



1st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDEPENDENT CIRCASSIA

August 05th, 2023 Istanbul

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

The Circassian Nation has managed to protect Circassia, where it has been living freely for thousands of years, against many different attacks. The Circassian-Russian Wars, which started in 1763 with the occupation of Circassia by the Tsarist Russia and lasted for 101 years without interruption, brought the Circassian nation to extinction. The Circassians, who were forced to leave their homeland, Circassia, due to the exile and genocide conducted by Tsarist Russia, are scattered worldwide. Today, the Circassian Nation is trying to maintain its existence in different geographies.

Circassians living in the homeland of Circassia and the diaspora face difficulties keeping the Circassian language, culture, and national identity alive. People living in the motherland of Circassia are subjected to oppression. When they want to exercise or demand their democratic rights, they may face the consequences, up to unsolved murders or severe torture. Many Circassian youths continue to be imprisoned for superficial or unfounded accusations. Moreover, these young people are subjected to extreme prison torture, incompatible with human dignity. In addition, Circassian youth are forcibly recruited despite their and their families' resistance and are being fought on the front lines in the ongoing Ukrainian war. In light of all these developments, it is impossible to protect and develop the Circassian national identity, values, and rights in the homeland of Circassia.

Since the Circassians living in the diaspora face many legal, social, and economic problems, significant difficulties are encountered in preserving the Circassian national identity. This situation accelerates the assimilation of Circassians.

The experience gained since 1864 clearly shows that the Circassian Nation will be unable to preserve the Circassian national identity, language, and culture long in the Russian-occupied homeland of Circassia and the diaspora.

For the Circassians, who are struggling for existence in the face of all these vital problems, to preserve their national identities and values and transfer them to future generations, the following items were agreed upon at the 1st International Conference of Independent Circassia which is held on 5 August 2023 in Istanbul in the context of fundamental human rights and democratic rights recognized in international conventions:

1) The right to self-determination granted to Indigenous peoples by Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is recognized by 182 countries, including Turkey and Russia. According to the statement in this declaration "Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their



political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development” the Circassian Nation, considered the indigenous people of Circassia, has the right to self-determination without leaving any room for discussion. Based on this legal right, a fully **Independent State of Circassia** should be established on the historical Circassian lands to prevent the current problems that threaten the existence of the Circassian nation and to enable the Circassian national identity, Circassian language, and culture to be maintained and developed freely.

2) To lay the foundations of the **Independent State of Circassia**, to carry out the struggle for democratic rights effectively in the international arena, and to protect legitimate rights based on international law, studies for establishing the **Independent Government of Circassia** should be initiated.

3) Similarly, Chechens, Dagestanis, Ingushs, Kazan Tatars, Karelians, North Ossetians, Nogais of Astrakhan, and Uyghurs are recognized to have the right to establish their fully independent states and self-determination in their historical homeland.

4) It is necessary to take initiatives for the recognition of the Circassian Genocide by the world parliaments and to establish institutes, working groups, and representative committees for this purpose.

5) The demographic structure of the Circassian Nation should be determined to determine the current situation of the Circassian Nation, which dispersed to the diaspora as a result of the Circassian exile and genocide, to produce the right solutions against the problems that threaten its national identity, and to develop realistic policies on Circassian and diaspora-related issues. For this reason, it is necessary to establish working groups to determine the Circassian population living in the diaspora.

6) Considering this particular situation of the Circassian Nation, 90 percent of whose population lives in the diaspora, an Passport of Independent Circassia should be established in a way that the Free World countries will recognize and support. For this purpose, working groups should be formed to conduct the necessary legal, political, technical, and financial studies.

7) All humanity should understand that it is impossible to fully compensate for the losses of the Circassian Nation due to genocide and exile. These claims of ethnic elements who were systematically settled in Circassia as a result of the genocide and expulsion of the Circassians, who directly or indirectly participated in the Circassian genocide, and who claim rights over Circassia today, are seen as an effort to legitimize the brutal injustices done to the Circassian Nation. Based on this fact, it should be accepted that the demands for independence of elements other than the Circassian Nation on the historical Circassian lands do not comply with universal law and conscientious criteria to ensure the complete freedom of Circassia. Circassia's liberation, the Russian Federation's de-colonization, and the Circassia's restoration will only be possible by establishing an independent Circassian state on the historical Circassian lands.

8) With the independence of Circassia on the historical Circassian lands, it is advocated that all ethnic elements, without exception, residing in Circassia can live freely as Circassian citizens by democracy, international law, and human dignity. However, it is accepted that every Circassian living in the diaspora has absolute rights over Circassia and that they should be given the freedom to return and settle in Circassia and should be supported in this regard.



9) Russia has occupied many countries for imperial purposes throughout history and has destroyed the nations of these countries. Today, it is trying to invade Ukraine for the same imperial purposes. The Ukrainian state, which is defending its homeland and people against this invasion initiated by Russia, is supported by all the I participants—International Conference on Independent Circassia.

10) We condemn in the strongest terms the forced recruitment of Circassian youth living in Circassia under Russian occupation, making them fight in the ranks of the Russian army against Ukraine and sending them to their deaths. In this unjust war, people being forced to fight and sent to open death should be meticulously investigated by relevant organizations, especially the International Criminal Court.

11) To carry out the studies as mentioned above, All countries, relevant international organizations, and NGOs are called upon to cooperate effectively with the Circassian Nation in legal, political, technical, and financial matters, referring to universal humanitarian values and with a sense of conscientious responsibility.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE:

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