

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GENOCIDE SCHOLARS

17 March 2006

AN OPEN LETTER TO PBS STATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

We are writing to urge you to screen the PBS documentary, *The Armenian Genocide*, by Andrew Goldberg on April 17 at the same time that audiences across the United States and around the world will be viewing this very important film.

The PBS film, *The Armenian Genocide*, has been publicly praised by many Armenian-American organizations, the Armenian Foreign Minister, and Armenia TV. Officers of the International Association of Genocide Scholars have pre-viewed it, and found it to be accurate and well done. Virtually every major PBS market in America is airing this film on April 17. It also has been sold to the major networks in nearly a dozen foreign countries, including Canada, Australia, Italy, Spain, Finland, Greece and others in Europe and around the world.

To the best of our knowledge, no other film in the history of this subject so clearly describes and addresses the issue of Armenian genocide denial. Andrew Goldberg begins his film with the problem of denial and his interviews with Turkish deniers, including professors and ordinary people-on-the street, show powerfully that denial remains a central issue about the Armenian genocide. The man-on-the-street interviews also demonstrate that many Turkish citizens now acknowledge the genocide, an unprecedented revelation in a country that still makes discussion of the Armenian genocide a criminal offense. The issue of denial is of paramount importance since denial -- which we know today is the very last stage of genocide -- not only hurts the victims and descendants of victims of the genocide, but invites future perpetrators to commit genocide again and again.

We also believe that it would be openly disrespectful of a survivor- community's sensibilities to bring on genocide deniers in a panel immediately following a documentary about the reality of the Armenian Genocide -- though we have only the highest regard and trust in the scholars whom PBS chose to answer the deniers, Professors Taner Akcam and Peter Balakian.

As for the documentary film itself, it is the best film ever made about the Armenian Genocide and we urge you to show it on the night of April 17.

Sincerely,
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Prof. Gregory H. Stanton
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