolution.

To contact and encourage your Member of Congress to cosponsor this bill as well as the Armenian Genocide Resolution, which will be introduced tomorrow, go to the Assembly's Web site at <http://www.aaainc.org>, enter your zip code in the *Contact Congress* box and click "Go." For more information on Hrant Dink, please visit the *Hrant Dink Resource Page* on the Assembly's Web site at <http://www.aaainc.org/httpdocs/hrantdink.htm>.

The Armenian Assembly of America is the largest Washington-based nationwide organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues. It is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt membership organization.

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Editors Note: Below is the full text of the Crowley Resolution, which was introduced today in the House of Representatives.

110TH CONGRESS
H.Res.102

Condemning the assassination of human rights advocate and outspoken defender of freedom of the press, Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink on January 19, 2007.

Whereas, on January 19, 2007, Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink was murdered as he exited the Istanbul, Turkey, office of Agos Newspaper;

Whereas Hrant Dink was a fierce defender of the freedom of the press and speech, an outspoken advocate for democratic reform, and a champion of human rights and tolerance;

Whereas Hrant Dink was a man of conviction and principle who believed in democratic ideals and peaceful change;

Whereas, in Istanbul in 1996, Hrant Dink founded a bilingual newspaper called Agos, in part to foster dialogue and understanding between Armenians and Turks;

Whereas Hrant Dink was honored by his media colleagues around the world for his courage and principles and was awarded the prestigious Bjornson Prize for Literature for his publications on the Armenian Genocide;

Whereas Hrant Dink was prosecuted and convicted under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code for speaking about the Armenian Genocide; and

Whereas the United States was founded on the principles of democracy and liberty where freedom of expression is cherished and protected: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives —

(1) strongly condemns and deplors the assassination of Hrant Dink;

(2) urges the Government of Turkey to continue its investigation and prosecution of those individuals responsible for the murder of Hrant Dink and

(3) urges the Government of Turkey to take appropriate action to protect the freedom of speech in Turkey by repealing Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code and by unswervingly opposing intolerance, intimidation, and violence against individuals who are exercising their natural right of freedom of speech.

Photograph:



Caption: Representative Joseph Crowley (D-NY).