



II. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDEPENDENT CIRCASSIA

23 November 2024

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE

Geographical and strategic significance of Circassia

Circassia, with its long coastline on the eastern shore of the Black Sea, is of strategic importance in the basin of the Black Sea. Although it was occupied by Tsarist Russia as a result of the Circassian-Russian wars (1763-1864), the geographical and strategic value of Circassia has never changed. Today, the conflicts and power struggles in the region put this back on the agenda.

Effects of Current Developments on Circassian People

The annexation of the Crimea by Russia in 2014 and the war in Ukraine have accelerated the struggle for power in the Black Sea region. Russia's 'Near Periphery Doctrine' policy of occupying regions with Russian minorities continues. At the same time, in order to strengthen its influence in the region, NATO has established bases in Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Poland. This situation poses a critical risk and opportunity for the future of Circassia.

Threats to which the Circassian people are exposed

Russia's attempted invasion of the Ukraine and the civil war in Syria have left the Circassian people with heavy losses:

- Russia has been forcibly sending thousands of young Circassian men to the front lines.
- A significant number of Circassians in Syria have been forced to migrate. A large proportion of these migrants have sought refuge in Turkey.
- The risk of cultural and demographic erosion has increased with the decline of the Circassian population in the diaspora and in the homeland.

Aim of the Conference

In the light of these developments, **the Second International Conference on Independent Circassia** was held on 23 November 2024. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the independence of Circassia at the international level and to evaluate its contribution to peace in the region.

Having concluded the Conference, the participants agreed on the following Articles:



Articles of the Conference Outcome:

1. **Right to Self-Determination:** The Circassian Nation has the right to freely determine its political status, economic and socio-cultural development within the framework of Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The establishment of an independent Circassian State is a concrete requirement of this right.
2. **Independent Circassian Government:** In order to support the struggle for the rights of the Circassian people on international platforms, efforts should be made for the establishment of an Independent Circassian Government.
3. **Other Indigenous Peoples' Rights:** The right to self-determination of other indigenous peoples such as Chechens, Ingush, Dagestanis, Kazan Tatars, Don Cossacks, Karelians, Astrakhan Nogais, North Ossetians and Uyghurs should be recognized.
4. **Recognition of the Circassian Genocide:** International initiatives should be taken for the recognition of the Circassian Genocide by the world parliaments, and academic and legal studies should be supported in this direction.
5. **Reparation of Genocide:** The claims of other elements demanding rights in Circassia must be considered invalid within the framework of international law and justice. The independence of Circassia will be possible with the rejection of these claims.
6. **Principle of Neutrality:** Circassians should defend their rights within the framework of international law.
7. **Circassian-Uyghur Solidarity:** Circassian-Uyghur solidarity: Circassians and Uyghurs should strengthen their solidarity and continue their struggle for independence together as peoples who have experienced the similar tragedies in their history.
8. **Russia's War Crimes:** The Circassian Genocide and other war crimes of Russia should be brought to the agenda of international organizations such as the OSCE and the UN.
9. **Relations between Crimea and Circassia:** The liberation of Crimea from Russian occupation has a strategic importance for the independence of Circassia. The historical ties between the Crimean Khanate and Circassia should not be forgotten.
10. **"Belt and Road" Project:** China's Belt and Road Project increases the economic and strategic value of Circassia. The main elements of this importance are the natural resources of the region.



11. **Diaspora Solidarity:** The Circassian Diaspora should strengthen the solidarity in the framework of the struggle for independence and take an effective position in the international arena.

12. **Circassian Identity and Genocide:** Circassian Genocide is a part of Circassian identity. All Circassian institutions should cooperate with universities in the countries where Circassians live in order to achieve the **global** recognition of the genocide.

13. **Defense of Historical Rights:** Circassia is historically a land of the Circassian Nation, regardless of its demographic structure in the modern era. This is an idea that should be strongly defended in the international public opinion.



CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS-SIGNATORIES:

Kenan Kaplan : Chairman (Council of United Circassia)

Ardan Zentürk: Journalist and Writer

Refat Chubarov: Chairman (Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People)

Prof. Dr Erkin Emet: Vice President (East Turkestan Research Foundation,
Faculty Member, Ankara University)

Dr. Barış Adıbelli: Faculty Member (Dumlupınar University, Kütahya)

Prof. Dr Fahri Erenel: Faculty Member (Istinye University, Istanbul)

Murat Özden : President (Maltepe Circassian Association)

Assoc. Prof. Dr Ata Kaya: Faculty Member (Galatasaray University)

Abdurrahman Dilipak: Journalist and Writer

Balkar Selçuk: Vice-President (Council of United Circassia)

Prof. Dr Yasar Sari: Ibn Haldun University Faculty Member

Prof. Dr Uğur Özgöker: Faculty Member (Arel University, Istanbul)

Prof. Dr. Abdullah Temizkan: Faculty Member (Ege University, Izmir)

Prof. Dr Keisuke Wakizaka: Faculty Member (Istanbul Gelisim University)

Marianna Sheru: President [Circassia Centre Foundation (USA)]

Rustam Kuazhev: Representative (Council of United Circassian) in **Circassia**

Akhmed Zakayev: Prime Minister (Chechen Republic of Ichkeria)

Ahmed Ahmedov: President (World Congress of Dagestan Peoples)

Dmitry Kuznetsov: Leader (Karelian National Liberation Movement)

Prof. Dr. Andrzej Passer: President (Polish Centre for Strategic Studies)

Prof. Dr Pavlo Zhovnirenko: Head of the Ukrainian Centre for Strategic Studies

Kase Kik: Representative (Council of United Circassia) in USA

Ibrahim Yagan: Consultant of President of Council of United Circassia

Marius Kundratos: Journalist and Specialist on Political Science

Ruslan Gabbasov: Leader of the Bashkir National Movement

Rizvan Kubakaev: Leader of the Nogai National Movement

Victoria Makadeyeva: Leader of the Buryat National Movement

Vadim Petrov: Representative (Baltic Republic Party)

Vitaly Ginzburg: Political Analyst

Dr Mairbek Vatchagaev: Representative (Newspaper & Radio Liberty)

Dzhabrail Mirzoev: Head of the Dagestan National Centre

Azer Aliev: Chairman (Strong Azerbaijan Political Movement)

Dorzho Dugarov: Chairman (Buryal-Mongolian Erkheten Movement)

Beslan Khumuzov: Activist-Newspaper Journalist

Orhan Barsik (Ph.D): Representative of **Middle Eastern United Circassian Council**

Adel Bashqawi: Researcher & Writer

Maria Mezentseva: Member of the Ukrainian Parliament

Prof. Dr. Nikolai Javakhishvili: Ivane Javakshvili Professor (Tbilisi State University), Head of the Centre for Caucasus and Baltic Studies

Prof. Dr Adas Jakubauskas: Lecturer (Lithuania Mykolas Romeris University)

Volodymyr Viatrovych: Member of the Parliament of Ukraine

Paul Goble Senior Fellow (Jamestown Foundation)

Sergey Sumlenny: Eastern Europe Expert, Founder of the European Resistance Initiative Centre

Dr Michal Patry Sadlowski: Lecturer (University of Warsaw)

Hakan Cinaz: Member of the International Circassian Council

Assoc. Dr Mustafa Canbek: Secretary General (Council of United Circassia)

