

Written Statement of
Ani Martirosian Menon

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

March 24, 2015, 9:00 AM
Hawai`i State Capitol, Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF:

SCR 73 DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION
AND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

&

SR 33 DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION
AND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

To: Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee
Re: **Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR 73 and SR 33**

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of both SCR 73 and SR 33.

I am an American-Armenian who calls Hawai`i home – my family and I have lived on O`ahu for over 17 years. I am very moved that you are considering these resolutions, especially on the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Though 100 years is a long time, I have yet to meet one Armenian whose family was not devastated by the mass killings, torture, and death marches that characterized the Armenian Genocide. Grandparents from both sides of my family were orphaned after seeing the brutal murder of their family members before their eyes. Your support of these resolutions will do more than just commemorate the 1.5 million Armenians who were killed at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. It will also send a message that genocide against all peoples will not go unrecognized.

You are not alone in considering a resolution that recognizes the Armenian Genocide. Less than a week ago, on March 18th, Representatives Robert Dold (R-IL), Adam Schiff (D-CA), David Valadao (R-CA), and Frank Pallone (D-NJ), along with 45 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives introduced a bi-partisan resolution titled the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution (H.R.154). This bipartisan resolution calls upon President Barack Obama to work toward equitable, constructive, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based on the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgement of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ani Martirosian Menon

Written Statement of
Arthur Martirosian
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

March 24, 2015, 9:00 AM
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Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

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I am an American-Armenian who calls Hawai'i home – my family and I have lived on O`ahu for over 17 years. I am very moved that you are considering these resolutions, especially on the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

This is a remembrance of a painful part of our families history as my great-grandfathers and great-grandmother were orphaned from the genocide that took place. We have yet to find out what happened to many of their missing siblings. This history is of kidnapping, murder and death marches still haunt the Armenian people where ever they find themselves in the world.

Though 100 years is a long time, I have yet to meet one Armenian whose family was not devastated by the mass killings, torture, and death marches that characterized the Armenian Genocide. Grandparents from both sides of my family were orphaned after seeing the brutal murder of their family members before their eyes. Your support of these resolutions will do more than just commemorate the 1.5 million Armenians who were killed at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. It will also send a message that genocide against all peoples will not go unrecognized.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Arthur Martirosian

Written Statement of

George Casen

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

March 24, 2015, 9:00 AM

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF:

SR 33 DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

SCR 73 DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION AND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

To: **Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee**

Re: **Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR 73 and SR 33**

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of both **SCR 73** and **SR 33**.

The Senate Concurrent Resolution summarizes the events ensuing between 1915 and 1923 that constituted the Armenian Genocide.

In view of the summary presented in the Resolutions, I will present the personal interest stories of my paternal great-grandfather and paternal grandfather who were elected public officials, as are members of your committee.

(Please refer to the following two pages)



Hovsep Kazazian, Member of the First Ottoman Parliament 1877-1878, representing the province of Diyarbakir. This elected body was disbanded by the Sultan after two years. He was on excellent terms with the central government until shortly before he was brutally killed in his old age during the Genocide of 1915. He was a manufacturer of silver and copper tableware, had thousands of acres in foodstuff cultivation and owned a mining operation. His wife, Sophie and many members of his extended family perished when they were marched into the desert without food or water.

References:

http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=de&u=http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/en/e/fg530/forschergruppe/Elke_Hartmann.html&prev=search

http://www.academia.edu/8803935/Elke_Hartmann_The_Loyal_Nation_and_Its_Deputies._The_Armenians_in_the_First_Ottoman_Parliament_in_Christoph_Herzog_Malek_Sharif_eds._The_First_Ottoman_Experiment_in_Democracy_W%C3%BCrzburg_Ergon_2010_p._187-222



Kevork (Girgis) Kazazian, member of the Diyarbakir City Council in 1915. I exist today because my grandmother and her two children, five and seven years of age, were out of town (Diyarbakir) visiting relatives, when he was brutally killed along with his brothers in 1915.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yves_Ternon

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=fr&u=http://www.imprescriptible.fr/rhac/tome4/l1-p2-ch1&prev=search>

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR73 on Mar 24, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 9:25:04 PM

SCR73

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 24, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Malins	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wish to offer my strong support for this resolution. Some of my closest friends are Armenian-American. Over the years, I have gotten to know their families, including their grandparents, who are less than a generation removed from the genocide of 1915. This personal connection inspired me to research the details on the genocide, a topic that was not mentioned at all during my entire education at a prominent Hawai'i private school. For Armenians, it is a tragedy on par with the holocaust for Judaism, and has been just as impactful to their history. Given the magnitude of the event and it's relatively unknown status in our state and country, I feel this resolution is an important step in raising the visibility of this tragedy and recognizing those who lost their lives. Mahalo, -Jeff Malins

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair, Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 9:30am, State Capitol, Conference Room 016
By Ronald D.S. Lau

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 73

Declaring April 24 as a day of remembrance in recognition and commemoration of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

I Strongly SUPPORT this resolution. Thank you for hearing this resolution and giving me the opportunity to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

2015 is the centennial of the world's first genocide. One hundred years ago from 1915 through 1923, the Ottoman Empire - covering what is now Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Jordan, and Israel- conducted a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing against one group, Armenians. Approximately, 1,500,000 men, women, and children were killed, another 500,000 were forcibly re-located from their nation, homeland, and communities. Each year on this day, April 24, Armenians honor those who perished in first genocide. There are 33 countries, including 30 states, who have memorials for these Armenian victims of genocide.

In 2007 State of Hawaii took a stand against genocide by adopting an ERS divestment law to remove our support from the Sudan Government committing genocide against southern Sudan. This effort joined others who helped to establish the new independent nation of South Sudan. In 2009, the House did their part for Armenia by declaring their recognition of Armenian Genocide. But the Senate has yet to do their part.

Remembering genocide today is of vital importance. As recently as September 21, 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS) destroyed the Armenian Holy Martyrs Church in Der Zor, Syria. The church and museum was constructed in memory of the victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide suffered at the hands of these predecessors to ISIS, the Ottoman Empire. ISIS wants to complete the genocide by purging our memorials to its victims.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC has displayed this poem, entitled: "First they came..." by Pastor [Martin Niemöller](#) (1892-1984) about the cowardice of German [intellectuals](#) following the [Nazis'](#) rise to power and the subsequent [purging](#) of their chosen targets, group after group.

**First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.**

**Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.**

**Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.**

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

We must speak out now. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SR33 on Mar 24, 2015 09:00AM*
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 11:27:11 PM

SR33

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 24, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shant Derderian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Written Statement of
Tatyana Cerullo

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

March 24, 2015, 9:00 AM
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF:

SCR 73 DECLARING APRIL 24 AS A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN RECOGNITION
AND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915.

&

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To: Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee
Re: **Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SCR 73 and SR 33**

Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of both SCR 73 and SR 33.

These resolutions are important to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Genocide and its lasting effects must not be forgotten. I support all efforts to encourage acknowledgement of this historical event and to work toward better Armenian-Turkish relations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TATYANA CERULLO

Written Statement of
Vatche Martirosian

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

March 24, 2015, 9:00 AM
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT OF:

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Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of both SCR 73 and SR 33.

I am an American-Armenian who has placed deep roots in Hawaii – my family and I have lived on O`ahu for over 17 years and have been productive members of our society and adopted the amazing Aloha spirit. We have started several businesses and support the community. I am very happy that you are considering these resolutions, especially on the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Though 100 years is a long time, I have yet to meet one Armenian whose family was not devastated by the mass killings, torture, and death marches that characterized the Armenian Genocide. Grandparents from both sides of my family were orphaned after seeing the brutal murder of their family members before their eyes. Your support of these resolutions will do more than just commemorate the 1.5 million Armenians who were killed at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. It will also send a message that genocide against all peoples will not go unrecognized.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. With God's will one day justice will prevail.

Vatche Martirosian

Written Statement of
Verjine Jerian
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR

March 24, 2015, 9:00 AM
Hawai`i State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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Aloha Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of both SCR 73 and SR 33.

I am a descendant of a survivor of an Armenian genocide. My father was 2 years old when the sad and tragic event of 1915 happened to the Armenians. The Armenians suffered great violence and were deported from their homes and were raped, killed during their deportation.

On March 18, 2015 US lawmakers introduced a resolution urging President Barack Obama to recognize mass killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire as "genocide."

The bipartisan Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice resolution was sponsored by 44 members of the House of Representatives.

It would urge Obama to help stabilize and improve Armenian-Turkish ties "based upon the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgment of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity."

Armenia says an estimated 1.5 million people were killed by Ottoman forces in 1915 in what it calls a genocide. Modern Turkey has always rejected the term, putting the toll at 500,000 and blaming their deaths on war and starvation.

President Obama has not used the word "genocide" to describe the tragedy, but congressman Brad Sherman noted that Obama did so as a senator, as did John Kerry, the current secretary

of state. Congressman Sherman said " It is time for both the executive branch and the legislative branch to do the same,".

House Democrat Adam Schiff, a lead sponsor of the bill, said it was "indisputable" that Armenians "were deliberately murdered in the first genocide of the 20th Century."

"Denial of the Armenian Genocide undermines foundations for durable peace and security, making future atrocities more likely," added Republican Robert Dold.

He said Washington must send a message it will not tolerate "any country that hides behind bully tactics to shroud violations of human rights."

House Democrat Jackie Speier, who is Armenian-American, described to reporters how Armenians were "death-marched" from their villages in large numbers.

"It's history now, but it's time for us to recognize it once and for all," Speier said.

Over the years the slaughter has been recognized in the United States in various ways.

President Ronald Reagan branded it a genocide in a 1981 proclamation, and more than 40 individual US states have taken similar action.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee recognized the Armenian "genocide" in 2010, triggering fury in Turkey, a key majority-Muslim ally of Washington.

House Speaker John Boehner has not indicated whether he will bring the latest measure to the floor, and the White House declined to comment on it.

Around 20 nations, including France and Germany, recognize the killings as genocide.

You are not alone in considering a resolution that recognizes the Armenian Genocide. Less than a week ago, on March 18th, Representatives Robert Dold (R-IL), Adam Schiff (D-CA), David Valadao (R-CA), and Frank Pallone (D-NJ), along with 45 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives introduced a bi-partisan resolution titled the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution (H.R.154). This bipartisan resolution calls upon President Barack Obama to work toward equitable, constructive, and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based on the Republic of Turkey's full acknowledgment of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Verjine Jerian

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR73 on Mar 24, 2015 09:00AM
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 10:38:12 PM

SCR73

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for JDL on Mar 24, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zubin Menon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support. As someone who has an Armenian American wife, as well as Armenian American in-laws, and as a student of history, I am happy to see our Legislature consider adopting these two resolutions. In my opinion, it's important not just for Armenians, but for all victims of genocide, no matter where they come from. I strongly urge you to move these resolutions forward and declare April 24 as a day of remembrance for the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Sincerely, Z

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