

Email: [kurdishlobbyaus@gmail.com](mailto:kurdishlobbyaus@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.kurdishlobbyaustralia.com](http://www.kurdishlobbyaustralia.com)



Kurdish Lobby Australia

Postal Address:  
Suite 401, Level 4,  
5 Celebration Drive, Bella Vista  
NSW 2153 Australia

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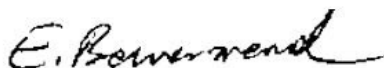
The Hon Mr Scott Morrison  
Prime Minister of Australia  
[scott.morrison.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:scott.morrison.mp@aph.gov.au)

Kurdish Lobby Australia writes in support of the Armenian community in Australia and their request that the Australian Government formally recognise the systematic massacre and forced displacement causing starvation of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923 as an act of State orchestrated genocide. In recognising this terrible time in history for Armenians the Australian Government would put Australia in the company of 32 other countries that recognise what happened as a genocide, including our close allies the USA, Canada, France, Italy and Germany.

All regions have dark times in their history, Australia included. If state endorsed crimes and resulting trauma are not faced and acknowledged, then there is an increased likelihood of persecution and oppression being repeated or perpetuated in another way. For instance, perhaps one reason why the modern state of Turkey has oppressed and conducted so many massacres against Kurds since 1923 is that the Republic of Turkey has been unwilling to recognise the seriousness of the crimes perpetrated against Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks during Ottoman times, even though modern Turkey ostensibly distinguished itself from the Ottoman empire. However, under Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the distinction was made by emphasising Turkish nationalism, which developed into a racist supremacist ideology that created a state where non-Turks were treated as second class citizens. Turkey's denial of what happened to Armenians and others is even more worrying the more Turkey's Executive President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan marries this nationalism, with Islamism and the glorification of the Ottoman era.

Hence, on the 106<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide, Kurdish Lobby Australia requests the Australian government officially acknowledge the Armenian genocide. This may lead to constructive diplomatic engagement not only about what happened to Armenians in Turkey in the early twentieth century, but what is currently happening with Turkey's on-going military offensives against Kurds in Turkey, Syria and Iraq, its ethnic cleansing of Kurds, Armenians and Assyrians in Turkish occupied Syria..

Yours Sincerely,



Eziz Bawermend BSc MBA  
Co-Chair President  
Kurdish Lobby Australia



Dr Gina Lennox BSc PhD  
Co-Chair Public Officer  
Kurdish Lobby Australia