



# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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## *House of Representatives*

January 29, 2007

Madame Speaker,

A little over a year ago, on January 19, 2007, Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink was murdered for reporting on the Armenian Genocide. The first anniversary of his death should serve as a reminder of the ongoing need for improvement in Turkish-Armenian relations.

Hrant Dink worked as the editor of *Agos*, a bilingual paper designed to reach both Turks and Armenians. He was an outspoken advocate of democratic change and freedom of speech.

While Turkish officials rightly condemned the political killing, Turkey has not yet repealed Article 301 of the Turkish Penal code, which makes it illegal to discuss the Armenian Genocide. This law, which criminalizes free speech, hampers Turkey's efforts to restore their relationship with Armenia, a goal the Turkish government claims to desire.

Hrant Dink's death was more than an assassination; it was an attack on the principle of free speech. Turkish officials should use the anniversary of his death as an opportunity to restore open communication between the citizens of both countries. Lasting reconciliation must be built on uninhibited dialogue and Turkey can begin building the road to restoration by recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

We remember the legacy of Hrant Dink by encouraging Turkey to tolerate democratic freedoms and rebuild their relationship with Armenia.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Garrett".  
Scott Garrett

Member of Congress