

## Rothman Statement On 88th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide

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Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today released the following statement commemorating the 88th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

“Today, we come together to remember those who were murdered and those whose lives were shattered by the first state-sponsored genocide of the 20th Century - the Armenian Genocide.

“This year, as our courageous soldiers continue to fight the war in Iraq, we see and hear about the horrific oppression faced by the Iraqi people under the brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein. On television we can see the faces of the innocent children whose parents were slaughtered right in front of their eyes just because they spoke up in opposition to the Iraqi leadership. We hear the stories of the Kurdish people, who are now assisting us with this war, and who themselves are survivors of Saddam Hussein’s brutality.

“There was no CNN or Internet when the Armenian Genocide was taking place. The world does not fully understand the atrocities waged against the Armenian people in the way they understand the atrocities waged against the Iraqi people. While we are liberating the Iraqis, we must continue to work for recognition and understanding of the systematic murder of 1.5 million Armenians 88 years ago. It is also our responsibility to assist the survivors of the Genocide and their descendants in building a democratic and prosperous Armenia.

“Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has slashed nearly in half economic assistance to Armenia for the upcoming year. I discussed this with the Armenian Foreign Minister when he visited Washington, DC earlier this year. As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, you can be sure that I will be fighting to increase the amount of foreign aid for Armenia above the President’s insufficient request. Armenia is at a critical juncture right now, and continued U.S. assistance is necessary so that Armenia’s growth and progress that we have witnessed in the past few years can continue.

“As we commemorate the Armenian Genocide, let us honor those who died as well as the survivors with our continued commitment to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. And let us help create a strong, prosperous, and secure Armenia.

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