

Report:**Turkey Entices U.S. Scholars, Lawmakers
To Cover Up WWI Genocide**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA-- A network of U.S. scholars funded by the government of Turkey is part of an energetic campaign to cover up the Turkish genocide of as many as 1.5 million Armenians during World War I, an effort that has found success in Congress and the White House, according to the latest issue of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Report, released today.

Despite abundant documentation and eyewitness accounts of the slaughter of Armenians by Turkey's Ottoman government between 1915 and 1918, the current Turkish government has paid lobbyists and funded the network of American academics, many of whom dismiss or rationalize the killing. Genocide scholars agree that the slaughter was, indeed, a genocide.

"What we are seeing is a despicable rewriting of history aimed at absolving the perpetrators of mass murder and demonizing their victims," said Mark Potok, editor of the SPLC's Intelligence Report, a quarterly investigative journal that monitors the radical right. "It is no different than the Holocaust denial of Nazi sympathizers who claim there were no gas chambers at Auschwitz and Treblinka."

The summer 2008 issue of the Intelligence Report can be read at www.splcenter.org.

The cover story recounts a March 2007 event where Guenter Lewy, a professor emeritus of political science at the University of Massachusetts, told a Harvard University audience that the Turkish government at the time may have been guilty of ineptness and "bungling misrule" — but not genocide. Lewy, one of the most active members of the network of academics, has made similar revisionist claims

in speeches at other campuses and in his 2005 book, *The Armenian Massacres in Ottoman Turkey: A Disputed Genocide*.

As early as 1985, Turkey bought full-page newspaper advertisements to publish a letter questioning the genocide that was signed by 69 American scholars. All 69 had received funding that year from the Turkish government or its proxies.

As the only Muslim-dominated country in a troubled region to call the United States and Israel its allies, Turkey also has wielded significant political influence in Washington. Last fall, lobbyists on the Turkish payroll stymied a congressional resolution commemorating the genocide by persuading more than 100 lawmakers to reverse their positions. Even President Bush flip-flopped on a 2000 campaign promise to back official U.S. recognition of the genocide.

"Denial is the final stage of genocide," Gregory Stanton, president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, told the Intelligence Report. "It is a continuing attempt to destroy the victim group psychologically and culturally, to deny its members even the memory of the murders of their relatives. That is what the Turkish government today is doing to Armenians around the world."

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit organization that combats hate, intolerance and discrimination through education, litigation and advocacy. The Intelligence Report is a quarterly investigative journal that tracks the activities of hate groups and monitors militia and other extremist anti-government activity. For more information, visit www.splcenter.org.

OSCE Issues Final Election Report

Continued from page 1

port released by the observers representing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe concluded that serious irregularities witnessed by them after the closure of the polls "devalued the overall election process."

"Thus the OSCE has effectively abandoned its previous evaluations legitimizing Armenia's recent presidential elections, something which was demanded by the Popular Move-

ment," the opposition said in a statement.

The statement said the observers' initial conclusion that the presidential ballot was administered "mostly in accordance" with democratic standards only emboldened the authorities to use lethal force against opposition protesters. "Had the evaluations been objective right from the beginning, the regime would not have dared to take the criminal step of slaughtering its own people," it claimed.

Court Refuses To Reinstate Fired Diplomats

Continued from page 1

post-electoral processes," the presiding judge, Hovsep Bedevian, said, reading out the verdict.

Bedevian said that in issuing their statement Karapetian and his colleagues acted "not as ordinary citizens." "The plaintiffs were relieved of their duties not for having political opinions but for

disseminating those political opinions by exploiting their positions, something which is forbidden by law," he said.

Karapetian claimed that their lawsuit was rejected under pressure from the government and the Foreign Ministry in particular. "I believe that the verdict is not fair," he told RFE/RL. He said he is likely to appeal.

Uh'ville Nurse Witnessed Armenian Tragedy

By Jon Baker
The Times-Dover, OH

While working as a Red Cross nurse in Armenia just after World War I, Blanche Knox of Uhrichsville saw things no person should ever have to see.

Knox, an 1889 graduate of Uhrichsville High, arrived in the country in April 1919 at a time when the Armenian people were starving.

"Truly this is the place that God forgot," she wrote to a relative in Uhrichsville from the city of Alexandropol. "You cannot imagine the awfulness of the scenes in this town.

People dying on the streets of starvation, almost naked, homeless and starving."

Knox was working for the American Committee for the Relief of the Near East. The agency funneled millions of dollars of food into Armenia to aid a people left utterly destitute by years of war and the chaos brought on by the collapse of the Russian Empire, of which Armenia was a part.

Christian Armenia enjoyed a brief period of independence while Knox was working there, but it was at war with many of its Muslim neighbors.

"In one refugee building yesterday one man cried out: 'Give us bread or kill us,'" Knox wrote in a letter that later was published in the Uhrichsville Evening Chronicle. "One family were eating dog meat — they ate like wolves."

She continued, "I saw boys of 5 and 6 ... grubbing in the short grass of the cemetery on the hill for the roots of grass to eat."

Desperation drove some people to cannibalism, Knox wrote.

Knox was assigned to help operate four orphanages in the town of Igdir. She arrived there on Good Friday, April 18.

"The streets and market place swarmed with starving, ragged, vermin-infested human creatures," she wrote.

She wrote in June of the death of one of her Red Cross co-workers, Edith Winchester, who died of typhus after being bitten by an infected body louse.

Knox also was bitten but didn't contract the disease.

As American food aid reached the Armenian people, the situation improved dramatically, and Knox was able to appreciate the beauty of Igdir, located in the vicinity of "majestic, snow-crowned" Mount Ararat.

Things got worse again in late summer.

The Kurds, enemies of the Armenians, surrounded the town on three sides. Knox began making plans to evacuate the 836 orphans in her care in case Igdir was attacked. But the evacuation was repeatedly delayed. "Since Saturday we have been ready to leave, but have been begged by the commandant of the forces here to wait two days, then just one day, for our taking the orphans out would reveal the weakness of our army and the Kurds would at once attack the town," Knox wrote on Aug. 19.

"I never have been afraid," she continued. "We Americans are in no danger, but of course the Armenian orphans are if the Kurds get in here."

The Kurds finally attacked on Sept. 11.

"I joined the long train of refugees on the Erivan road about 6 a.m. Sept. 12th perched high on a cart — a small two-wheeled cart — with six children," Knox wrote.

Knox then went to work in the orphanages and refugee hospitals in the city of Etchmiadzen.

"Our hospitals and orphanages are crowded," she wrote. "We are bathing and clothing the refugees as fast as we can."

One day in January 1920, Knox and another Red Cross nurse were informed that some men had broken into their agency's central store house.

The two women, armed with guns, went to investigate.

"We found the store house full of men, carrying out sacks of flour," she wrote back home.

The men, from a village on the plains outside of Etchmiadzen, were loading the flour onto ox carts.

Knox ordered them to stop what they were doing and to leave, using the Armenian word for hurry, "heide."

"I pointed my small pistol at them — a gun in the hands of a woman, you know — and they all 'heided,'" she later wrote.

She was relieved when soldiers arrived. "If the men had tried to resist, it would have gone hard with us," she wrote.

Knox finished her work in June and then returned to the U.S. by way of Rome.

She later worked in the Germantown Hospital at Philadelphia, where she taught nursing.

**Popular Movement Schedules First Rally
Since Crackdown**

Continued from page 1

forces and thousands of Ter-Petrosian supporters protesting against official results of last February's disputed presidential election. The violence left at least ten people dead and nearly 200 others injured, leading to the

The authorities maintained their de facto ban on opposition protests after the end of emergency rule imposed for 20-days in the capital, by enacting controversial amendments to Armenia's law on public gatherings. Bowing to Western pressure, the Armenian parliament passed in the first reading last month a bill easing those restrictions.

However, the Popular Movement insisted on Tuesday that the changes are "cosmetic." Its statement said the regime of Serzh Sarkisian has also failed to meet other demands of the PACE resolution such as the launch of an independent inquiry into the March 1 violence and the release of political prisoners.

Speaking at a news conference, Zurabian would not say what the Ter-Petrosian-led opposition will do if the police again cordon off Liberty Square and surrounding streets in the city center. He said only that the opposition would hold the authorities responsible for violent incidents that could occur on June 20.