

### turkish american alliance for fairness

2053 Grant Rd. PMB 550 Los Altos. CA 94024

AFFIDAVIT OF

DR. ERDAL ATREK

PRESIDENT OF TURKISH AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR FAIRNESS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

: ss.:

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA)

Dr. Erdal Atrek, being sworn, hereby says and deposes:

- 1. I am a United States citizen. I was born on January 5, 1952, in Ankara, Turkey.
- 2. I currently reside at 1664 Belleville Way, Sunnyvale, California.
- 3. I currently work as a senior engineer.
- 4. I am the current president of the Turkish American Alliance for Fairness (TAAF), 2053 Grant Road, PMB 550, Los Altos, California. TAAF's objectives include, among others, the countering of incorrect, biased, and prejudiced statements and activities aimed at, or defamation of, those of Turkish heritage, arising either from race, religion, color, language, ethnic identity, or from malicious intent. Within this context, TAAF is also closely interested in the welfare of Turkish and Turkish-American students within the United States educational system. Every year 7,000 Turkish students who have demonstrated superior academic performance are admitted to America's top universities. Unfortunately, some become the victims of violence, intimidation and harassment by misguided Armenian-American youths.

### ARMENIAN TERRORISM

5. TAAF is concerned about Armenian terrorist activities which have been aimed at Turkish diplomats and their families and about the effects of these activities in the manner in which part of the ethnic Armenian population in the United States have acted towards those of Turkish origin. In general, Armenian terrorists have claimed that they are acting to avenge an alleged "Armenian genocide" of 1915 and to punish persons who hold viewpoints other than the traditional Armenian position that the events of 1915 constitute genocide.

6. Since the 1970s, when Armenian terrorists brutally assassinated two Turkish diplomats in Santa Barbara, California, there have been countless terrorist attacks, hate crimes, and cases of intimidation and harassment against people of Turkish origin committed by extremist elements in the international Armenian community, particularly the Armenian-American community. The major incidents of terrorism are summarized in the attached document.

# FEARFUL OF EXERCISING FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO SPEAK

- 7. As a consequence of Armenian terrorism and other forms of anti-Turkish violence by certain elements in the Armenian-American community, Turkish-Americans, as exemplified by the membership of TAAF, are, in general, fearful of exercising their First Amendment right to speak out in opposition to the Armenian viewpoint, to participate in the political process in opposition to legislation relating to the genocide allegation, as well as to participate in the academic process of studying and analyzing the events that took place in the eastern provinces of the Ottoman Empire during World War I. Many Turkish-Americans believe that by exercising their cherished constitutional rights -- rights central to a healthy democracy and a free marketplace of ideas -- they would risk physical harm or other retaliation at the hands of Armenian terrorist groups such as the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) and the Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide (JCAG), and their overt and covert agents and sympathizers in the Armenian-American community.
- 8. The crimes the United States has charged against Mr. Mourad Topalian in his October 12, 1999 indictment in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, has heightened TAAF's anxieties regarding the resurgence of anti-Turkish terrorist activities, especially because of Mr. Topalian's prominent position within the Armenian-American community and his alleged standing as a role model for Armenian-American youths. The membership of TAAF fears that if Mr. Topalian is not punished appropriately for his crimes under the law, Armenian-American terrorism and violence against people of Turkish origin will not only continue, but will be encouraged.

### TAAF'S EXPERIENCE REGARDING ARMENIAN-AMERICAN EXTREMISM

9. In early April of this year, TAAF became aware of a large-scale incident of anti-Turkish violence at the University of Southern California, in Los Angeles. There, on the evening of April 10, 2000, the USC Turkish Student Association attempted to hold its Ninth Annual Turkish Night, at the campus' Topping Student Center. Turkish Night, which features Turkish food, dance and music, attracts over 200 students every year. The campus newspaper, Daily Trojan, reports very fondly of the activity. This year, however, Turkish Night suffered a brutal attack by a large group of Armenian-American activists who invaded the Student Center between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. By crashing the party, chanting anti-Turkish slurs, and banging on the glass doors, they forced the social activity to a halt and caused great fear among the USC students. The activists all wore black T-shirts which read, "Turkey is guilty of genocide." Terrified USC students participating in Turkish Night sought protection inside the building. The USC Department of Public

Safety responded swiftly with ten police cars. They were supported by a platoon of 25 riot police from the Los Angeles Police Department. While most of the protesters fled the scene, the Department of Public Safety videotaped the incident. Police were able to arrest two Armenian-American activists. Unable or unwilling to provide the necessary protection that would permit Turkish Night to continue as scheduled, the Department of Public Safety ordered Turkish Night shutdown at 10 p.m. This official action not only rewarded the efforts of the Armenian-American activists to harm, threaten and intimidate Turkish students and others who attended Turkish Night, it violated the Turkish and Turkish-American students' constitutional right to assembly. The Department of Public Safety brought no charges against any of the activists, as the University considers this matter closed. This incident was yet another example of a fearful public yielding to Armenian-American violence at the expense of those of Turkish origin. Since the students, due to their inexperience and position, were either fearful or unaware of what course to take for redress, TAAF has hired counsel to address this matter with the President's Office of the University of Southern California.

## **IDENTICAL TO HATE CRIMES**

10. As demonstrated in the USC incident, Armenian extremists, such as Mr. Topalian, through their crimes and active indoctrination of anti-Turkish sentiment, have encouraged, if not incited, Armenian-American youths to oppose anything Turkish with violence and intimidation, escalating this matter to the level of hate crimes against people of ethnic Turkish origin.

## CONCLUSION

11. Thus, TAAF's membership strongly believes that the sentencing of Mr. Topalian should consider as an aggravating or enhancing factor the acute intimidating effects his crimes have engendered in the Turkish-American community and in other persons who do not subscribe to Armenian-American orthodoxies about the alleged genocide, or who are simply ethnic Turkish in origin.

Sincerely,

Erdal Atrek, Ph.D.

President

Turkish American Alliance for Fairness (TAAF)

DOUG M. SHON
Commission # 1185869
Notary Public — California
Santa Clara County
My Comm. Expires Jun 5, 2002

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME
THIS O DAY OF O DEED OTO

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