

# Circassians

and the Future

**Adigha Day, NJ, USA Sept. 9, 2017**

# The Circassian Repatriation Organization (CRO)

- The CRO is an international not-for-profit organization with no political or religious agenda or orientations.
- Officially registered in Canada Since Feb. 2014
- Officially active since August 2014
- Almost 200 members from different countries across the Globe
- A Board of Directors that consists from 11 members (from the motherland, North America, Germany, UK, Netherland, Sweden, Austria, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan)

# Why Now and after 150 years?

- Since we were forced out of the North Caucasus and it has been an extremely turbulent ride for us
  - The loss of more than 85% of population
  - The deportation
  - The Balkan war
  - The Collapse of the Othman Empire and the Building of the Republic of Turkey.
  - The Israeli – Arab Wars and Golan Heights war
  - The Yugoslavian civil war
  - The Syrian civil war

# The frame work of the CRO

- The CRO has many different objectives,
- however, one of the most pressing issue in the current time is assisting Circassians in Syria throughout their adversity, elevate all hardships and facilitate their return to their homeland in the North Caucasus.

## *The CRO is doing so by:*

- Providing aid and support to Circassians who went back to the homeland or wish to return.
- Raising awareness through workshops, counseling sessions, and financing small projects to help the repatriated people start a new life and support themselves financially.

# **The CRO is also involved in the following:**

- Educating and increasing the public's understanding of the plight of persons of Circassian heritage and the importance of stressing their right to repatriate.
- Developing and providing programs promoting the protection and preservation of persons of Circassian heritage through educating institutions, industries, businesses and individuals.
- Establishing communication with the appropriate governments or governmental agencies and international agencies to attain the purposes of the CRO.

# What has the CRO achieved so far?

- In 2015, the CRO initiated a new program called the “Small Business Support Program” (SBSP) with the aim of helping Circassians who are trying to establish a new start in the homeland succeed with their dreams. Throughout this program, the CRO supported three new business in the homeland.

# What has the CRO achieved so far?

*In 2016*

- *1. Tailor Shop in Nalchik*
- *2. Tailor Shop specialized in Circassian Costume in Nalchik*
- *3. Middle Eastern Restaurant in Nalchik.*
- *4. Green House Project in Nalchik.*
- *5. Green House Project in Nalchik.*
- *6. Dairy Farm Project in Maykop.*
- *7. Green House Project in Maykop.*
  
- *The CRO continues to take responsibility to support a number of orphans living in Turkey after escaping the war zone in Syria.*



# What has the CRO achieved so far?

- Several governmental bodies were contacted about the fate of Circassians in Syria, including the president of the Russian Federation, the Russian ambassador in Canada and the Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu).
- Furthermore, the CRO is extending its support to financially assist families in need to cover their travel expenses to the homeland.
- The CRO continues to pay for visa fees to returnees.
- Collected \$1300 (Fitra charity) from the CRO members and sent to those in need in Syria.



## Other CRO activities

- The CRO had officially established a branch in the US.
- Attended a meeting with Turkish Circassians in Istanbul in October of 2016.
- Attended a meeting with the Jordan Circassians in Amman in October of 2016.
- Attended a meeting with the German Circassians in Cologne in April of 2017.
- The CRO applied for membership in the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).





## Cologne in April of 2017 (Germany)





# Veranstaltungen (Jordan) 2016



# Veranstaltungen (Jordan) 2016





# Current and Future Plans

- The CRO continues to offer its support and assistance to help those moving back to the homeland by continuing to offer the **2017 Small Business Support Program**.
- The CRO received over 20 applications for SBSP. 13 projects were approved to be supported.
- Continuing to help Circassian across the globe.
- Establishing branches of the CRO in several localities including Europe and the Middle East.

# The CRO Board of Executives

- Mr. Orfan Shouakar-Stash (chairman) / Canada
- Mr. Ilker Sezen (Vice chairman) / USA
- Mr. Nassouh Apesh / USA
- Mr. Deeb Katt / Kabardino Balkaria
- Mr. Ali Bghane / Adygea
- Mrs. Tina Abzakh/ Sweden
- Mr. Sabah Tsey / Netherlands
- Mr. Yahia Touk / Germany
- Mr. Rayan Bater/ Jordan



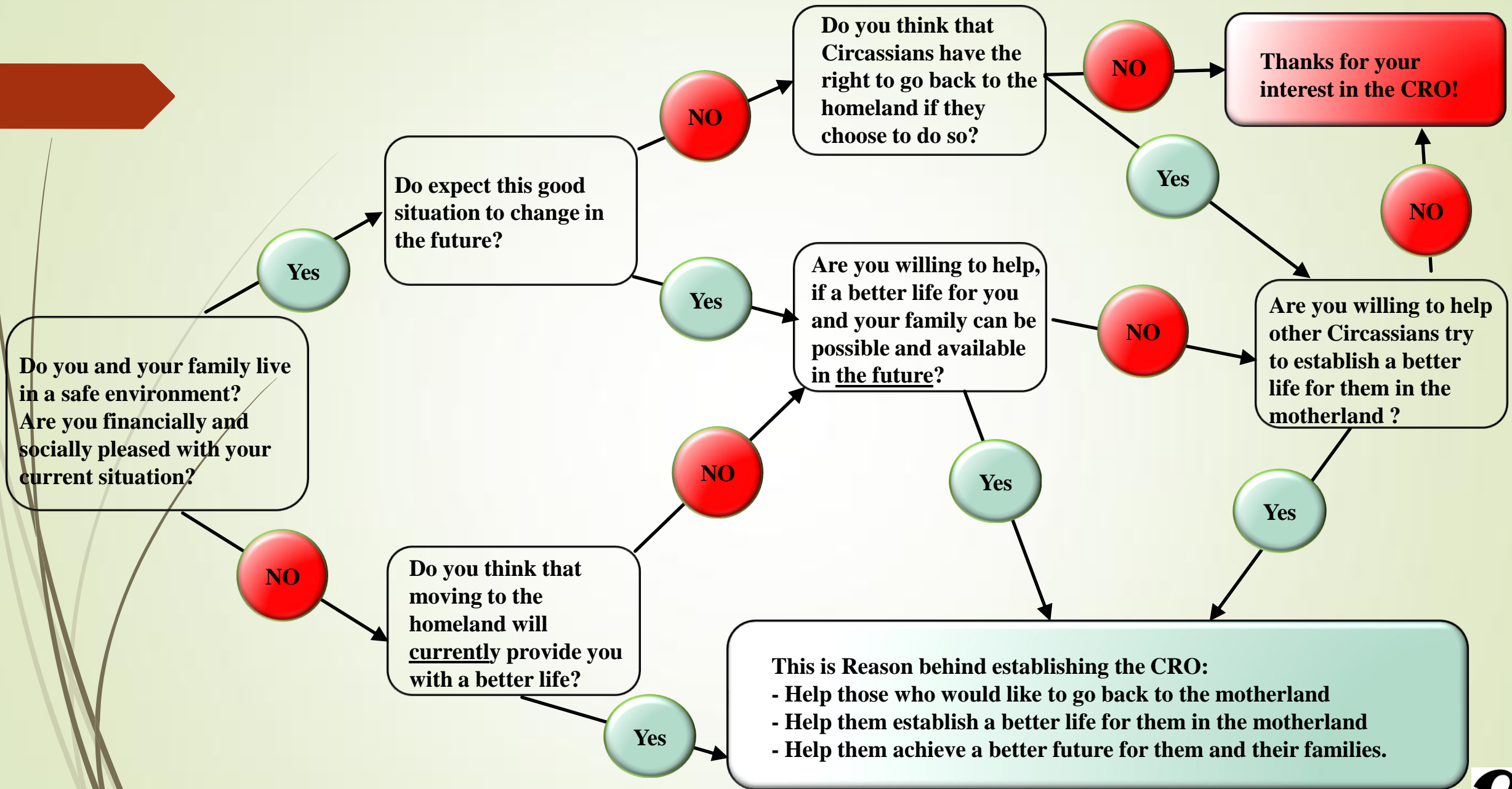
# Strategies

- Establishing communication with all Circassian Associations and activists.
- Raising awareness of the NEED to ACT.
- Inviting Circassians everywhere to participate in the CRO (ideas, decision making as well as enforcement).
- Establishing Chapters (offices) in all Geographic area that Circassians live in.
- Building an International Organization with a large membership base that can represent Circassians and speak on their behalf with ALL necessary agencies to address needs.

# Means

- A collaborative effort by everyone.
- Membership fees (\$2 a MONTH – i.e. \$24 annually).
- Donations.
- Building a comprehensive professional network.

# Why should you join the CRO ?





What is the economical situation  
in the North Caucasus?

# Circassians in the World

Homeland or Hosting Country	Estimated Number of Circassians	Annual Income in USD	Estimated Average Age
North Caucasus	900,000	13,860	38
Turkey	2,000,000 – 6,000,000	10,950	28.3
Syria	100,000	2,083	21.9
Kafer Kama	4,000	34,120	30.1
Jordan	120,000	4,950	22.5
Germany	15,000	46,100	44.3
USA	5,000	53,670	37.1

Sources: Wikipedia, World Bank, UNICCO, UN

**Yes. The annual Income in the North Caucasus is not the highest but it is not the lowest also.**



# The Circassian Repatriation Organization CRO

**Thank you for coming!**

**[www.CROWorld.org](http://www.CROWorld.org)**

**E-mail : [info@croworld.org](mailto:info@croworld.org)**



# How to reach us?

➡ E-mail : [info@croworld.org](mailto:info@croworld.org)



# How to join the CRO?

- *Visit the organization website (www.croworld.org), press “Become a member”, and complete the application then proceed to pay the fees online.*
- Fill out the “hard copy” application, scan and email to the organization or simply pass it to one of the CRO members in your area.

**[www.CROWorld.org](http://www.CROWorld.org)**


# The Small Businesses Program/CRO

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1-JR\\_-1SoU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1-JR_-1SoU)





# **Previous Recipients of CRO Appreciation Certificates**

- Mr. Mozafer Doghoz
  - Mr. Marwan Shehlakh
  - Dr. Samer Stas
  - Dr. Akram Kamelmaz
  - Ms. Shirin Haj Mahmoud
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# Recipients of the 2017 CRO Appreciation Certificates

- The Jordan Association of the Friends of the Caucasus Circassians
- Mr. Ilker Sezen
- Mrs. Raja Mousa
- Mr. Zawer Barsbay
- Mr. Amjad Yahia
- Mr. Hamsho Issak
- Mr. Nour Habbak
- Mr. Alaa Ihsan
- Mr. Shan Hajo
- Mr. Mazen Ghokou