



Circassian Repatriation Organization
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To:
His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin
The President of Russian Federation
Moscow, Russian Federation

Apr. 10th, 2015

Dear Mr. President,

The Circassian Repatriation Organization (CRO) is a Not-for-profit, humanitarian, charitable and peaceful Organization. It is a Circassian Organization registered in Canada, but is an independent organization not affiliated with any governments or countries. Our members are living in all countries where Circassians live all over the world and we are dedicated to reflect on all issues that affect the wellbeing of the Circassian people no matter where they live today. The CRO's foremost objective is to provide aid and assistance to the Circassian people especially throughout difficulties, and to elevate their hardships. We strongly believe that the best aid we can provide for Circassians is to help them return to their homeland in the Circassian republics of the Russian Federation (Adygea Republic, Kabardino-Balkaria Republic and the Karachay-Cherkessia republic).

Your Excellency,

As you are aware, for almost 150 years and the Circassian people are scattered in more than 50 countries. The majority of the Circassian people who live abroad believe that they should have the right to go back and settle in the Caucasus (the original homeland of their ancestors) and grow roots in their historical homeland. According to the Federal law № 99-FZ " [Dated 24.05.1999], Circassians are considered Russian Federation compatriots who are permanently residing abroad. Based on the State Policy of the Russian Federation towards compatriots abroad, Circassians have the right to return and chose the Russian Federation as a home regardless whether they currently have citizenship or not.

Since the Circassians departure from the Caucasus during the Russian Empire, RSFSR, and USSR periods and they have been facing one tragedy after another. The current unrest and political uncertainty

in Syria is a living example of the hardship that the Circassians have been going through for many years. The CRO is deeply concerned and largely disturbed by the tragic and horrifying circumstances that the Circassian community is currently facing in Syria. The situation in Syria might also develop to affect the whole region, including Turkey and Jordan, where hundreds of thousands of Circassians live.

We would like to point out that the Russian Federation fulfilled its duty in the past and helped the compatriots living abroad to escape war zones and return to their homeland. For example, escaping the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and escaping the current conflict in Ukraine.

Mr. President,

The CRO's main objective is to facilitate the return of the Circassian people to their homeland in the North Caucasus republics in the Russian Federation, which can only be done through your leadership and the directives of the Russian Federal government, and through collaboration with local governments of the North Caucasus republics.

We are urgently appealing to you, Mr. President, and to your government to act according to the State Policy of the Russian Federation towards Compatriots Abroad, and help the Circassian community in Syria foremost who are still living in danger inside the warzones and those who have fled to surrounding countries. We appeal to you; that time has come again to fulfill your honorable duty and assist in bringing back the Circassians affected by the conflict in Syria foremost and Circassians in any part of the world to their homeland in the North Caucasus republics urgently.

The returning Circassians to their homelands will bring back with them the diversity and economical breadth that will further strengthen the Russian Federations economy. Their integration into the societies of the North Caucasus will also enrich the colorful fabric of the entire country. We sincerely believe that any steps to be taken by your government in facilitating the return of all Circassian compatriots home will be in the benefit of the Russian Federation as well as the Circassian people.

The CRO is looking forward for the day when the Circassians are treated equally with all the Russian Federation's compatriots and their return to their homeland becomes a priority. We are extending an invitation for your government to consider the CRO a partner in this endeavor and are willing to discuss this immense aspiration of the Circassians with your government to help make this aspiration a reality.

While we await your kind actions and reply, please accept our deepest regards and best of wishes

Yours truly,

Orfan Shouakar-Stash, PhD

Chairman, CRO