

# **THE PROBLEM OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INFLUENTIAL ACTORS OF WORLD POLITICS AND TURKEY.**

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Turkey is the state that through perpetration of the policy of the Armenian Genocide temporarily possessed the great part of the Homeland of the Armenian people - the victim of crime in Western Armenia. Nowadays there are still countries in the world resembling Turkey, for example, its little brother Azerbaijan solve national problems through genocidal policy and ensure their territorial integrity through violence. There are also influential, powerful countries that not only do not condemn and prevent criminal actions of regimes executing genocides but also support them, pursuing their own interests and spreading their influence in some areas, appropriate natural resources of victim peoples and are engaged in the sale of weapons, earning large amounts of money on the blood of victim peoples. Alongside these, however, there are other countries which do not desire to feel the effects of the crime of genocide, flows of refugees and the spread of epidemic diseases associated with it, the emergence of social problems, etc., which are not willing to condemn this crime and take measures to prevent it. The sad truth is that the positions of the countries concerning the crime of genocide are determined not by humanitarian motives or principles and norms of international law but by their own national interests. Based on this the Armenian nation as a victim of the crime of genocide and the Republic of Armenia as a representative of its interests and legal rights in the recognition, condemnation and overcoming genocide's consequences should be guided by such an approach that would show global power centers Russia, USA and the EU their benefit from the process, after which they will support the Armenian people and Armenia in that struggle. Their benefit in this case can be Turkey's being weaker and why not, divided, with what will finally alleviate Ankara's ambitions to become a regional and even global performer which is clearly contrary to the interests of the power centers.

As we can see, currently Ankara has rather complicated and tense relations with all the power centers of global politics, and there are favorable conditions to use the deepening contradictions between Russia, USA, EU, on the one side and Turkey, on the other side, against the latter. In the case of coordinated activities of the diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Armenia and the Diaspora's lobbying organizations it will be possible to create such an assumption on the issue of the Armenian Genocide in the power centers, that even if they don't directly put pressure on Turkey in this issue, anyhow, they will support the efforts of Armenia when the latter will be ready to initiate a legal process against Turkey in the international judicial body on the condemnation of the crime of genocide and the consequences of this issue.

For the actions made in a political direction there should be a special place to form a common front for restoration of violated rights of peoples affected by the crime of genocide which would significantly improve work efficiency and probability of success. It should be noted that the foundations of this process have already been laid by the corporation between peoples - Armenians, Syrians and Greeks - who were subjected to genocide by the Ottoman Empire and its successor Turkish Republic. In this regard an important step is that the National Assembly of RA, on the 100<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, on March 24, 2015 adopted a statement condemning Greek and Syrian Genocide committed in the Ottoman Empire in 1915-1923, as well as the change in law "On holidays and memorial days of RA" on April 15 by which December 9<sup>th</sup>, the day when in 1948 the United Nation adopted the Convention on "Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide", was declared a day of remembrance and condemnation of genocides. This initiative of Armenia reached its logical conclusion on September 11. The UN General Assembly, at the 103rd plenary meeting of its 69th session, adopted by consensus a resolution, initiated by Armenia and entitled "International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime". This resolution follows up on another important resolution, initiated by Armenia and adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on March 27, 2015. In its operative paragraph 22, the UN Human Rights Council recommended to the UN General Assembly to proclaim such International Day. This resolution adds to the continued efforts of Armenia to promote consolidated international action against the crime of genocide. But it is still early to consider the results as enough.

Taking into account the European People's Party's (EPP) prestige and influence especially in the political system of European countries, as well as the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and resolution of condemnation adopted on March 5 (which contains very important and fundamental definitions, testifying to the fact that Armenian institutions participated in it), we think that this format of work is to be continued to reach the recognition of the Armenian Genocide in those countries that have not recognized it yet. For instance, Hungary, that has not recognized the Armenian Genocide, has in its parliament 199 members, 133 of which are from EPP political parties, the lower house of Parliament of Spain has 350 members, 185 of which are from EPP, Portugal's Parliament has 230 deputies, 132 are from EPP. Let us not forget that the three Armenian political parties: "The Republican Party", "Rule of Law" and "Heritage" are members of EPP from February 9, 2012, which means, that the EPP will operate within party channels to influence partner political parties and to have success in the countries which they represent.

It is necessary to continue works in the countries that have already recognized and condemned the Armenian Genocide in the sense that their resolutions and statements were rationalized. We need to ensure that the resolutions and statements adopted by those parliaments become laws and thus become binding for those countries. Besides,

it is necessary to continue working towards the adoption of laws criminalizing the Armenian Genocide denial. EPP's platform can also be used in this regard.

Some European countries such as Switzerland, Slovakia, Greece and Cyprus have legislation to criminalize denial of the Armenian Genocide, the new legislative initiative in France; other European countries with Armenian communities should work in that direction. In this regard a favorable factor is that on 28 November 2008, the Council of the European Union adopted the Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.

Armenian lobbying organizations apart from parliaments should target their activities to the executive branches, expertise structures preparing political decisions and "brain centers". We need to get the countries which have recognized and condemned the Armenian Genocide to support Armenia with their policy when the time comes to submit to the International Court with a genocide lawsuit.

Armenia in its turn can call on the signatories to the Treaty of Lausanne with request that they demand and put pressure on Turkey that the latter fulfilled its obligations under Articles 37-44 of the Treaty in regards to protect the rights of non-Muslim population. Countries that have signed the Treaty of Lausanne with Turkey can be led by Part 4 of Article 44 and regarding as a dispute with that country the violation of rights of Turkey's non-Muslim subjects, appeal to the UN International Court which after the dissolution of the Permanent Court of International Justice is considered to be the heir tribunal. To begin such a process it is enough that even the demand of one of the signatory countries of the Treaty of Lausanne, since Turkey by signing and ratifying this treaty has agreed that as a result of examining the litigations the decision of the international tribunal will be final for it.

It is necessary to create and disseminate public information leaflets, brochures in different languages in those countries that have not recognized and condemned the Armenian Genocide yet. It is preferable to do it through Armenia's diplomatic representations to give an official character to the case. The same is to be done through electronic media and the internet. There should be created a favorable public opinion for recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide in those countries. The target of these actions must become people disoriented by the Armenian genocide Turkish denial propaganda and people who are unaware of the issue; the historical truth is to be represented to them in a popular and convincing manner. The works should be done in scientific circles of those countries, mainly where various international conferences on the Armenian Genocide can be held with participation of scientists of those countries, and the statement adopted at the conferences should be directed not only to the presidents of those countries but also to the Turkish authorities.

The above mentioned influential centers are already using the Armenian Genocide issue to their interests and goals, therefore, it is necessary that we, with our prudent and cautious steps, try to use the fact of the coincidence of interests, and refer the increasing pressure on Turkey towards the restoration of the violated rights of the Armenian people who were victims of genocide.