

The Very Rev. Cor Episcopos Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo
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February 22nd, 2021

Joseph Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations on your recent election victory. I can only imagine the burdens you have now undertaken, as President of the leading country of the free world. For this and other reasons, I and members of my organization, pray for your wisdom and discernment as you undertake many new initiatives and directions for the United States.

I am writing to bring one particular request before you for your consideration. On April 24, 2020, in the middle of a difficult political campaign, you stated that we must remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923. This was a bold and courageous statement. You further stated that we must never forget or remain silent about this systematic campaign of extermination of Armenian, Assyrian, Syriac and Greek Christians in the Ottoman Empire before, during and after the First World War. Mr. President, we at Barnabas Aid, an international charitable organization for the persecuted church, could not agree more.

We respectfully ask you now, as President of the most influential country in the world for human rights and respectability, to cause the United States to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide. **In 2019 the United States House of Representatives and the Senate passed bills to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance by unanimous consent. This is a bipartisan issue of great significance.** It specifically resolved that the United States should (1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide, the killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; (2) reject efforts to associate the U.S. government with efforts to deny the existence of the Armenian Genocide or any genocide; and (3) encourage education and public understanding about the Armenian Genocide.

Many American presidents have promised to formally recognize this human tragedy, but to date, none have done it. We further recognize the challenging international political atmosphere surrounding this issue, but it is the right and just thing to do now, not only for the 1.5 million Armenian victims who died

and the 2.25 million Assyrian, Syriac and Greek victims who also died, but for all of us today to make clear that genocide of this nature should never happen again.

Mr. President, we urge you to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide, expanding this term to embrace all of the 3.75 million Christians of several ethnic backgrounds, who died in the Ottoman campaign of extermination. Make this principled stand against persecution and for human dignity and rights.

Respectfully,



The Very Rev. Cor Episcopos Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo
International Director of Barnabas Aid

We, the undersigned, fully support this letter:

The Rt. Rev. and Rt. Hon. The Lord Carey
Former Archbishop of Canterbury

His Eminence, Archbishop Dr. Vicken Aykazian
Ecumenical Director and Diocesan Legate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

His Grace, Bishop Hovakim Manukyan
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland

The Most Hon. The Marquess of Reading

The Baroness Cox, Independent member of the House of Lords

Mr. George Dunlop
Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, 2001-2009

Mr. John Marsh
Barnabas Aid Chairman, US Army (Ret), U.S. Attorney's Office (Ret)