

PROTECT ARMENIA FROM AZERI BLOCKADES

**Jan Tucker for U.S.
Senate**



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On February 27, 1988, Armenians living in Sumgait in the Nagorno Karabakh region of Azerbaijan were raped, murdered, and their property looted. This set off an escalating situation of rampant violence in Azerbaijan against ethnic Armenians including an economic blockade of Armenia itself. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians, whose families had lived peacefully in Azerbaijan for centuries, were driven out of the country. In 1993, during a particularly severe winter, with virtually no fuel getting into Armenia and with its nuclear power plant shut down due to an earthquake, 1% of the population died of the cold.

In America, Jan Tucker became involved in the fight to end the blockade of Armenia as a founder of the Los Angeles based Anti-Blockade Committee and later as the only non-Armenian founding vice president of the Armenian American Action Committee (ARAMAC). Jan Tucker discovered that the State Teachers Retirement System (CAL STRS) was the 10th largest investor in UNOCAL, which was investing in the Azeri Caspian Sea oil fields and secured a resolution by the United Teachers of Los Angeles demanding that their pension funds be withdrawn from UNOCAL stocks. Tucker testified before the CAL STRS investment board demanding divestiture of their UNOCAL investments.

Jan Tucker also developed a strategy to bring Armenia under the protection of existing American laws that protect Israel from economic boycott. The law provides that any nation friendly to the United States may be protected (meaning companies participating in the boycott can be criminally prosecuted and sued) if the Commerce Dept designates the country as being a boycott target. Obviously, a complete blockade of a country is way beyond a normal boycott.

Tucker personally proposed this strategy to then Senators Paul Simon of Illinois, Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania, and Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy III of Massachusetts (all supposed to be great friends to Armenia). None of them took action to force the Commerce Dept to designate Armenia as the target of a boycott. A letter asking for this action was hand delivered to Hilary Clinton during Bill Clinton's presidency, but still nothing was done.

If Jan B. Tucker is elected United States Senator from California, he will introduce legislation to define a blockade as being a boycott for purposes of the anti – boycott law, to protect Armenia.

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JAN TUCKER FOR U.S. SENATOR**