

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2009

Mr. Hirair Hovnanian
Chairman
Armenian Assembly of America
Suite 200
1334 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Hovnanian:

Thank you for your letter in support of the normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey. I believe this historic process has important benefits for the future of both countries.

I agree that normalization between Armenia and Turkey should move forward without preconditions and within a reasonable timeframe. On October 10, Secretary Clinton represented the United States at the historic signing of the protocols providing a framework for normalization. We continue to support Armenia and Turkey as they move ahead to fulfill the promise of normalization.

Regarding the past, I deeply appreciate your views on what is one of the great atrocities of the 20th century. As I said in my Remembrance Day message, my view of that history has not changed. My interest remains the achievement of a full, frank, and just acknowledgement of the facts. I believe that the best way to advance that goal is for the Armenian and Turkish people to address the facts of the past as part of their efforts to move forward. We will continue to vigorously support the normalization effort in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written over a large, loopy circular flourish.