

MAR 04 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ACKNOWLEDGING AND URGING TURKEY AND IRAQ TO RECOGNIZE THE
GENOCIDE COMMITTED AGAINST ASSYRIANS BETWEEN 1915-1933.

1 WHEREAS, international scholars emphasize the importance of
2 acknowledging historic acts of genocide to deter future
3 occurrences of mass violence; and
4

5 WHEREAS, formal state recognition of genocide can be an
6 important first step in giving historians and scholars access to
7 needed records; and
8

9 WHEREAS, this year marks the 106th anniversary of the
10 Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek genocide of 1915 (also known as
11 the Seyfo genocide), which was committed by Ottoman Turks; and
12

13 WHEREAS, between 1915 and 1923, approximately two-thirds of
14 the Assyrian population were slaughtered while living in the
15 Ottoman Empire and in Persia on ancestral lands; and
16

17 WHEREAS, in August 1933, approximately six thousand
18 Assyrians were brutally murdered in Simele in the Dohuk and
19 Mosul districts of modern-day Iraq by the nascent Iraqi army and
20 irregular Kurdish and Arab forces; and
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22 WHEREAS, the genocide committed against Assyrians has
23 largely gone unrecognized and is denied by the governments of
24 Iraq and Turkey; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the International Association of Genocide Scholars
27 has found that the genocide against the Assyrian population was
28 part of a larger campaign against Christian minorities,
29 including Armenians and Pontian and Anatolian Greeks; and
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31 WHEREAS, the European Parliament has urged Turkey to
32 recognize the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek genocides and to



S.C.R. NO. 43

1 facilitate scholars' access to historical archives; now,
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
7 acknowledges the genocide committed against Assyrians between
8 1915 and 1923 and the Seyfo genocide committed in 1933; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature joins the
11 European Parliament in urging the governments of Turkey and Iraq
12 to recognize the genocide against Assyrians and to give scholars
13 access to historical archives and "all relevant documents"; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, United
17 States Secretary of State, President of Turkey, President of
18 Iraq, and International Association of Genocide Scholars.
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OFFERED BY:

