

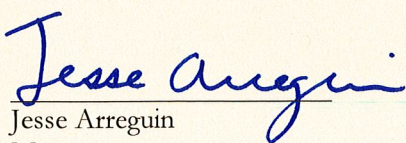


ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

- WHEREAS,** the Armenian people, living in their 3,000 year historic homeland in eastern Asia Minor and throughout the Ottoman Empire, were subjected to severe persecution and brutal injustice by the rulers of the Ottoman Empire before and after the turn of the twentieth century, including widespread massacres, usurpation of land and property, and acts of wanton destruction during the period from 1894 to 1896, and again in 1909; and
- WHEREAS,** the horrible experience of the Armenians at the hands of their oppressors culminated in 1915 in what is known by historians as the “First Genocide of the Twentieth Century”; and
- WHEREAS,** the Armenian Genocide began with the arrest, exile, and murder of hundreds of Armenian intellectuals, and political, religious, and business leaders, starting on April 24, 1915; and
- WHEREAS,** the regime then in control of the empire planned and executed the unspeakable atrocities committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923, which included the torture, starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, death marches into the Syrian desert, the forced exile of more than 500,000 innocent people, and the loss of the traditional Armenian homelands; and
- WHEREAS,** Adolf Hitler, in persuading his army commanders on the eve of World War II that the merciless persecution and killing of Poles, Jews, and other peoples would bring no retribution, declared, “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians;” and
- WHEREAS,** in 2022, the California State Legislature passed a law that was signed by the Governor to forever memorialize the Armenian Genocide and all genocides by declaring April 24th a statewide holiday known as Genocide Awareness Day; and
- WHEREAS,** by honoring the survivors and consistently remembering and condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenian people as well as the persecution of the Assyrian and Greek populations of the Ottoman Empire, we guard against repetition of the crime of genocide; and
- WHEREAS,** Berkeley stands in solidarity with the Armenian-American community in its commemoration of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in an effort to educate others about the tragic loss of life, land, and human rights of the Armenian people and the crimes of genocide committed against them; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jesse Arreguin, Mayor of the City of Berkeley, that the Berkeley City Council does hereby declare in the City of Berkeley April 24th, 2023 as

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY


Jesse Arreguin
Mayor



April 24, 2023