

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

WHEREAS, genocide is defined by the United Nations as an act “committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group” [1];

WHEREAS, genocide denial is the tenth and final stage of genocide immediately following extermination [2];

WHEREAS, in 2012 the Undergraduate Students Association Council at the University of California, Los Angeles passed a “Resolution Commemorating the Armenian Genocide and Condemning its Denial” [3];

WHEREAS, the University of California is directly invested in the Republic of Turkey, which reaps the profits of [4] and actively denies the Armenian Genocide [5];

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide was initiated by the Ottoman Empire and continued by the Republic of Turkey through ethnic cleansing [6], confiscation of Armenian properties, and the theft of Armenian capital;

WHEREAS, during the same time, the Ottoman Empire also targeted and committed genocide against 750,000 Assyrians and 350,000 Pontian Greeks [x];

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey has engaged in a campaign of Armenian cultural erasure since the founding of the Republic of Turkey, including, but not limited to, ethnic cleansings and the destruction of sacred Armenian religious sites, thereby continuing the process of genocide [7];

WHEREAS, it is illegal to refer to the massacre and deportation of Armenians in 1915-1923 as genocide in the Republic of Turkey under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code [8];

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey sanctions historical revision of Armenian Genocide historiography and censors scholarship that acknowledges the crimes as genocide [9];

WHEREAS, the University of California as a public academic institution, guided by the principles of academic freedom, contradicts these principles by investing in a government that engages in academic censorship and criminalizes Armenian Genocide scholarship in Turkey;

WHEREAS, the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) investment holdings in bonds directly issued by the Republic of Turkey total \$55,432,125 [10];

WHEREAS, University of California General Endowment Pool (GEP) investment holdings in bonds directly issued by the Republic of Turkey total \$9,652,475 [11];

WHEREAS, the University of California Retirement Plan investment holdings in the Export Credit Bank of Turkey total \$7,278,500 [12];

WHEREAS, the University of California General Endowment Pool investment holdings in the Export Credit Bank of Turkey total \$1, 683,500 [13];

WHEREAS, these investment holdings in the Republic of Turkey total a base market value of \$74,046,600;

WHEREAS, the Turkish Treasury makes capital contributions to the Export Credit Bank of Turkey as the sole shareholder of the Bank [14];

WHEREAS, these investments harm Armenian students, many of whom are living heirs to confiscated properties in Turkey and descendants of the 1.5 million people who were murdered or those who were forcibly relocated during the Armenian Genocide;

WHEREAS, investment in the Republic of Turkey enables its government to continue to deny justice to the Armenian people;

WHEREAS, divesting these funds would remove the University of California's complicity in the Armenian Genocide;

WHEREAS, this resolution aims to hold the Republic of Turkey's government responsible for denying justice to the Armenian people, and is not intended to condemn a specific community or individual;

WHEREAS, in 2006, the University of California divested from nine companies that did business in Sudan as a direct result of their contributions to the suffering in the Darfur region during the genocide in Darfur [15];

WHEREAS, it is the duty of members of the University of California, Los Angeles community to uphold the True Bruin values, including a commitment to "the highest ethical standards" [16];

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon the University of California, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California, Los Angeles Foundation to divest all financial holdings in the Republic of Turkey;

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Students Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles calls upon the University of California, the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of California, Los Angeles Foundation to refrain from making any further investments in the Republic of Turkey until justice is done to the Armenian people through the official recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the Republic of Turkey.

[1] http://www.un.org/en/preventgenocide/adviser/pdf/osapg_analysis_framework.pdf

[2] <http://www.genocidewatch.org/genocide/tenstagesofgenocide.html>

[3] <https://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/Resolution%20Commemorating%20the%20Armenian%20Genocide%20and%20Condemning%20its%20Denial.pdf>

- [4] <http://armenianweekly.com/2013/09/23/the-confiscation-of-armenian-properties-an-interview-with-umit-kurt/>
- [4] Kurt, Ümit, and Taner Akçam. *Kanunların Ruhü: Emval-i Metruke Kanunlarında Soykırımın İzlerini Aramak (The Spirit of Laws: Seeking the Traces of Armenian Genocide in the Laws of Abandoned Property)*. 2012.
- [5] http://www.nytimes.com/ref/timestopics/topics_armeniangenocide.html
- [6] <http://www.armenian-genocide.org/kemal.html>
- [7] <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/1861892055.html>
- [8] <http://humanrightsturkey.org/2013/04/03/article-301-end-it-dont-amend-it/>
- [9] <http://armenianweekly.com/2014/12/04/textbooks/>
- [10] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/UCRP_Holdings.pdf
- [11] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/GEP_Holdings.pdf
- [12] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/UCRP_Holdings.pdf
- [13] http://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invpol/GEP_Holdings.pdf
- [14] <https://www.eximbank.gov.tr/EN,1193/about-us.html>
- [15] <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/6302.html>
- [16] <http://www.truebruin.ucla.edu/statement.htm>
- [17] Rutgers. Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights. *The Assyrian Genocide 1914 to 1923 and 1933 up to the present*. <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/center-study-genocide-conflict-resolution-and-human-rights/assyrian-genocide-1914-1923-and-1933-pres>
- [18] St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church. The Pontian Greek Society of Chicago “Xeniteas” - A Brief History of the Pontian Greek Genocide (1914-1923). <http://www.stbasiltroy.org/pontos/pontoshistory.pdf>