

House Resolution 1350

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

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April, 2014, 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; this year is the 20th anniversary commemoration of the
29 Rwandan genocide; and

30 WHEREAS, in April of 2003, the displacement of Darfurians began in Sudan, which led to
31 hundreds of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions, and 11 years later this
32 continues; and

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

35 WHEREAS, in April of 2012, the Atrocities Prevention Board was formed as an intra-agency
36 body to ensure that genocide and mass atrocity prevention are a priority at the highest levels
37 of the United States government; and

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

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

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

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
49 the members of this body recognize the month of April, 2014, as Genocide Prevention and
50 Awareness Month at the capitol, commend the Georgia Coalition to Prevent Genocide for
51 its dedicated efforts in preventing genocide, and invite its members to be recognized at a date
52 and time designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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