

## House Resolution 636

By: Representatives Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Pak of the 108<sup>th</sup>, Henson of the 86<sup>th</sup>, Bell of the 58<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 175<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April, 2013, as Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month at the  
2 capitol and inviting the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Genocide to be recognized by the House  
3 of Representatives; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the goal of Genocide Prevention and Awareness Month is to educate the public  
5 about the history of previous and contemporary genocides; how to advocate against future  
6 genocides; to focus attention on the specter of genocide so that policies, strategies, and  
7 programs geared towards combating the evils of genocide can be developed; and to  
8 commemorate the victims of genocide; and

9 WHEREAS, during World War II, a Polish lawyer of Jewish decent, Raphael Lemkin,  
10 coined the term "genocide" to describe the coordinated plan of actions aimed at the  
11 destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups with the aim of annihilating  
12 a group itself by disintegrating a group's political and social institutions, culture, language,  
13 national feelings, religion, and economic existence and destroying the personal security,  
14 liberty, health, and dignity, as well as the lives, of individuals belonging to the group; and

15 WHEREAS, throughout history, numerous genocides originated or stemmed from events that  
16 occurred in April, and as a result, many institutions around the world have designated April  
17 to be a month of genocide prevention and awareness; and

18 WHEREAS, in April of 1933, the Nazis issued a decree preparing the way for the "Final  
19 Solution" defining non-Aryans as "anyone descended from non-Aryan, especially Jewish,  
20 parents or grandparents"; and

21 WHEREAS, in April of 1975, the Khmer Rouge entered Phnom Penh, the capital of  
22 Cambodia, and initiated wide-scale massacres that turned cities into killing fields; these  
23 massacres resulted in the deaths of two million people, and in April of 1992, the siege of

24 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina's capital city, ultimately led to the deaths of more than  
25 200,000 Bosniaks; and

26 WHEREAS, in April of 1994, the Rwandan president's airplane was shot down, which led  
27 to the slaying of moderate leaders by Hutu hardliners, and over the next three months,  
28 800,000 Tutsis were slaughtered; and

29 WHEREAS, in April of 2003, the displacement of Darfurians began in Sudan, which led to  
30 hundreds of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions; and

31 WHEREAS, the Genocide Prevention Task Force released its report on December of 2008  
32 to spotlight genocide prevention as a national priority; and

33 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust is a state agency whose mission is  
34 to use the lessons of the Holocaust to educate the citizens of Georgia on the consequences  
35 of unchecked hate and the need for social justice, and to encourage strong moral character  
36 and citizenship; and

37 WHEREAS, the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Genocide operates as a proactive group with  
38 a mission to develop a permanent antigenocide constituency in Georgia, and it depends on  
39 citizen support to engage elected officials at the state and national levels through advocacy  
40 and action and by creating awareness within the community; and

41 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper to recognize the contributions of the Georgia  
42 Coalition to Prevent Genocide.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
44 the members of this body recognize the month of April, 2013, as Genocide Prevention and  
45 Awareness Month at the capitol, commend the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Genocide for  
46 its dedicated efforts in preventing genocide, and invite its members to be recognized at a date  
47 and time designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
49 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Coalition to  
50 Prevent Genocide.