

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31—OHRENSCHALL;
AIZLEY, ANDERSON, ARBERRY, ATKINSON, BOBZIEN,
BUCKLEY, CARPENTER, CHRISTENSEN, CLABORN, COBB,
CONKLIN, DENIS, DONDERO LOOP, GANSERT, GOEDHART,
GOICOECHEA, GRADY, GUSTAVSON, HAMBRICK, HARDY,
HOGAN, HORNE, KIHUEN, KIRKPATRICK, KOIVISTO,
LESLIE, MANENDO, MASTROLUCA, MCARTHUR, MCCLAIN,
MORTENSON, MUNFORD, OCEGUERA, PARNELL, PIERCE,
SEGERBLOM, SETTELMAYER, SMITH, SPIEGEL, STEWART
AND WOODBURY

MAY 6, 2009

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS RAGGIO; AMODEI, BREEDEN, CARE,
CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, COPENING, HARDY,
HORSFORD, LEE, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, PARKS,
ROADS, SCHNEIDER, TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON, WIENER
AND WOODHOUSE

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Urges the Government of Turkey to grant the
Ecumenical Patriarch international recognition and
to respect the human rights and property rights of the
Ecumenical Patriarchate. (BDR R-1292)

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging the
Government of Turkey to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch
international recognition and to respect the human rights
and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

1 WHEREAS, The Ecumenical Patriarchate, located in Istanbul,
2 Turkey, is the Sacred See that presides in a spirit of brotherhood
3 over a communion of self-governing churches of the Orthodox
4 Christian world; and

5 WHEREAS, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, See leader,
6 cosponsored the Conference on Peace and Tolerance in 1994 and



* A C R 3 1 *

1 2005, fostering an interfaith dialogue among Christian, Jewish and
2 Muslim religious leaders to help end regional ethnic conflicts; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1997, the United States Congress awarded
4 Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the Congressional Gold Medal;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Orthodox Christian Church, in existence for
7 nearly 2,000 years, numbers approximately 300,000,000 members
8 worldwide with more than 2,000,000 members in the United States;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Since 1453, the presence of the Ecumenical
11 Patriarchate as international head of the Greek Orthodox Church in
12 Turkey testifies to religious coexistence; and

13 WHEREAS, The Turkish government has limited those able to
14 hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarch to Turkish nationals,
15 threatening the viability of succession; and

16 WHEREAS, The Turkish government confiscated a large
17 percentage of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's and the Greek
18 community's properties, placed a high tax on one of the
19 Patriarchate's charity hospitals, the Baloukli Hospital and Home for
20 the Aged, and closed the Theological School of Halki in 1971,
21 impeding Orthodox clergy training; and

22 WHEREAS, The European Council began accession negotiations
23 with Turkey, and the Turkish government's current treatment of the
24 Ecumenical Patriarchate is inconsistent with the defined
25 membership criteria for accession of the European Union; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
28 SENATE CONCURRING, That the members of the 75th Session of the
29 Nevada Legislature do hereby urge the Government of Turkey to
30 uphold and safeguard religious and human rights without
31 compromise, to grant the Ecumenical Patriarch appropriate
32 international recognition, including ecclesiastic succession and the
33 right to train clergy of all nationalities, and to respect the human
34 rights and property rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including
35 cessation of discrimination; and be it further

36 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
37 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United
38 States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding
39 officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
40 Representatives, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of
41 Turkey, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United
42 States and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation.

