



# The CRO: Objectives and Achievements

**The Second International Circassian Conference**

**Oct. 18-20, 2019**

Нюрнбергы и Ятлонэрэ Дунэе Адыгэ Шыныуатэ  
“Сыд Тызэзыпхырэр”

# The Circassian Repatriation Organization

- 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 300 members from different countries across the Globe
- A Board of Directors that consists from 11 members (from the motherland, Canada, USA, Germany, Netherland, Sweden, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan)



# Why Now and after 150 years?

- Since Circassians 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 the 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 first focuses of the CRO have been the current situation in Syria.
- *The CRO have been 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.
  - Helping them 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.



# CRO Achievements so far!

Since it was established in 2014 and the Circassian Repatriation Organization (CRO) is moving forward with its goals. Some of the major achievements of the CRO are listed below:

- Supported 21 small projects through its “Small Business Support Program” (SBSP), where almost USD 50,000 was used to support these projects.
- Contacted several governmental bodies regarding the fate of Circassians in Syria, including the president of the Russian Federation.
- Financially supported Circassian families in Syria.
- Financially supported families in need to cover their travel expenses to the homeland.
- Financially supported number of orphans living in Turkey after escaping the war zone in Syria.





# CRO Achievements so far!

- In 2017, the CRO became a partner of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).
- In 2017, the CRO was registered as one of the NGO–UN Organizations.
- In 2018, The CRO partnered with the Circassian Nurnberg Association to organize the First International Circassian Conference in in Nuremberg, Germany.
- Established a branch of the CRO in the USA (registered as None-Profit Organization in NJ)
- Actively working on establishing a branch of the CRO in Europe.



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**The Second International Circassian Conference – 2019 – [www.CROworld.org/conference](http://www.CROworld.org/conference)**



## *The CRO Charity and Support Program*

### *1. The Orphan Support Program*

*Over three years*

### *2. The Emergency Program*

*This program is started few years ago*

*The dedicated budget for 2019 is around USD 5000*





# New CRO Initiatives

## *The CRO Awareness Program*

The collaboration with Circassian Association in Nuremberg to organize the International Circassian Conference.

The Circassian Art Exhibition Program 2019

The continues efforts to join international organizations such UN Programs and EU Programs



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# New CRO Initiatives

## *The CRO Education Program*

### *1. The Backpack Drive Program*

*Started in 2019 and spent USD 12,500 in this program*

*The program was initiated in both KBR and AR*

### *2. The CRO Scholarship Program*

*This program is starting in the endo 2019*



#### About The Drive

- Let's work together to provide supplies to Circassian students in need from pre-school to high school by the beginning of the school year 2019-2020.
- Your donation will ensure that every student is fully equipped with the sufficient stationary and supplies to facilitate their journey in school and help them succeed.
- The supplies include basics like pens, pencils, books, notebooks, uniform and others.

#### How To Donate

- Hand your donation directly to the drive volunteers.
- Donate online through [www.croworld.org](http://www.croworld.org)



# New CRO Initiatives

## *The CRO Award Program*

**The CRO Lifetime Achievement Award:** Recognizes dedicated individuals who made exceptional contributions to the Circassian public affairs, language or culture for at least 25 years.

**The Circassian Person of The Year Award:** Recognizes distinguished individuals or groups, aged 18 or above, who made exceptional contributions to the Circassian community, language or culture in the previous calendar year.

**The Satanay Award:** Recognizes distinguished female individuals or groups, aged 18 or above, who made exceptional contributions to the Circassian community in the previous calendar year.

**The Project of The Year:** Recognizes outstanding ideas or projects, executed in the previous calendar two years, to preserve the Circassian language or culture.



# New CRO Initiatives

## *The CRO Literature and Culture Preservation Program*

The Establish “The Circassian Library” project. This project is one of the main recommendations of the First International Circassian Conference. A team of volunteers are working on this important and essential project and it will be open to public in the mid of 2019.



# New CRO Initiatives

## *The CRO Outreach Program*

The CRO continues to contact various Circassian Associations and Circassian activists in order to join efforts and collaborate of various important issues by initiating new programs.

The collaboration with Circassian Association in Nuremberg to organize the International Circassian Conference.

The Collaboration and partnership with the Pyret

Talks of Collaboration with the Bza Xasa in Natick



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# The CRO Board of Executives

- Dr. Orfan Shouakar-Stash (Chairman) / Canada
- Mr. Sabah Tsey (Vice Chairman) / Holland
- Dr. Zawer Shawjan / Germany
- Mrs. Tina Abzakh/ Sweden
- Mr. Yahia Touk / Germany
- Mrs. Sue Napso / USA
- Mr. Lina Bast / Canada
- Badreddin Youssef / USA





# The CRO Board of Trustees

- Dr. Ihsan Saleh / Germany
- Mr. Nour Barsby / USA
- Mr. Deeb Katt / Kabardino Balkaria
- Mr. Nasouh Appesh / USA
- Mr. Nusret Bash / Turkey
- Mr. Mohamed Hamzouq / Jordan



# Strategies

- Establishing relationship with Relief/Charitable International Organizations
- Establishing communication with all Circassian Associations and activists.
- 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 their needs.



# Means

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

