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The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity

Letter dated 20 November 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in response to the letter dated 9 October 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations ([A/74/508](#)), which is yet another manifestation of the policy of denialism and justification of the Armenian Genocide.

A whole body of genocide studies has been established on the case of the Armenian Genocide as the first genocide of the twentieth century. It is public knowledge, well documented by overwhelming evidence of official records of many States, including Turkey's wartime allies, as well as the records of the Ottoman courts-martial of 1918–1920.

It is deplorable that the Government of Turkey continues to embark on the odious path of justification of the Armenian Genocide, as was reflected in the statement by the President of Turkey on 24 April 2019, referring to the victims of the Genocide as “Armenian gangs and their supporters” and further qualifying the genocidal campaign as “relocation” and “the most reasonable act”.

In parallel with its policy of denialism, the Government of Turkey continues to pursue an illegal land blockade of Armenia as an apparent attempt to hamper sustainable economic development and isolate it from cooperation and connectivity networks, thus undermining regional peace and security.

Ironically, the groundless allegations of occupation of territories and glorification of terrorism come from the representative of a country that has allowed the use of its territory by terrorist organizations to conduct cross-border attacks on ethnic and religious groups and has been itself involved in direct aggression and occupation of several countries in its neighbourhood.

I also transmit for your attention a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia regarding the controversial statements made by the President of Turkey during the recent visit to the United States (see annex).



I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 8 and 130.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 20 November 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia regarding the statements by the President of Turkey on Armenian Genocide made in the United States

16 November 2019

In light of the further advancement of the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide, the President of Turkey recently made controversial statements, which distort the reality.

These statements contain claims aimed at justifying the Genocide by means of insulting the dignity of the victims. On April 24, 2019 the President of Turkey already attempted to justify the Armenian Genocide by qualifying it as “the most reasonable act” and referring to the victims of the Genocide as “Armenian gangs and their supporters”. All the more, presently the President of Turkey deprives the victims of the Armenian Genocide of their historic homeland by way of calling them nomads, thus forgetting the history of his ancestors and the indigenous people of the region.

Indeed, the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide is essential for serving truth and historical justice. However, today it is essential not merely for history and historians but rather for the entire humanity, and particularly the potential victims of the identity-based crimes. It is essential for all those persons and peoples who are accused of being terrorists simply because of their ethnic and religious origin and then subjected to violence and forced deportations by the Republic of Turkey in its neighbouring country. It is essential for overcoming genocidal perceptions and protecting the universality of human rights.

The Armenian Genocide is a reality for the descendants of the Genocide and the international community. This reality has also served as a basis for elaborating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the subsequent mechanisms for the prevention of genocides and crimes against humanity.

By justifying and denying the Armenian Genocide, pursuing aggressive policies marked by the use of force against its neighbours, sustaining land blockade of Armenia for more than two decades and providing political and military assistance to Azerbaijan in the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Turkey continues to be a security threat to the Armenian people, which survived the genocide.

Turkey should reconsider its current hostile policies against Armenia and the Armenian people, which may become the first step in overcoming the consequences of the Genocide and reducing regional threats.
