

Message to the Armenian People (and the World)

Dear Armenian people, in Armenia and around the world, the last few days have been very difficult. If you love your nation and its people, then I ask you to listen carefully to these words, as our future is as bright as our angels in heaven who gave everything for us, but only if we're united in our cause.

Please understand clearly that Armenians weren't defeated by Azerbaijan as they knew they couldn't defeat us alone. We were overwhelmed by robot technology and an unholy alliance of many countries. Those who seek to wipe out Christians and others who took blood money over the recognition of a people's right to live peacefully in their ancient homeland. Don't forget that the minorities in Azerbaijan such as the Lezgis and the Talysh also suffered terribly being used as cannon-fodder by their corrupt dictatorship.

We were also overwhelmed by the lack of the world's response to a bloody invasion and multiple war crimes. This was partly due to the corruption of foreign politicians and media bought by petro dollars, which helped to cover up this tragedy. But it was also due to our inability to communicate effectively to the world, which I'll discuss later.

We'll never forget the unforgivable treachery of the Georgian and Ukrainian governments. They condemned us simply because we have a defence arrangement with Russia. We're not Russia. Our defence is necessary for the survival of what's left of Armenia after centuries of persecution and genocide. We're fellow Christians, yet they held the Ottoman's sabre above our heads. They can never pretend that they defended their faith in church again.

Nor will we forget the shameful hypocrisy of Israel's government. We were very naïve to think that Israel might understand the plight of being a persecuted people. A nation born from genocide providing weapons to genocidal nations for a few shekels, so they can wipe out the victims of genocide. Israel doesn't even have the courage to recognize the Armenian genocide, so we should've known they wouldn't have any morality to help us.

Artsakh and Armenia still stand. Everything we do now should be done to preserve what we have. Our fellow ancients Assyrians and Kurds don't have a recognized nation. We must understand that in a world where small tribes are pawns for larger tribes, even this remnant of our ancient homelands is special.

We must look at ourselves. The Armenian character is typically based on looking back to a past that cannot be changed. We seem to lack proper communication and planning skills. We had three decades to communicate to the world about the right of self-determination, such as that granted to Kosovo. We talk at the same time and think the world is capable of understanding the poetry and nuances in our speeches. Anyone who goes to Armenia knows that planning anything before being face-to-face is impossible, as we only live for the moment. These attitudes have to change if we're going to survive, and it's very possible to do so with help from the diaspora, our friends around the world, and our youth.

Now I wish to address those who believe that the current Armenian government should be blamed for what's happened. Many of you, inside Armenia and in the diaspora supported the leaders of corrupt governments for decades while they raped our people and left us without sufficient resources and weapons to defend ourselves. This is not something that could be remedied in a couple of years. Do you forget those who stole food from our soldiers and left them without even proper uniforms?

To those political factions that divided Armenians to weaken us, you know who you are. We saw your members in Armenia tell us how they'd bravely go to the front then cowardly run back to Yerevan to blame the government when the inevitable happened. Do you seek to regain power and subjugate the Armenian people again while living in your big houses? All of these people must now give up their ill-gotten wealth. They can change from being villains to cleanse their conscience, as that money is used to rebuild Artsakh and Armenia.

I wish to address the diaspora. I believe that Armenians have been very grateful for your money and support, even your occasional visits. But it's not enough. In a world where only the strongest survive, we have to re-populate Armenia. We have to bring not just resources but new thinking. We need to bring the skills we've learnt, including the ability to communicate with the world, to be on time, to plan properly, to stop corruption and to embrace the modern world, if only for our youth. We owe them this having sent so many to the front line never to have their own families!

I challenge our diaspora and our many non-Armenian friends, to emigrate to Armenia and Artsakh, even if only for part of the year. I will do so myself. Of course, we know that not everyone has the means to move, but many of us who live comfortable lives in developed nations can. There can be no excuse if Armenia is to survive. I'd like to work with the people of Armenia to ensure that every village has a group of mentors, hopefully connected to the outside world by having those mentors actually living near the village, not just in Yerevan.

We don't need any more statues and churches in Yerevan. We need to strengthen the rural heartland so it's productive and populated, for 'he who has green lands and water in the 21st century will be rich'. We have enormous untapped wealth through the skills of our youth. Armenia and Artsakh have huge tourism potential, yet there's no Tourism Minister. We need to emphasise high technology for our industry and our defence.

This is our challenge, not so much the enemy right now. We need to move our new democracy and freedom forward, so that the forces of darkness that kept our people chained with poverty and corruption never again get a chance to weaken us. This is a time for us to thrive, to survive, while we watch the neighbouring dictatorships destroy their nations from within. They haven't really won at all. They've merely energized us to become the force that we were destined to be.

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