

State of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
John Lynch, Governor

A Proclamation

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915

WHEREAS, on April 24 1915 – 1923, the Young Turk government of the Ottoman Empire began a systematic, premeditated genocide of the Armenian people – an unarmed Christian minority living under Turkish rule; and

WHEREAS, more than 1.3 – 1.5 million Armenians were exterminated through direct killing, starvation, torture, and forced death marches. Another million fled into permanent exile and an ancient civilization was expunged from their homeland of 2,500 years; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide is abundantly documented by Ottoman court-martial records, by hundreds of thousands of documents in the archives of the United States and nations around the world; and

WHEREAS, after 90 years the Turkish government continues to deny the genocide by blaming the victims and undermining historical fact with false rhetoric. The words “Armenian” and “Greek” are nonexistent in Turkish descriptions of ancient or Christian artifacts and monuments in Turkey; and

WHEREAS, it is important to remember that when Raphael Lemkin coined the word “genocide” in 1944 he cited the 1915 annihilation of the Armenians as a seminal example of genocide; and

WHEREAS, the denial of genocide strives to reshape history in order to demonize the victims and rehabilitate the perpetrators; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Association of Genocide Scholars, the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide (Jerusalem), and the Institute for the Study of Genocide (NYC) have reaffirmed the extermination of the Armenians by the Turkish government as genocide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN LYNCH, GOVERNOR of the state of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **APRIL 24, 2005** as a day to **COMMEMORATE THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915** in New Hampshire.

Given at the Executive Chamber
in Concord, this 8th day of April, in the
year of Our Lord two thousand and five,
and the independence of the United
States of America, two hundred and
twenty-nine.

John H. Lynch
Governor