



# STATEMENT OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY ERIK NASARENKO

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## Armenian Remembrance Day April 24, 2020

As prosecutors, we fight for and work on behalf of victims of crime, ensuring that their voices are heard and their rights are protected.

Further, we understand that words matter—that justice requires the proper characterization of a crime.

During World War I, 1.5 million Armenians were systematically massacred and exterminated by Ottoman Turks, a crime against humanity.

These atrocities have at long last been characterized by the White House and our government in clear and unambiguous words—as Genocide.

This long overdue formal recognition is critical to serving justice and to honoring the memory and dignity of victims, their families and the worldwide Armenian community, including those who live and work in Ventura County.

Because of our collective efforts, we have kept the torch of remembrance aflame and ensured that history accurately, correctly and truthfully records this painful chapter.

Let us all continue to serve justice, practice tolerance and understanding, and honor the Armenian victims who lost their lives in an act of genocide.