



**BRUCE FEIN** ATTORNEY AT LAW

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October 20, 2000

Honorable Ann Aldrich  
United States District Judge  
Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division  
United States Courthouse  
201 Superior Avenue, N.E.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Attention: Barb Spur, Clerk

Re: United States v. Mourad Topalian (Case No. 1:99CR358)

Dear Judge Aldrich:

Enclosed is a document that I respectfully request that you consider as a memorandum or letter (whichever is most appropriate) concerning the sentencing of the Defendant in the above-captioned case. I am grateful for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce Fein

Attorney for the Assembly of Turkish American Associations

cc: Emily M. Sweeny  
United States Attorney  
1800 Bank One Center  
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Mark J. Geragos, Esquire  
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO. 1:00CR358
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	JUDGE ANN ALDRICH
MOURAD TOPALIAN,	)	
Defendant.	)	

MEMORANDUM OR LETTER  
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS  
IN AID OF SENTENCING IN THE NATURE OF  
A VICTIMS' IMPACT STATEMENT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) CASE NO. 1:00CR358  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. ) JUDGE ANN ALDRICH  
MOURAD TOPALIAN, )  
Defendant. )

MEMORANDUM OR LETTER  
IN AID OF SENTENCING IN THE NATURE OF  
A VICTIMS' IMPACT STATEMENT

Comes now the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) by and through its counsel, Bruce Fein, and respectfully submits this Memorandum in conjunction with this Honorable Court's November 9, 2000 sentencing of Defendant pursuant to a plea agreement filed on May 11, 2000 under Rule 11(e)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

ATAA requests that this Honorable Court treat this document as a letter if it is deemed improper as a Memorandum. ATAA does not claim status as a victim under section 3555 of Title 18, or standing as a party to this case for any purpose whatsoever. We submit these facts and observations to assist this Honorable Court in determining a proper sentence for Defendant, and intend no encroachment on the lawful prerogatives of the United States of America and Defendant in the sentencing proceeding.

I. Introduction

1. ATAA, located at 1526 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., is a District of Columbia non-profit organization which serves as an umbrella organization to over 50 local Turkish American organizations representing over 200,000 individuals

throughout the United States. ATAA protects the rights and promotes the welfare of Turkish Americans.

2. ATAA has been especially concerned with coercion, violence and intimidation of Turkish Americans by those Armenian Americans psychologically and emotionally fixated on advancing their view (to the exclusion of all others) about the claimed Armenian genocide, described as "the Cause" in the indictment of Defendant. His crimes raise our concern.

3. As the attached "Chronicle of Armenian Terrorism in North American and Elsewhere" (See Exhibit A to Affidavit of Mr. Tolga Cubukcu) describes, hundreds of terrorist acts have been perpetrated by Armenians against Turkish Americans, Turkish diplomats, and Turkish property around the world for the past three decades, although the frequency has diminished during the last ten years.

4. Defendant's terrorist acts, which led to his plea agreement, flow within this torrential river of Armenian terrorist villainy that intimidates and frightens the Turkish American community. (See Affidavit of Mr. Tolga Cubukcu (Tab 1).)

## II. Defendant's Character, Crimes, and their Pernicious Effects on the Turkish American Community

5. Defendant is a prominent leader within the Armenian American community. Armenian American youths and adults consider him a hero and role model. On September 24, 2000, for example, Defendant was crowned with the "Freedom Award" in Encino, California, by the Armenian National Committee of America, Western Region. An announcement for the award banquet declared, "For more than three decades, Mourad Topalian has been one of the most active, visible and consistent public advocates for the Armenian

Cause. Against powerful opposition and at great personal sacrifice, he has advanced the cause of liberty and justice for the Armenian nation and championed the increased involvement of Armenian Americans in the American political process." (See Affidavit of Mr. Tolga Cubukcu, Exhibit E.)

6. The Asbarez Daily, the official publication of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Western USA Central Committee, described Defendant's stardom within the Armenian American community as follows, "[Topalian] served on the Governing Board of Directors of the Armenian Assembly of America for more than six years, while also serving as the Political Director of the Armenian National Committee of America from 1975-1979. ... As a recognized leader of ANCA, Topalian became the national chairman of the organization in 1991, and continued in that capacity until 1999. As Chairman of the ANCA, Topalian represented the Armenian American community in the highest levels of the US government. ... Having cultivated close relationships with senior administration officials, including the National Security Council members, Topalian was at all times consulted on any policy issues relating to Armenia, Ngorno-Karabakh and the Caucuses in general." (See Affidavit of Mr. Tolga Cubukcu, Exhibit B.)

7. Defendant received a 1996 White House coffee invitation from President Clinton, testifying to his political prominence. (See Exhibit A to this Memorandum.)

8. The Armenian American community continues to venerate Defendant even in the aftermath of his guilty plea. On May 12, 2000, Counsel for Defendant, Mark J. Geragos, was quoted by AP as follows, "Clearly this guy is a hero in the Armenian community and I don't think anyone would call him a terrorist." Defendant attended fund raising concerts and events with convicted Armenian terrorist, Karnig Sarkissian, who had received a five-year prison

sentence for planning to bomb the Turkish Consulate in Philadelphia. (See Exhibits A and B to this Memorandum.)

9. Defendant has remained silent over the hundreds of Armenian terrorist incidents against Turkey, Turkish government property, and Turkish Americans spanning decades. Indeed, it seems that Defendant has never uttered a single syllable against Armenian terrorism perpetrated in the name of "the Cause," including the notorious terrorist organizations, the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) and the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide (JCAG). Defendant also has said nothing adverse about the memorial for the "martyrs" of ASALA unveiled in Armenia last April featuring ASALA terrorist Abraham Tovmassian. (See Exhibit C to this Memorandum.) Defendant's conspicuous silence about Armenian terrorism, coupled with his virtual boasting over the crimes to which he pleaded guilty, constitute tacit endorsement of violence, threats, intimidation, coercion, and harassment against Turkey and Turkish Americans as retaliation for the latter's exercise of their free speech rights to voice non-Armenian orthodoxies about the "the Cause."

10. Such tacit endorsement encourages certain elements of the Armenian American community to acts of vengeance or hatred against Turkish Americans for either rejecting the claims of Armenians regarding "the Cause" or for celebrating their own ethnic heritage.

11. The affidavit of Mr. Karahan Mete, a Turkish immigrant, describes the suppression by Armenian Americans of his attempt to voice an opposing view at an October 24, 1998, "International Genocide" Conference. He states, "I was the final speaker on the panel. Soon after I approached the podium and began to speak, certain Armenian American members of the audience began screaming and yelling obscenities in English as well as broken Turkish. Two

young Armenian Americans rushed at me, yelling obscenities and waving their fists. This caused me to stop my speech and duck behind the podium for protection. ... Although I resumed my speech without further interruption, the entire incident stole from my allotted time, and upset me emotionally, and derailed my train of thought. Gripped with fear, I was unable to continue and I cut my speech short. The moderator ... agreed that I should leave the premises immediately to avoid potential physical harm and harassment to myself and others. I was also urged not to attend the remainder of the conference or the closing banquet. Instead, I left as directed in utter terror."

"Over fifty people attended the panel "Post-Genocide." Only myself and one other Turkish American were present. Based on past anti-Turkish violence by Armenian Americans in California, the remainder of the Turkish American community of Sacramento had decided not to attend the conference for fear of physical harm due to their ethnic Turkish identity and disagreement with the Armenian allegation of genocide." (See Affidavit of Mr. Karahan Mete (Tab 2).)

12. The affidavit of Bonnie Joy Kaslan, a United States citizen and Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey, recites a chilling pattern of threats and violence against her person by Armenian Americans that began when she married a Turkish gentleman from Istanbul and became Honorary Consul General. (See Affidavit of Ms. Bonnie Joy Kaslan (Tab 3).) Subparagraphs (e) and (f) of paragraph 8 recount, "I attended the trial of the "L.A. Five," in which Armenian American youths were convicted of conspiring to conduct a bomb assassination of the Philadelphia Honorary Turkish Consul General, Mr. Kanat Arbay. These youths, who were recruited from the Armenian Youth Federation which is based in Boston, were allegedly directed by Mr. Mourad Topalian.

The FBI linked the "L.A. Five" to over a dozen bombings in southern California between 1980 and 1982 as well as the assassination of Turkish Consul General, Mr. Kemal Arikan. At the time of the trial, the Armenian National Committee of America's (the organization of which Defendant Mourad Topalian was chairman at the time of his arrest) local representative Leon Kirakosian "condemned this effort by the FBI and local police agencies to do Turkish dirty work against the Armenian people." Unbeknownst to me, Armenian American terrorists, activists, and their sympathizers not only followed me from the court house to the residence where I was staying, they breached the premises, causing a Los Angeles SWAT team to intervene. This incident was particularly terrorizing as a group of men dressed in black combat clothes entered the residence at 3 a.m., shook me from my sleep, and hurried me through the building to a vehicle which sped off through side streets to a secure location."

"Upon the prudent advice of law enforcement officers who work 24 hours a day to minimize the possibility of violence against me, for the past 15 years I hold a permit granted by my local sheriff's office to carry a concealed weapon. In addition, I maintain two specially trained Doberman Pinscher dogs. The legal and ethical responsibilities of maintaining such a weapon permit and guard dogs, and the horrifying possibility that I may one day have to rely on my weapon or guard dogs for protection from terrorism and life-threatening anti-Turkish ethnic violence by Armenian American elements, weighs heavily on my mind, emotions, and body."

13. The affidavit of Mr. Koray Incki, President of the University of Southern California Turkish Students Association, recounts an attack on a "Turkish Night" student celebration by Armenian Americans clothed with black t-shirts sporting the



signature slogan of Armenian terrorists, "Turkey is guilty of genocide." The attack caused "Turkish Night" to end prematurely.

(See Affidavit of Mr. Koray Incki (Tab 4) and Affidavit of Mr. Erdal Atrek (Tab 5).)

14. The affidavit of Dr. Belig Berkoz recounts the physical and verbal harassment of his wife by Armenian women during her attendance at the first-degree murder trial of Armenian American, Mr. Yanikan, charged with killing his relative, Mr. Bahadir Demir, Consul General of Turkey. His wife was told by Armenian Americans to "get out of there, this is an Armenian trial, you have no business being here...." The affiant also notes: "During the trial bus loads of Armenian American children, aged 7-13, would be transported from Los Angeles area and when Mr. Yanikian was escorted to the room they would rise in unison to greet a man who was their hero just because he had murdered two innocent men." (See Affidavit of Mr. Belig Berkoz (Tab 6).)

15. The affidavit of Sema Karaoglu, Vice President of ATAA, recounts her intimidation from speaking about California state pension fund investments in Turkey in a public forum stemming from the palpable hostility of Armenian Americans in the audience. (See Affidavit of Ms. Sema Karaoglu (Tab 7) at ¶ 5.)

16. The affidavit of Mr. Husamettin Ovunc recounts two incidents of Armenian American threats and harassment for participating in events celebrating his Turkish heritage and culture. (See Affidavit of Mr. Husamettin Ovunc (Tab 8) at ¶ 10.) Several other Turkish American events were canceled because of Armenian American threats of violence.

17. In sum, the Armenian American terrorism against Turkey and Turkish Americans to which Defendant impenitently pleaded guilty and which he endorses by silence generates an ugly twofold evil against all Turkish Americans: it intimidates a substantial

percentage from exercising their constitutional rights of free speech and association not only regarding the Armenian allegation of genocide, but also regarding apolitical celebrations of their ethnicity and cultural heritage; and, it breeds additional acts of Armenian American terrorism, threats, and harassment against Turkey and Turkish Americans fueled by "the Cause." Indeed, the "L.A. Five" defendants claimed that their immersion or indoctrination in "the Cause" "clouded" their judgments and precipitated their terrorist crimes of attempting to blow up a Turkish diplomat in Philadelphia. (See Exhibit D to this Memorandum.)

18. Defendant's crimes were tantamount to hate crimes against the Turkish American community. They were calculated to frighten, intimidate, and terrorize Turkish Americans from exercising their constitutional rights of free speech and association unless they endorse the Armenian genocide orthodoxy. Turkish Americans are thus reduced by the likes of Defendant to the subjugated status of blacks during Jim Crow, who were likewise assaulted, terrorized, and even killed for seeking to exercise their constitutional rights to vote and to speak in favor of non-discrimination and desegregation.

19. Armenian Americans enjoy ample peaceful methods to promote "the Cause." Indeed, they have succeeded in 24 state legislatures in obtaining resolutions memorializing "the Cause;" and, approximately 15 state legislatures now mandate public school instruction in "the Cause," even to the exclusion of the Turkish viewpoint. In Massachusetts, for instance, Armenian sponsors of the curriculum legislation worked with the Department of Education "to remove the Turkish 'point-of-view' of the Genocide from this curriculum." (See Exhibit E to this Memorandum.) Moreover, the United States House of Representatives is poised to vote on a non-

binding resolution ,H. Res. 596, that would endorse the Armenian genocide claim. Thus, Armenian Americans have no justification for resorting to violence to advance "the Cause" on the theory that peaceful alternatives are thwarted in the United States.

20. Moreover, Defendant's claim that his crimes were defensive in nature is discredited by the striking absence of any Turkish or Turkish American retaliation against Armenians or Armenian Americans in retaliation for their promotion of "the Cause," whether through violence, terror or infringement on their exercise of constitutional rights of free speech and association.

21. The lawless atmosphere in the Armenian American community fostered by Defendant and his confraternity pursuing "the Cause" is illustrated by a Commentary column by Moorad Mooradian in the Armenian Mirror-Spectator, March 25, 2000. (See Exhibit F to this Memorandum.) He is unable to distinguish between due process of law and vigilante justice, and confounds the two. Mr. Mooradian writes, "Indeed, Armenian avengers did kill the Turks who planned and implemented the Genocide. But they were the ones whom the Turkish Tribunal after World War I found guilty of crimes against humanity and were condemned to death by the Turks themselves. Theoretically, they would have been hanged had they been apprehended in Turkey, but the condemned men fled to other parts of the world. Calling the avengers terrorists is likening the Israeli government to being a terrorist for having snatched Adolph Eichmann from Argentina and hanging him. The procedure for vengeance was different but the outcome was the same." (emphasis added). Mr. Mooradian also corroborates that championing "the Cause" precipitates anti-Turkish vengeance by Armenians against Turkey. He rationalizes, "...there were Armenian groups that assassinated Turkish diplomats in the 1970s and 80s. Yes, the assassins did act out of grievances stemming

from the Genocide. But these were the direct results of Turkish denials that have made the 1915 Genocide a continuing genocide...."

22. The vast majority of Armenian Americans, nevertheless, are law-abiding citizens despite the call to arms or intimidation against Turkish Americans by Defendant and his circle of avengers of "the Cause."

23. ATAA submits the attached survey of sentences received by convicted Armenian terrorists whose crimes targeted Turkey or Turkish Americans for consideration by this Honorable Court. (Exhibit G to this Memorandum.) ATAA believes the most parallel case is that of the "L.A. Five," who received prison sentences of 6 years, 5 1/2 years, 5 years, 4 years, and 4 years, respectively, for the attempted killing of the Turkish Consul General in Philadelphia.

24. ATAA thus respectfully requests this Honorable Court to consider these views and facts in sentencing the Defendant.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Fein, Attorney for ATAA

October \_\_\_\_\_, 2000

Armenian -American activist admits storing explosives

05/12/2000

Associated Press Newswires

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CLEVELAND (AP) - A prominent Armenian -American activist - labeled as a terrorist leader by federal prosecutors - has pleaded guilty to storing stolen explosives and possessing two machine guns.

Mourad Topalian, 57, of Shaker Heights, entered the plea Thursday in U.S. District Court. As part of a plea bargain, a conspiracy count and two other felony charges were dismissed.

He could get three years in prison at his sentencing Nov. 9.

The charges stem from the discovery of guns and more than 45 kilograms (100 pounds) of explosives at a rental storage facility in suburban Bedford in 1996.

Federal prosecutors contend that the explosives had been stored there since 1980 after Topalian arranged to have them stolen from a mine near Kalkaska, Michigan.

In a court filing last week, prosecutors said Topalian provided explosives and instructions for the bombing of the Turkish mission to the United Nations in New York in 1980.

The indictment against Topalian also mentioned two 1981 California bombings - at the Orange County Convention Center in Anaheim and the Turkish consulate in Beverly Hills - in which no one was hurt. The indictment did not specify whether Topalian was involved.

Defense lawyer Mark J. Geragos said Topalian agreed to plead guilty after weighing the possible life sentence he could have received had the case gone to trial.

"Clearly this guy is a hero in the Armenian community and I don't think anyone would call him a terrorist," Geragos said. "He has been a consistent, loud and inspiring voice for a community."

Topalian has been an activist for Armenian causes. His political activism and his chairmanship of the Armenian National Committee of America gave him entree with high-level officials, including President Bill Clinton, who invited him to a White House coffee in 1996.

He was hired as Cuyahoga Community College's vice president of development last July. He was placed on leave after his indictment in October and quit in February.

The Cleveland college said a search committee had reviewed Topalian's application and a background check revealed nothing because Topalian had no criminal record.

*United Press International September 6, 1988, Tuesday, AM cycle*

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September 6, 1988, Tuesday, AM cycle

**SECTION:** Regional News

**LENGTH:** 442 words

**HEADLINE:** Armenian terrorist loses retrial bid

**BYLINE:** By PAMELA A. MacLEAN

**DATELINE:** SAN FRANCISCO

**BODY:**

A federal appeals court Tuesday refused to allow a new trial for one of five Armenian terrorists convicted of conspiracy in a thwarted 1982 plan to bomb a Turkish consulate in Philadelphia.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a lower court order for a new trial in the case of Viken Yacoubian, ruling the government did not withhold psychiatric information from the defense.

The ruling means Yacoubian may be returned to federal district court in Los Angeles for sentencing, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Terree Bowers.

"It has been a long hard road," Bowers said, adding he hoped to have Yacoubian sentenced as soon as possible.

Yacoubian was one of five men convicted of conspiracy to transport explosives and possession of unregistered firearms after the FBI searched their luggage at Boston airport and found explosives.

U.S. District Judge Mariana Pfaelzer ordered a new trial before Yacoubian could be sentenced on the jury trial conviction. She found that the government withheld from the defense that psychiatrist, Dr. Nancy Kaser-Boyd had reviewed Yacoubian's examination results to aid government psychiatrist, Dr. Michael Maloney.

The convictions of three others during the same trial, **Karnig Sarkissian**, then 37, Steven Dadaian, then age 19 and Viken Hovsepien, then 22, were upheld by the same appeals court in March.

A fifth Armenian was convicted and sentenced in a separate trial.

Hovsepien was sentenced to six years in prison, Sarkissian five years and Dadaian four years.

Yacoubian's attorney Michael Lightfoot refused to speculate about what the ruling will mean to his client. "It is premature. I will have to see the decision and figure it out," he said.

All four men were believed to be members of the Justice Commandoes of the

### Armenian Genocide.

The group is suspected of 21 assassinations worldwide and numerous bombings of Turkish targets, including a Los Angeles killing in January 1982, another in Boston in May 1982 and a third in Ottawa, Canada in August 1982, according to the FBI.

All four claimed during their trial to suffer from a mental disorder as a result of exposure to stories of the historical genocide of Armenian people by the government of Turkey, according to the court ruling.

The arrests came as a result of an FBI wiretap granted in secret by the United States Foreign Surveillance Court and placed on Hovsepian's Santa Monica home.

Agents discovered the plot to deliver a bomb to the honorary Turkish consulate in Philadelphia through a contact in Boston.

Yacoubian was accused of helping to plan the attack and locating the Turkish consulate in Philadelphia.

*The Associated Press, January 25, 1985*

The Associated Press

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January 25, 1985, Friday, AM cycle

**SECTION:** Domestic News

**LENGTH:** 334 words

**HEADLINE:** Three Sentenced In Planned Bombing

**BYLINE:** By LINDA DEUTSCH, Associated Press Writer

**DATELINE:** LOS ANGELES

**BODY:**

Three Armenian activists were sentenced Friday to prison terms of up to six years for planning to bomb the Turkish Consulate in Philadelphia.

No bombing occurred, but U.S. District Judge Mariana Pfaelzer, in imposing the sentences, nevertheless said the plot "was a methodically planned act of terrorism.... I am convinced it was not amateurish."

A fourth defendant in the case, Viken Yacoubian, 21, was not sentenced because he was granted a further hearing on his claim that he was insane when he joined the others in planning to bomb the consulate in 1982.

Defense attorneys argued that the men were compelled to act by their anguish over the massacre of Armenians by Turks in 1915. The Turkish government denies a massacre occurred.

Ms. Pfaelzer, after five hours of arguments in a court packed with Turkish-Americans and Armenians, rejected defense attorneys' pleas that the three sentenced Friday be released on probation.

She also rejected prosecution arguments that the four receive the maximum sentence of 25 years for their conspiracy convictions.

"This case involves a terrible tragedy which has caused anguish for all of the families," she said. "I have no doubt the defendants are persons of good character and are very unlikely to commit these acts again."

But, she said, "We have to be sure these acts are not committed in our society, and there is a deterrent effect that must be considered."

She sentenced the alleged ringleader of the group, Viken Hovsepian, 24, to six years in prison. She also sentenced Steven Dadaian, 22, to four years in prison and **Karnig Sarkissian**, 31, to five years in prison.



All four defendants were convicted in October 1984, and had been permitted to remain free on bail.

The men were arrested in 1982 after authorities tape-recorded them planning the bombing. Three were arrested in Los Angeles by the FBI; Dadaian was arrested at Logan International Airport in Boston, where he had traveled with five sticks of dynamite in his suitcase.

*The Associated Press, October 10, 1984*

The Associated Press

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October 10, 1984, Wednesday, PM cycle

**SECTION:** Domestic News

**LENGTH:** 449 words

**HEADLINE:** Judge Finds Four Armenians Guilty Of Plotting Building Blast

**DATELINE:** LOS ANGELES

**BODY:**

Four Armenian immigrants accused of plotting to blow up the Turkish Consulate in Philadelphia have been convicted of conspiracy and other charges that could lead to prison terms of up to 20 years.

U.S. District Judge Mariana Pfaelzer issued the verdicts Tuesday against Viken Hovsepien, 24; Viken Yacoubian, 21; **Karnig Sarkissian**, 31; and Steven Dadaian, 22. Sentencing was scheduled for Dec. 11.

Dikran Berberian, 31, was also charged in the case, but is being tried separately, said court clerk Robert Flores. His trial is scheduled for Nov. 6.

The five were accused of planning to bomb the Philadelphia offices of Honorary Turkish Consul General Kanat Arbay in 1982. The FBI at that time said parts for the bomb were purchased in Los Angeles.

The five were indicted Nov. 3, 1982, on charges of conspiracy, possessing an unregistered firearm and interstate transportation of an explosive device across state lines with knowledge it would be used to intimidate or injure an individual or damage property.

"I was impressed with the testimony from the defense, but I have a legal standard to meet," Ms. Pfaelzer said in explaining her verdict during the brief court session.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Terree Bowers asked the judge to order the four defendants to jail immediately, pointing out the potentially lengthy prison terms they face.

The judge denied the request, noting their excellent bail records.

The four men were each convicted of three counts. The conspiracy charge is punishable by up to five years in federal prison. The transportation and firearms charges are each punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Sarkissian, Hovsepien, Yacoubian and Berberian were arrested at their homes in Southern California. Dadaian was arrested Oct. 22, 1982, at Logan International Airport in Boston after getting off a flight from Los Angeles.

The FBI alleged he was carrying a briefcase containing five sticks of dynamite and the makings of a time bomb.

Shortly after the arrests, FBI agents said the men were suspected members of Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide, a Beirut-based terrorist group. But none of the men was ever charged with any bombings or assassinations of Turkish diplomats for which the organization claimed responsibility.

Armenian terrorist organizations have targeted Turkish diplomats and offices in revenge for what they say was the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey in 1915. The Turkish government denies the allegations.

Between 1973 and 1984, 22 Turkish diplomats were assassinated worldwide by Armenian terrorists. The dead included the Los Angeles consul general in January 1982 and the Boston consul general in May 1982.

Memorial for the martyrs of ASALA is unveiled in Armenia

**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Armenian Popular Movement**

**Representative in Armenia**

**Contact: Vasken Pedrossian**

**Address: Leo Street 13, Apt.7**

**Yerevan, Armenia**

**e-mail: [apm@ace.am](mailto:apm@ace.am)**

The Armenian Popular Movement Armenian Representation organized a series of events, from April 22-25, dedicated to the 85th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and the 25th anniversary of the Newest Armed Liberation Struggle.

Among the Participants were the national hero of Greece, Manolis Glezos,

who took down the Nazi flag from the Acropolis in 1944, the delegate of the

Swedish Parliament Mourad Artin, the author of the article condemning the

Armenian Genocide submitted to the consideration of the Swedish Parliament

on March 29, Hans Arvidson, representative of the Leftist party of the Swedish Parliament, formerly imprisoned ASALA fighters, the families and

parents of the perished who fought in Diaspora for the sake of the Armenian

causel, top officials of the Ministry of Defense, delegates to the National

Assembly, intelligentsia, politicians, parents of the perished fighters for

Arzakh.

On April 21, the guests met the Chairman of the National Assembly Armen Khachatrian. The Chairman took the advantage to express his gratitude on

behalf of the Armenian People to the Swedish delegates, whose direct efforts led to the condemnation of the Armenian Genocide by the Swedish

Parliament.

On Sunday, April 22, at 11 o'clock, the memorial to the martyrs of the newest armed liberation struggle was unveiled in "Yerablur" cemetery. The ribbon was cut by Manolis Glezos, Artashes Keshishian (martyr Eghia Keshishian's father), and the APM Armenia's representative Vazgen Petrossian.

Vazgen Petrossian announced in his opening speech: "...erecting this memorial and the presence of the ashes in the Motherland is not a mere tribute to their memory, it is the symbol of the power that is able to remedy the distortions and the...of the existing reality. This power has multiple directions and can be altered if necessary and take on new ways and methods of struggle in order to serve the settlement and the realization of new

goals, as successfully as it has served its first goal." Given the floor, the ASALA fighter Abraham Tovmassian got too excited to speak.

Then the adviser of the Ministry of Defense, legendary hero of the Arzakh war, and commander of the Shushi liberation, major-general Arkady Ter-Tadevosian (Komandos) stated in his speech " ...we must take a lesson from those fighters who proved that great deeds can be done by few". Manolis Ghlezos, the national hero of Greece stated "...the Memorial is the proof of the inflexible will of the Armenian people". Then, the parents of the martyrs and those present made speeches.

The memorial was unveiled by the major-general A.Ter-Tadevosian, with national music played by the band of the Ministry of Defense . Then the memorial was blessed.

At 1 o'clock, the same day, at the Holy See the guests were received by His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II.

At 2 o'clock the guests met the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. V. Oskanian and discussed bilateral relations.

The guests took part in the round table discussion on the subject of "The New World Order and the Nations' Rights".

On Sunday, April 23, at 4 o'clock, a concert was held in the Chamber Music House after Komitas dedicated to the martyrs of the Newest Armed Liberation Struggle. The young artists were the descendants of the perished of the Arzakh war.

On Monday, April 24, the guests visited and put flowers at the eternal flame of Tsitsernakaberd, as a tribute to the victims of Great Genocide.

At the same day, in the Armenian Popular Movement's headquarter, the guests met the delegates of the National Assembly, the representatives of Armenian political parties, later they participated in the press conference, which was attendet by the armenian TV stations.

On Tuesday, April 25, the feature film "Cell N-7160" dedicated to the life and the trial of the old hero Gourgen Yanikyan was shown at the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia.

26 April 2000

Armenian Popular Movement  
Representation of Armenia

*THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER July 12, 1988 Tuesday*

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THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

July 12, 1988 Tuesday EVENING EDITION

**SECTION:** METRO; Pg. B05

**LENGTH:** 603 words

**HEADLINE:** Terrorists win cut in prison time;  
3 Armenian-Americans were guilty of bomb plot

**BYLINE:** Adam Dawson, The Register

**DATELINE:** LOS ANGELES, CA

**BODY:**

A federal judge Monday approved a plan of community service enabling three convicted Armenian-American terrorists to cut one year each from their prison terms.

Each must perform 1,000 hours of free work in the Armenian community in return for the reduction in their prison terms, which which start Sept. 20, almost six years after their arrests.

The trio were among five arrested in October 1982 on charges that they tried to blow up a Turkish diplomat in Philadelphia. The plot was foiled when FBI agents, who had been watching the five, intercepted the bomb at Boston's Logan's Airport. There they arrested one of the five.

The others, including **Karnig Sarkissian**, 35, of Anaheim Hills, were taken into custody in Southern California.

Sarkissian, who operates a dry-cleaning business, and three others were convicted by US District Judge Marianna Pfaelzer in 1984 on charges in the bombing.

At trial the defense disputed little of the government's evidence.

Instead, the defendants claimed their judgments were clouded by the rage Armenians feel at the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Armenians at the turn of the century in what is now Turkey. Armenian nationalists have accused the Turks of slaughtering 1.5 million of their ancestors in 1915 and 1916, when the Ottoman Empire ordered the Armenian population deported to Syria. The Turkish government denies claims of a systematic massacre, saying 300,000 Armenians were killed in the turmoil of deportations. Historians have estimated 600,000 dead.

Large numbers of Armenians rallied to the defendants' support.

Between \$ 300,000 and \$ 500,000 was contributed for the defense.

Sarkissian was sentenced to five years in prison; Viken Hovsepian, 27, of Santa Monica was sentenced to six years in prison; and Steven Dadaian, 26, of Canoga Park was sentenced to four years in prison.

The judge postponed sentencing a fourth defendant -- Viken Yacoubian, 26, of Glendale -- after ruling he was entitled to a new trial because the government failed to turn over the notes taken by a psychiatrist who examined him. Her ruling has been appealed.

The fifth person, Dikran Berberian of Glendale was convicted in 1986 after a trial in front of US District Judge Manuel Real. Berberian is serving a 5 1/2-year sentence in the federal prison at Terminal Island.

In arguing last month for reducing sentences, defense attorney Barrett Litt cited the changes in defendants.

Dadalian has graduated from law school, Hovsepian is just shy of his doctorate in international relations at USC, and Yacoubian has completed his masters in psychology at UCLA.

"It's a long time, people change," said Sarkissian, a popular Armenian folksinger.

After his release from a prison term that is expected to start Sept. 20., Sarkissian plans to teach music and develop a music curriculum at the six schools the Armenian Apostolic Church runs in California.

Hovsepian plans to work for the church's schools on improving academic standards while Dadalian plans to do legal work with the Armenian Social Service Program of the Armenian Relief Society.



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## Genocide Curriculum Needs Our Help

At a time when it seems unclear what path to follow when it comes to getting the Armenian Genocide firmly established in the minds of ordinary Americans, two brothers intensely active in local Massachusetts politics and good friends to the Armenians for years, have found a great way.

Former state Sen. Warren Tolman and his brother, state Sen. Steven Tolman (D-Boston), were instrumental in getting the Massachusetts Department of Education to adopt a school curriculum which included materials on human rights and the Armenian Genocide.

After a grassroots campaign, Massachusetts Gov. Paul Cellucci signed the 1998 Massachusetts law adding the study of the Armenian Genocide to the state's curriculum.

After consulting with specialists, the DOE produced the *Massachusetts Guide to Choosing and Using Curricular Materials on Genocide and Human Rights Issues*, which it presented to the Legislature in March 1999. Sen. Steve Tolman and the DOE with joint efforts were able to remove the Turkish "point-of-view" of the Genocide from this curriculum.

This is an excellent step in the right direction. However, we need to reach each school district to suggest the adoption of this cur-

riculum to them. While doing this, maybe we can suggest some books on the subject that the schools could use, which would be of interest to non-Armenians also.

Aside from standard historical books, there are many literary tales of the Armenian Genocide which will be of interest to young readers, especially those in high school. Certainly one of the best is *Black Dog of Fate*, by poet and Colgate University professor, Peter Balakian. The memoir, seen through the eyes of a young boy who is discovering the layers of his heritage slowly, despite societal silence on the issue, could connect with young readers. Another book could be *Zabelle*, by Watertown-born Nancy Kricorian. While Kricorian's tale is fiction, it is based on her grandmother's story, who immigrated to the United States from Turkey.

The Tolmans have done their part; the state has gone along with their plan. However, now they need the help of those of us in the community. Activists are asked to call on their school district superintendents. They can do so through the Armenian Assembly of America's website, [www.aaainc.org](http://www.aaainc.org), or through the Massachusetts Department of Education.

Let's see if we can now make a difference in what our kids learn.

## Changes Need to Be Pursued in Armenia

**T**HE NEW CABINET of the Armenian government, formed a few weeks ago, following intensive consultations was widely hailed as a consensus government capable of rebuilding the country's internal

### COMMENTARY

to fade away silently in utter disappointment and bitterness.

It is true that transport of goods is an obstacle, but those with a will have found a way,

business, so that the collective psychology driven by short-sighted self-interests opens up to the larger picture of the survival of the country and of the nation. Armenia should not be only the concern of the Diaspora or of a small number of honest and dedicated patriots of the homeland, but primarily it should be the concern of the government and of the Armenian



# Turkish Groups' Stereotyping Old Hat for Deniers

By Moorad Mooradian

**S**tung by the combined efforts of the Armenian and Greek American communities of Virginia in achieving legislative success in getting the Armenian Genocide Resolution passed, Turkish groups are attempting to stereotype the ethnic composition of the successful effort. They are already preparing to impact legislatures on the local levels by flooding them with letters of complaints. The American Turkish Association of America (ATAA) recently circulated a letter denigrating the resolution by stating that there was no mention of the alleged grand scale atrocities committed against the Turks by Armenian and Greeks in Anatolia at the beginning of the 20th century.

Earlier, the *Turkish Daily News* boasted about Turkey purchasing the services of so called high-powered lobbyists former Congressmen Robert Livingston, Gerald Solomon and Stephen Solarz. The attempt by the new Turkish registered agents to clean up Turkey's image began on March 1.

Lost upon the Turkish groups in all of the clamoring is that the only way Turkey can clean up its image is to clean up its act. This can be done by the Turkish parliament enacting a few inane laws. They would make a gigantic start by repealing the 152 laws that Turkey has on the books. They make a sham of Turkish scholarship by denying Turkey's scholars academic freedom; that suppresses the freedom of speech and press that do not comply with the party line; they deny minority and human rights in Turkey, and the list could go on.

Supposedly, Turkish Americans and their friends must battle against strong lobby groups aligned against Turkish development. These groups are lumped together as the Greek, Armenian, Greek-Cypriot, and fledgling Kurdish lobbies. Armenians and Greeks are highlighted for special mention on the Turkish opposition that the Greeks and Armenians began arriving in the early 1900s while the Turkish groups lay fallow until recent years.

It was alleged that the recently passed resolution in Virginia portrayed all Turks as barbarians. Of course, there was no such implication. What the resolution pointed out were the realities of the Genocide in 1915-23 and the fact that every Turkish government since then has denied the culpability of the Turks who perpetrated the crimes against humanity.

Indeed, Armenian avengers did kill the Turks who planned and implemented the Genocide. But they were the ones whom the Turkish Tribunal after World War I found guilty of crimes against humanity and were condemned to death by the Turks themselves. Theoretically, they would have been hanged had they been apprehended in Turkey, but the condemned men fled to other parts of the world. Calling the avengers terrorists is likening the Israeli government to being terrorist for having snatched Adolph Eichmann from Argentina and hanging him. The procedure for vengeance was different but the outcome was the same.

totally obscene comment that more Turks than Armenians died in World War I is too

ludicrous to argue. Of course more Turks died—they fought against the Arab nations, Greeks, Russians, British, French, Italians, and the Allied forces.

What the Turkish groups are trying to do is old hat for deniers. They attempt to throw in small portions of facts, out of context, in order to raise doubt. The most obvious tactic is to make the Armenians and the Greeks out as anti-Turkish fanatics who consort with terrorists.

While the Turkish groups claim that they do not want the perpetuation of hatred between Armenians and Greeks on one side and Turks on the other, they are adopting stereotyping of Armenians and Greeks that raises barriers to effective communication to resolve problems.

As an example, there were Armenian groups that assassinated Turkish diplomats in the 1970s and 80s. Yes, the assassins did act out of grievances stemming from the Genocide. But these were the direct results of Turkish denials that have made the 1915 Genocide a continuing genocide; the longest genocide in history. Most genocide scholars call denial the last chapter of any genocide. If the denial of the Genocide is the last chapter, it stands to reason that the book on the Armenian Genocide is not closed. The Armenians do not want it to continue, but recognition of what was done by the Turks must be admitted and followed by apologies.

Few Armenians justified the 1980s manner of redress. Yet, the Turkish groups discuss the period as though the international Armenian community took directions from one power. Armenia itself was under Soviet domination and the diaspora was spread among many disparate organizations. It is a misnomer to speak of Armenian terrorism; it is more accurate to speak of individual groups that purported to act for Armenians.

Now the Turkish image cleansers speak of Armenian and Greek efforts in support of human rights, and opposition to rewriting Armenian-Greek-Turkish history. They cloud the issues with chaff. There is no logic, except for confusion, to align the resolution's success with terrorism. The latter does not erase the reality of the former and terrorism did not lead to a genocide; the Genocide and its denials spurred the impetus for revenge. When the Armenians, Greeks, and Kurds are evaluated in the same paragraph with a denunciation of terrorists, it is a crude device to stereotype the three ethnic groups as creatures of violence. It is an unsophisticated ploy to detract from the real issues that the Turks cannot outdistance; namely, a history of conquest in the most violent manner.

The one thing that should not be done is to stereotype the Turks. The average Turkish citizen is a victim of regressive Turkish laws and policies. The average Turk and Turkophiles normally know that which they are allowed and encouraged to learn. The Armenians and Greeks are being portrayed

by the Turkish government and their surrogates as aggressors who are launching direct attacks against the Turkish identity. It is absolutely mind-boggling that the Turks maintain that Armenians and Greeks have nothing about which to complain because Turkey has been home to tolerance and multiculturalism for centuries. Too bad someone did not inform the Turks that butchered Armenian and Greek martyrs and the innocent Kurds who have recently been driven from their villages and have died.

What indeed is necessary in light of the new Turkish adventure to scrub its image, is for the Armenian and Greek communities to more closely pool their energies, not for anti-Turkish actions, but for pro-Armenian and pro-Greek constructs. Being "anti" is a waste of valuable time and resources.

*As an example, there were Armenian groups that assassinated Turkish diplomats in the 1970s and 80s. Yes, the assassins did act out of grievances stemming from the Genocide. But these were the direct results of Turkish denials that have made the 1915 Genocide a continuing genocide, the longest genocide in history.*

**ARMENIAN TERRORISM WITH A NORTH AMERICAN COMPONENT:  
SENTENCING SAMPLES**

INCIDENT	PERPETRATOR[S]	CHARGE[S] AND CONVICTION[S]	SENTENCE
October 3, 1980 Explosion in Geneva Hotel Room.	Are Alexandre (Tarek) Yenikomishian	Possession of illegal explosives. Yenikomishian admitted to preparing bomb. Thus, explosives charges against Mahseredjian dropped.	18 months in prison (suspended), Expulsion from Switzerland. He returned to Lebanon.
	Suzy K. Mahseredjian (of Canoga Park, CA)	Mahseredjian convicted of extortion.	18 months in prison (suspended), Expulsion from Switzerland
October 6, 1980 Attempted Killing of Turkish Consul General in Los Angeles, Kemal Arikan, by Firebombing Home.	Harout "Harry" Sassounian	Attempted murder. Assault on a protected foreign official. Attempt to damage property used by a foreign gov't. Pos'n. destructive device.	6 years in prison. U.S. Dist. Judge Terry Hatter Jr. said, "A maximum [10-yr.] sentence would tend to make you a martyr ... and the whole panorama of terrorism would likely be escalated." Judge Hatter was wrong; terrorism still increased.

## ARMENIAN TERRORISM WITH A NORTH AMERICAN COMPONENT: SENTENCING SAMPLES

February 3, 1981 Attempted Bombing of Swiss Consulate in Los Angeles, Air Canada Warehouse at LAX, an Carpeteria Store in Hollywood.	Vicken Tcharkutian	Attempting to destroy a building used in interstate commerce. Possession of unregistered explosive device.	12 years in prison. Defense had requested sentence be limited to five years. But, U.S. Dist Judge David Kenyon followed the prosecution recommendation, because the case had "international significance on U.S. terrorist policy."
	Hratch Kozibioukian	(Was free on bail while awaiting trial, but bail revoked because FBI said he constituted a threat to the Turkish Olympic team.)	7 years in prison.
	Varant Chirinian	(Was free on bail while awaiting trial, but bail revoked because FBI said he constituted a threat to the Turkish Olympic team.)	7 years in prison.
	Sirinouche Kozibioukian	Accessory.	5 years probation.
	Nicholas Moumdjian	Conspiracy to commit murder. Possession of bomb-making materials	Deported from Canada
January 28, 1982 Killing of Turkish Consul General in Los Angeles, Kemal Arikan	Hampig "Harry" Sassounian	First-Degree Murder	Life in prison without parole. U.S. Dist. Judge Henry Nelson said. "I just hope the Armenian community doesn't send us any more Harry Sassounians." The terrorism continued.
	Krikor Saliba	Fugitive	Fugitive

**ARMENIAN TERRORISM WITH A NORTH AMERICAN COMPONENT:  
SENTENCING SAMPLES**

<p>October 22, 1982 Attempted Killing of Turkish Consul General in Philadelphia, Kanat Arbay. The "L.A. Five" case.</p>	<p>Viken Hovsepian</p>	<p>Convicted of transporting explosives across state lines. Upon learning of the L.A. five's arrest, the Armenian National Committee, "condemned this effort by the FBI and local police agencies to do Turkish dirty work against the Armenian people."</p>	<p>6 years in prison. Prosecution had asked for 25 years. U.S. Dist. Judge Mariana Pfaelzer said the convicted showed "good character," allowed sentence to be served at a prison camp. Sentence later reduced by 1 year.</p>
	<p>Dikran Berberian</p>	<p>Convicted of transporting explosives across state lines.</p>	<p>5-1/2 years in prison. Sentenced by U.S. Dist. Judge Manuel Real. Time served on Terminal Island.</p>
	<p>Karnig Sarkissian</p>	<p>Convicted of transporting explosives across state lines.</p>	<p>5 years in prison. Prosecution had asked for 25 years. Judge Pfaelzer spoke well of the convicted. Sentence later reduced by 1 year. Now popular folk singer.</p>
	<p>Steven Dadaian</p>	<p>Convicted of transporting explosives across state lines.</p>	<p>4 years in prison. Prosecution had asked for 25 years. Judge Pfaelzer spoke well of the convicted. Sentence later reduced by 1 year. Dadaian eventually earned a law degree. (Hovsepian earned a Ph.D. in International Relations.)</p>
	<p>Viken Yacoubian</p>	<p>Convicted of transporting explosives across state lines.</p>	<p>4 years in prison. Eventually earned a M.A. in Psychology from UCLA.</p>

## ARMENIAN TERRORISM WITH A NORTH AMERICAN COMPONENT: SENTENCING SAMPLES

<p>March 1985 Attempted Seizure of Ottawa Turkish Embassy. Private Security Guard Killed.</p>	<p>Ohannes Noubarian</p>	<p>First-Degree Murder (During trial ASALA threatened Ottawa Mass Transit in attempt to free all three defendants.)</p>	<p>Life in prison.</p>
	<p>Rafi Panos Titizian</p>	<p>First-Degree Murder (During trial ASALA threatened Ottawa Mass Transit in attempt to free all three defendants.)</p>	<p>Life in prison. (Appealed conviction, but did not succeed)</p>
	<p>Kevork Marachelian</p>	<p>First-Degree Murder (During trial ASALA threatened Ottawa Mass Transit in attempt to free all three defendants.)</p>	<p>Life in prison. (Appealed conviction, but did not succeed)</p>
<p>Late 1985 Conspiracy to Kill Paris Turkish Diplomat</p>	<p>Monte Melkonian (of Visalia, CA)</p>	<p>Criminal Conspiracy</p>	<p>5 years in prison. (Later died fighting with Armenian separatists in Nagorno-Karabagh.)</p>