

STATEMENT OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE STEPHEN HARPER AND LETTER OF HONOURABLE JASON KENNEY

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PRIME MINISTER - PREMIER MINISTRE

April 24, 2009

Statement by the Prime Minister on the day of Commemoration of the
Armenian Genocide

On this day we remember the terrible loss of life during the demise of the Ottoman Empire in 1915, and in particular the horrific suffering endured by the Armenian people. I have reminded all Canadians that both Houses of Parliament have adopted resolutions recognizing "the first genocide of the twentieth century." This is a day we acknowledge solemnly, not to cast blame back into the distant past, but to guide us towards a better future. It reminds us all why we must remain committed to ensuring that today's world is one where respect of human rights and democratic freedom prevails.

Today, Canadians of Armenian and Turkish origin live together, sharing our values of tolerance and openness. We hope that these same values will guide Armenia and Turkey in developing their relations.

On this day of remembrance, we praise the governments and individuals on both sides who are courageously examining the historical events of this time to seek to achieve a common understanding with honesty and in a spirit of reconciliation.

I join with you today in remembering the past and in sharing hope for a future based on peace and mutual respect.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

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