

Email sent to Mr Luke Slattery, journalist at the Australian daily newspaper

6/11/2020

Dear Mr Slattery

Kurdish Lobby Australia (KLA) would like to thank you for your recent bold and informative article 'Let's Be Honest – Turkey is no Friend of Ours,' published on August 21, 2020 in The Australian. At the present time, we believe Turkey is acting like a rogue state and is no one's ally.

Considering Turkey's international aggression and internal dictatorial and oppressive policies, we appreciate your questioning of Australian war veterans' and other tourists' patronage of Turkey, particularly when commemorating ANZAC day at Gallipoli. We think your suggestion that ANZAC Day commemorations at Gallipoli could be shifted to the Greek Island of Lemnos is brilliant, but note there are other alternatives, including the site of the Battle of Beersheba in Israel, given it was such a decisive, brave and unique victory for Australians against the Ottoman Turks in 1917.

We would be very interested to know if you have received any response, and if so, the nature of these responses, to your suggestion of shifting the prime location for the commemoration of ANZAC day, whether from the RSL, the Department of Veterans Affairs, members of the Australian Defence Forces, and/or general public in Australia or New Zealand.

For your information we attach a KLA document marking the recent 100-year anniversary of the Treaty of Sevres. Kurds and Armenians cherish this treaty because it outlines their entitlement to a nation state. The document describes how Turkey blocked their aspirations, which is another reason for moving the focus of ANZAC day away from Turkey.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Buckley

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