



**American Hellenic Institute, Inc.
2012 Congressional Candidate Questionnaire – Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)**

GREECE

The Aegean Sea Boundary

There can be no question of Greece's sovereignty of the Dodecanese Island, as established by successive international treaties and it is my opinion that the United States should recognize these international boundaries.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The FYROM issue is about more than a name. The misuse of the name Macedonia could affect Greece's territorial sovereignty, and therefore, any resolution must be agreed upon by both parties to ensure regional stability and peace. I have successfully challenged legislation that would intentionally imply support for the name "Republic of Macedonia" and insisted that all Senate legislation use the term Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or FYROM when referring to the territory in Senate bills and resolutions.

CYPRUS

For many years I have called on Turkey to end its illegal occupation of Cyprus. I also believe that Cypriots deserve a final resolution to the Cyprus question that adequately addresses all issues, including the issues of property, territory and security and that the negotiations leading to that solution must be Cypriot-owned and led, with the momentum being determined by the process itself and not outside entities.

In June 2012, I introduced S. Con. Res. 47 in the U.S. Senate, which highlights Turkey's efforts to colonize northern Cyprus in violation of the Geneva Convention; urging President Obama to call on Turkey to end its illegal colonization and occupation of Cyprus and to cease illegal interference with Cyprus' efforts to develop energy resources in its Exclusive Economic Zone.

In September 2011, I sent a letter to President Obama signed by 27 Senators underscoring the importance of a strong U.S.-Cyprus relationship. I reiterated that message in another letter to the President in June 2012, in which I asked the President to conduct a thorough re-evaluation of U.S. policy toward the region taking into account Turkey's belligerent stance in the eastern Mediterranean and the growing strategic importance of Cyprus.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE AND HALKI PATRIARCHAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

I strongly believe that all people should be able to freely worship without state intervention and I have been a persistent advocate on behalf of removing Turkish influence on the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Church.

In November 2011, I led a letter to President Obama signed by 89 Senators asking that the United States address with Turkey 1) the inappropriateness of successive Prime Ministers forcefully involving themselves in the Orthodox Church's selection of succeeding Ecumenical Patriarchs; 2) the return to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the remaining 95% of its confiscated property; and 3) the reopening of the Halki Theological School, which has been forcibly and unjustly closed for 40 years.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have also publicly and privately raised the Orthodox Church's concerns about Turkish interference with the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the nominees to be Ambassador for International Religious Freedom, Suzan Johnson Cook and Ambassador to Turkey, Francis Ricciardone.

TURKEY

I am very concerned by Turkey's belligerent tone and threats with regard to Cyprus' exploration of its hydrocarbon resources in the Eastern Mediterranean. This bellicose posture should not be tolerated from an American ally.