



## 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TURKISH-ARMENIAN RELATIONS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY FINAL DECLARATION

October 17, 2019

Iğdır.

“1st International Symposium on Turkish-Armenian Relations in the First Half of the 20th Century”, hosted by Iğdır University, was carried out on 16-18 October, 2019. This symposium was attended by more than 100 scientists from Turkey and abroad. 89 papers were presented in the symposium, which lasted 2 days in 22 sessions.

The Armenians, provoked as a result of the imperialist policies of the Great Powers, established Hinchak, Dashnak and other similar organizations with the dream of a “Great Armenia” and began to terrorize the South Caucasus and predominantly Eastern Anatolia in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Armenian terror that continued in late 19th century and in the first quarter of the 20th century targeted Anatolian and Caucasian Turks and led to massive massacres. The main purpose here was to establish a sociological basis for the imaginary ‘Great Armenia’ by massacring the Turks or compelling them to migration. The Armenians carried out terrorist activities and at the same time, they tried to attract the Western public with agitation through the newspapers and magazines they published; and they have achieved this to a large extent.

The Armenians living in Eastern Anatolia during the First World War said “the expected time has come” and joined the Russian army with the militia forces they created and also tried to sabotage the rear guard of the Ottoman army with komitadji activities. The Ottoman State intervened in this great betrayal on legal basis, and with the “Relocation and Settlement Law” enacted on 27 May, 1915, the “rebellious” Armenians were interned.

The events that took place during the First World War were reversed by the propaganda books and methods produced by Armenians and the imperialist powers protecting them, and the memory of humanity was misled. Groundless allegations deriving from here have continued



throughout 20th century and it has been attempted to condemn Turkish nation before international public opinion.

Ottoman Empire was hand-tied with the Mondros Armistice Agreement, signed at the end of the First World War on October 30, 1918, and the Armenians - armed and encouraged by their protectors - mobilized once again. With the dream of a three-sea Great Armenia, Armenians began massacring Turkish and Muslim people in Baku, Nakhchivan, Kars, Ardahan, Iğdir, Erzurum, Van, Mus, Bitlis, Maras and Cukurova.

Mass massacres in Kuba in Azerbaijan; in Erzurum, Kars and Iğdır (Gedikli, Hakmehmet and Oba villages) in Eastern Anatolia have been unearthed as a result of excavations carried out by Atatürk University and the Turkish Historical Society and put as exemplary documents to humanity. The events that took place in Eastern Anatolia after the First World War were interrupted by the strategy of National Struggle under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Pasha and with the great energy of Kazım Karabekir Pasha, the Commander of the Orient Front, and the idea of “Great Armenia” became an unfulfilled dream forever.

This great disappointment of the Armenians led them to fulfill terrorist activities again, and with the establishment of Nemesis and Asala organizations, they attempted assassinations against Turkish statesmen and diplomats. During this period, 31 people from Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and their families were brutally martyred only due to the fact that they were Turkish. On this occasion, we wish Allah's mercy to all martyrs who gave their lives for this land. Continuing throughout the 20th century, this raging Armenian terror took place largely in front of the “free world” and unfortunately in their capital cities. There was propaganda on violence. We condemn all the environments that continue and nurture this violence and dignify terrorism before humanity.

With this symposium and in line with the findings listed above, we would like to present the following recommendations to public attention: The locations of mass graves to be uncovered with new excavations in Erzurum, Kars and Iğdir triangle should be registered as “Respect Route” by Ministry of Culture and Tourism and a “Respect Walk” should be organized on certain dates with the participation of international press, students from Turkey and all around Turkish world,



and this walk should be included in domestic / foreign tour programs. “The Memorial and Museum of Martyr Turks” opened in Iğdır on October 5, 1999 should be rearranged in accordance with its purpose and enriched with written and visual materials to be brought from within and outside the country. Statues of Halit Paşa (Madman), Cihangiroğlu İbrahim Bey and Kazım Karabekir Pasha should be erected in Ardahan, Kars and Iğdır, respectively, in accordance with their historical missions and local historical museums should be established in their names.

New farming techniques and promotions should be applied and the accelerated migration must be stopped, or even reversed in Iğdır Plain, which is located right next to the Republic of Nakhchivan, which is described as “Turkish gate” by Great Ataturk and is currently under the guarantee of Republic of Turkey. With this sociological strategy, Turkey's geopolitical position in Turkish world will be strengthened. With the occasion of this symposium, we also attempt to make a call for international public attention: The Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and its vicinity, occupied by Armenia for nearly 30 years, should be evacuated immediately and the “Minsk Group” should fulfill its responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted for public consideration.

**SCIENTIFIC BOARD OF 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TURKISH-ARMENIAN RELATIONS IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.**