

AFFIDAVIT OF
MS. BONNIE JOY KASLAN

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
 SONOMA : SS.:
COUNTY OF ~~SACRAMENTO~~)

Ms. Bonnie Joy Kaslan, being sworn, hereby says and deposes:

1. I am a citizen of the United States. I was born in Teaneck, New Jersey, in March 1948.

2. I currently reside at 1281 Oak Creek Drive, Sonoma, California. A small Turkish American community of approximately 10,000 resides in the San Francisco Bay Area.

3. I am the principal of an engineering firm formerly located in Oakland, California, and currently located in Sonoma, California. I also serve as the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in San Francisco, California. The position of Honorary Consul General is a non-compensated, non-diplomatic office which a U.S. citizen may hold as the local representative of the Turkish government.

ARMENIAN TERRORISM

4. I follow closely incidents of Armenian terrorism worldwide, especially those incidents in North America. Generally, Armenian terrorists claim that they are acting to avenge the 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.

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

FEARFUL OF EXERCISING
FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO SPEAK

6. As a consequence of Armenian terrorism and other forms of anti-Turkish violence by certain elements in the Armenian American community, I am fearful of exercising my 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. I believe that by exercising my cherished constitutional rights -- rights central to a healthy democracy and a free marketplace of ideas -- I 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.

7. The terrorist crimes the United States 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, heightened my anxieties about retaliation, especially because of Mr. Topalian's prominent position within the Armenian American community and his standing as a role model for Armenian American youth. I fear that if Mr. Topalian is not punished with the maximum sentences for his crimes under the law, Armenian American terrorism and violence against people of Turkish origin will not only continue, but will be encouraged. Moreover I find deeply disturbing, Mr. Topalian's openly unrepentant attitude towards Armenian terrorism against Turkish Americans and Turkey and his confessed admiration of co-terrorists such as Karnig Sarkissian who had been convicted of attempting to kill a Turkish Diplomat.

MY EXPERIENCE AS A VICTIM
OF ARMENIAN AMERICAN EXTREMISM

8. I have have been the victim of Armenian American terrorism and other forms of anti-Turkish violence and harassment carried out by extreme elements in the Armenian American community. The incidents against me began when I married a Turkish man from Istanbul, and escalated when I became the Honorary Consul General of Turkey in San Francisco. As an academician, I have been a prime target of Armenian American violence because of my outspoken opinion that the events in 1915 do not constitute genocide. Despite the protection afforded to me by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as state and local authorities, I have personally and professionally suffered the following incidents:

- (a) In the spring, 1985, two of my employees who had immigrated to the United States from Poland after World War II, quit after hateful and life-threatening graffiti stating, "Kill the [image of the Turkish star and crescent]" was painted on the marble front of my firm's high-rise office building in downtown Oakland, California. This incident further disrupted my business by causing my remaining employees severe emotional distress. In addition to the financial damage caused by the abrupt and considerable drop in productivity, my firm incurred considerable expenses in the installation of security cameras and systems in and around my business. My landlord, property manager, and tenants were uneasy with respect to the presence of my firm in their building.
- (b) During the same approximate period of time, I received a package through UPS at my office, which upon examination under an X-ray machine, had to be detonated by bomb squads for safety reasons. Its contents were never revealed to me.
- (c) Over the past 18 years, I have received death threats on my voice mail, causing me severe emotional distress, as well as loss of personal freedom and privacy due to extraordinary security measures concerning my home, office, telephone lines and vehicles.
- (d) As Turkish American charity organizations have been the target of violence by extremists and certain activists within the Armenian American community for the past 18 years, after I was elected President of the Turkish American Association of California in 1983, the Association began to hire undercover armed security at our cultural and social events to the substantial emotional and financial expense of our members.
- (e) I attended the trial of the "L.A. Five", in which five 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 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.

- (f) 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 guard 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.

- (g) The most recent incident of violence against my person occurred on April 30, 1999. It occurred after I left my home for a meeting with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors regarding two issues, a city proclamation defining the events of 1915 as a genocide, as well as the purchase of the San Francisco Mt. Davidson Cross by an Armenian American group with the concealed intention to violate a sale condition that the city park in which the Cross stands not be used for Armenian genocide propaganda (the violation continues to this day). As always when I drive and as I have been trained by law enforcement authorities, I surveyed the vehicles around me on the roadway for any suspicious individuals or objects. One driver began to harass me by continually approaching my vehicle from behind, passing me, cutting in front of me, and slowing down in front of my vehicle. At the toll plaza of the San Francisco Bay Bridge, his vehicle disappeared from sight. After my meeting eight hours later, the man appeared again, confirming my suspicions and causing me considerable fear for my safety. I immediately contacted the authorities who apprehended the man, and identified him as an Armenian who immigrated from Iran. The authorities chose not to charge the man but, nevertheless, visited my home, examined the property, studied the current security

systems, and determined that a security upgrade was necessary. This intrusive and threatening incident caused me to understand that Armenian American-based anti-Turkish violence is far from over, and to fear that nothing law enforcement or I can do can guarantee the safety of people like me who wish to exercise their democratic rights despite the orthodoxies of the Armenian American community, and to believe that proper punishment of Armenian American terrorists, activists, and sympathizers who violate the law is a necessary quotient in the formula to stop the violence and preserve everyone's right to address the Turkish - Armenian Question in an objective manner -- a manner guaranteed only by personal security and peaceful debate.

IDENTICAL TO HATE CRIMES

9. Mr. Topalian's terrorist crimes are as heinous as hate crimes because they have sent a message to the Turkish American community that verbal opposition or lobbying against the Armenian American agenda to promote the genocide allegation will lead to retribution of some sort, and thus de facto contributes to denying Turkish Americans the right to participate in the political process and debate over an issue of public importance.

CONCLUSION

10. Thus, I strongly believe 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.



Notarization:

JURAT WITH AFFIANT STATEMENT

State of California
County of Sonoma } ss.

- See Attached Document (Notary to cross out lines 1-8 below)
- See Statement Below (Lines 1-7 to be completed only by document signer[s], not Notary)

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Signature of Document Signer No. 1

Signature of Document Signer No. 2 (if any)

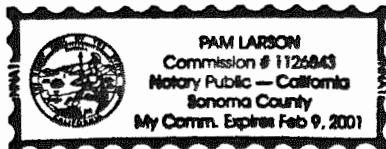
Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 25th day of September,
Date Month

2000, by
Year

(1) Bonnie Joy Kaslan
Name of Signer(s)

(2) _____
Name of Signer(s)

Pam Larson
Signature of Notary Public



Place Notary Seal Above

OPTIONAL

Though the information below is not required by law, it may prove valuable to persons relying on the document and could prevent fraudulent removal and reattachment of this form to another document.

Further Description of Any Attached Document

Title or Type of Document: Affidavit of Ms Bonnie Joy Kaslan

Document Date: _____ Number of Pages: 5

Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: _____

RIGHT THUMBPRINT OF SIGNER #1

Top of thumb here

RIGHT THUMBPRINT OF SIGNER #2

Top of thumb here