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Armenian National Committee of America  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

January 11, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

I am writing to share our serious concern that your initial round of invitations to Armenian American organizations to meet with you this coming February 9th does not represent our traditional community leadership nor does it reflect the widely understood Armenian American opposition to the Turkey-Armenia Protocols. As you know, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, among others, has shared with you the serious nature of the community's disagreements with the Administration's policy on this matter.

We have long sought, along with our community colleagues and Congressional leaders, to arrange meetings between our community's traditional leadership and both you and President Obama. We have requested these meetings in the spirit of the pledges that both you and the President have made to actively engage Armenian American leaders. Our aim is to help ensure that our nation's leaders benefit from an open dialogue with our community on the moral stands and diplomatic positions adopted by the United States on Armenian issues, particularly those, such as the Protocols, which directly impact the rights of U.S. citizens of Armenian heritage.

In our August 20, 2009 letter to you, we specifically asked for a meeting with our community's leadership, not solely with the few groups you have selected. The leading Armenian American organizations were informed by us and are fully aware that we had requested a meeting on their behalf. We made no attempt to limit our suggestion to simply the groups that shared our policy perspective.

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As presently configured, the meeting you have proposed will not serve the vital and worthwhile aim of healthy discourse, and would, at this sensitive moment, in fact be counter-productive. The current arrangement, which, by all appearances, intentionally excludes so many of our traditional community and Church leaders on the basis of their views and values, would set an undemocratic and highly negative precedent. We would not be able to meaningfully participate under these narrow and exclusionary terms.

Our community's traditional leadership group, as you may know, met with President Clinton in 1994 and has, collectively, signed a series of letters to the White House over the past two decades, including as recently as President Obama's inauguration. The organizations that signed our community's congratulatory letter to President Obama on his inauguration, in addition to the groups that you have invited to meet with you - namely the Armenian Assembly, ANCA, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S. Diocese of the Armenian Church, Armenian General Benevolent Union, and the Knights of Vartan - include: the Eastern U.S. and Western U.S. Prelacies of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Apostolic Exarchate for Armenian Catholics, Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Relief Society, Armenian Bar Association, Armenian International Women's Association, Armenian Rights Council of America, Armenian Youth Federation, Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural & Education Association, Homenetmen Armenian General Athletic Union, Tekeyan Cultural Association, United Armenian Fund, and the U.S.-Armenia Public Affairs Committee.

Selectively choosing to meet with a few organizations, largely from one portion of this group, particularly when these leaders represent a markedly minority viewpoint on the current course of U.S. diplomacy, serves neither the Administration's aim of a frank, two-way communication, nor the community's interest in seeing our collective viewpoint taken into account by our nation's decision-makers.

I respectfully call upon you to reconsider your initial arrangements for your first meeting with Armenian American leaders. An open, inclusive meeting - one that allows for the full expression of the Armenian American perspective - will, we are confident, serve all of our hopes and aspirations for lasting peace and justice in the region.

I appreciate your attention to our concerns and am available to discuss this matter with you or your colleagues in greater detail via phone (847) 274-3388 or email [ken@anca.org](mailto:ken@anca.org).

Sincerely,



Kenneth V. Hachikian  
Chairman