



# International Circassian Movement

Statute August 2017

# Introduction

- Circassia is located in the northwest of the Caucasus, which is Circassians homeland
- The first Circassian kingdom was established in 400 BC





# Colonization

## 1. 1200 BC – 19<sup>th</sup> century

- Ramses II's invaded the country followed by the Greeks, Romans, Persians, Seljuk Turks and Tatars.

## 2. 19<sup>th</sup> century

- Russian Tsars conquered and occupied the entire Circassian national territory, ended the Circassian national resistance, and embarked on campaigns of extermination, murder, arson, displacement and forced deportation in a bloody campaign

# Colonization cont.

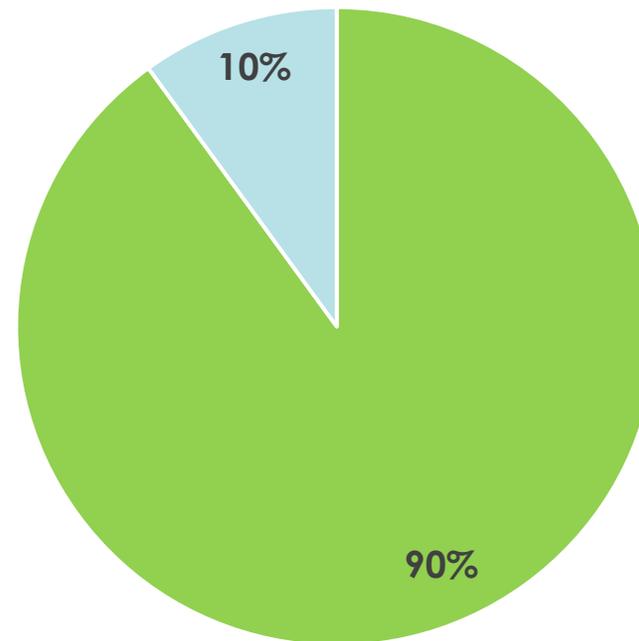
## 3. Communists

- ▶ Led a campaign of assassinations
- ▶ They transformed Circassian cities and villages into closed concentration camps called “self-rule administrations” and started a process of Russification which oppressively and unjustly robbed the Circassian mind



# The ramification of the war

The Circassian Popoulation



- Circassians who were deported
- Circassians who live in their homeland but only occupying 10% of the land

# Article I

## ➤ Definition:

- ❑ The movement is a populist Circassian Organization that includes all Circassians in diaspora and in the motherland.
- ❑ It works on restoring the legitimate national rights of the Circassian nation in their historical homeland, Circassia
- ❑ Through peaceful means that are guaranteed by international charters and laws



# Article II

## ➤ Vision

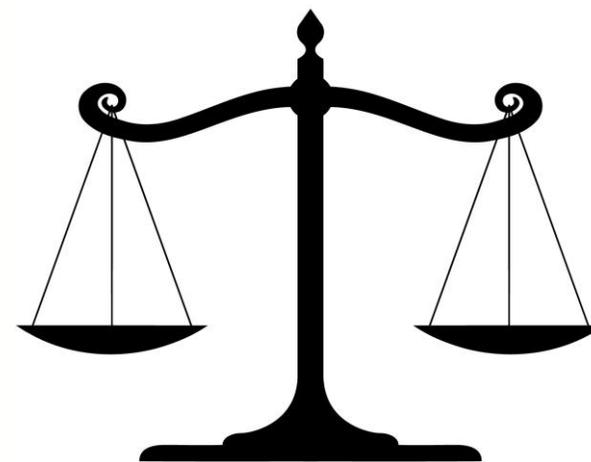
- ❑ To ensure securing the right of self-determination of the Circassian nation according to the international legislations and laws, including the option of creating an independent Circassian state.



# Article III

## ➤ Charter

- ❑ Circassians believe in the justice of their cause and their right to regain their historical rights in their homeland in the North Caucasus



# Cont.

- ❑ This should be conducted through dialogue and the exertion of political and diplomatic efforts with an emphasis on:
  - the refusal of violence and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations
  - rejecting extremism and intolerance
  - adherence to peaceful means to retrieve the usurped Circassian rights
  - dealing with other peoples and nations on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of others.



# Article IV



Cont.



- **Fourth:** to strengthen relations between the Circassians in various countries of the world.
- **Fifth:** to work on protecting the Circassian nation of extinction and assimilation in other communities that they live among.
- **Sixth:** to open channels of communication with all countries and international institutions.
- **Seventh:** to convert the Circassian just cause into an international humanitarian issue on the international political arena.

# Cont.

- ▶ **Eighth:** to open a constructive dialogue with the Russian Federation
- ▶ **Ninth:** to work on preserving the Circassian nation's identity, including the language, heritage, culture, music and folklore





## Cont.

- **Tenth:** to work on the establishment of a Circassian national fund
- **Eleventh:** to prepare a comprehensive file that illustrates the Circassian issue
- **Twelfth:** to prepare a comprehensive legal file that relates to the Circassian issue

# Cont.

- ▶ **Thirteenth:** to work on the adoption of the Latin alphabet in writing and reading the Adyghe language.
- ▶ **Fourteenth:** to utilize the capabilities of all Circassians wherever they are to support the Circassian issue.
- ▶ **Fifteenth:** to strengthen the ties of kinship and encourage the return, intensify the visits and boost tourism to the motherland.



къуэлагэм къыдэмхъэшъуыгъэ  
къабартэихэри загъзэжи рэклуэжыгъэх.

As for Qabardes who could not enter the  
valley, they turned and went off.



## Cont.

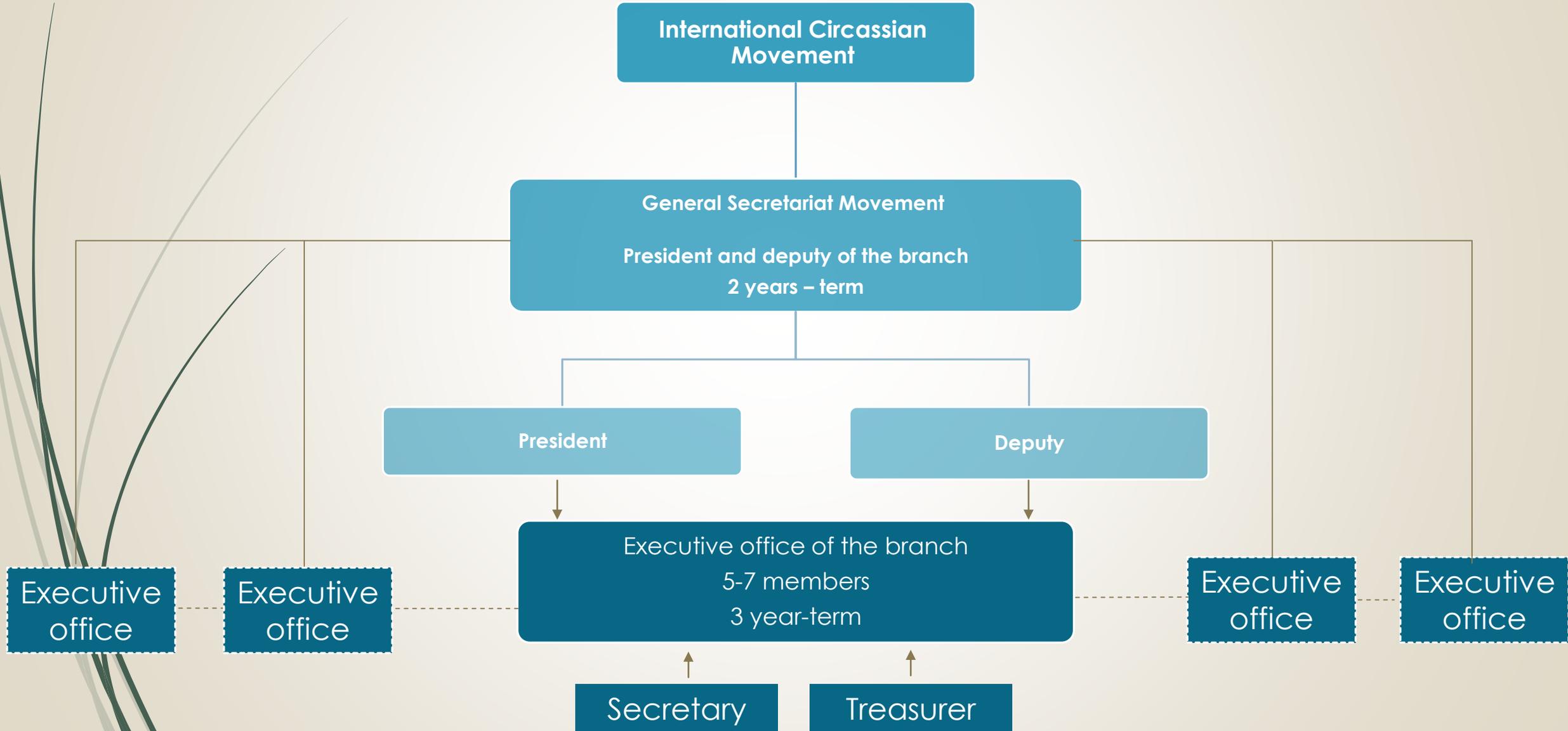
- **Sixteenth:** to find an independent sustainable media platform for the movement.
- **Seventeenth:** to develop political awareness of the Circassians, especially the youth and women.
- **Eighteenth:** to urge Circassians with various professional disciplines to engage in the membership of professional and workers associations and unions
- **Nineteenth:** to urge Circassian institutions to adopt more programs of care guidance

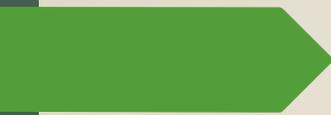
# Cont.

- ▶ **Twenty:** to work on the establishment of an active and effective global Circassian women's movement.
- ▶ **Twenty-one:** to raise awareness about the importance of internal organization of Circassians in the diaspora.
- ▶ **Twenty-two:** to always adhere to the system of Circassian values, customs, and traditions that are compatible with the social, scientific, and economic development.



# Article V

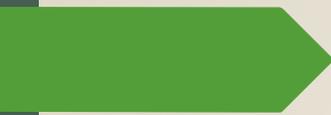




# Article VI

► **Participants in the development of this Statute:**

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# The Preparatory Committee of the International Circassian Movement