

Date of Hearing: September 5, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
HR 62 (Flora) – As Amended August 30, 2019

SUBJECT: Assyrian Remembrance Day.

SUMMARY: Recognizes August 7, 2019, as Assyrian Remembrance Day. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Assyrians are a people who have lived in the Middle East since ancient times, including in what is today Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria; and, Assyrians, also known as Chaldeans and “Syriacs,” live all over the world, and there are more than 500,000 in the United States, including many in California.
- 2) From 1914 to 1918, hundreds of thousands of Assyrian men, women, and children were massacred and their properties confiscated during the Assyrian Genocide, also known as the Seyfo Genocide, as well as hundreds of thousands of Greeks and 1,500,000 Armenians as part of the planned complete eradication of those indigenous communities by the Ottoman Turkish Empire during the first modern genocide that still requires justice.
- 3) California is a global leader in human rights, particularly by recognizing and providing legal remedies for crimes against humanity during the period from 1915 to 1923, when many persons of Armenian ancestry residing in what was then the Ottoman Empire were victims of massacre, torture, starvation, death marches, and exile, an episode known to historians as the “Armenian Genocide.”
- 4) The United States House of Representatives adopted H. Con. Res. No. 75 in March 14, 2016, declaring the atrocities perpetrated and war crimes committed by ISIL against Christians, Yezidis, and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria as crimes against humanity and genocide.
- 5) This year marks the 104th anniversary of the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek genocide of 1915.
- 6) In 2006, the European Parliament urged Turkey to recognize the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek genocide and to facilitate scholars’ access to the historical archives and “all relevant documents.”
- 7) In 2007, the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) formally recognized the Armenian, Assyrian, and Greek genocides.
- 8) The number of survivors of the genocide period between 1915 and 1923 is dwindling, and it is appropriate for California to recognize the tragedy that befell these survivors a century ago.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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