



INDIGNATION

The heritage of humanity has just been deprived of one of its finest jewels

Paris, December 25th 2005

Some historical facts

March 16th 1921 : Signature in Moscow of a Soviet-Turkish treaty cancelling the treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Alexandropol, through which the new (Soviet) Russia transfers to the « kemalist Turkey » the sandjaks of Kars and Ardahan, as well as part of the Batum sandjak (the city itself remaining part of the Soviet Republic of Georgia), without any approval of the Armenians.

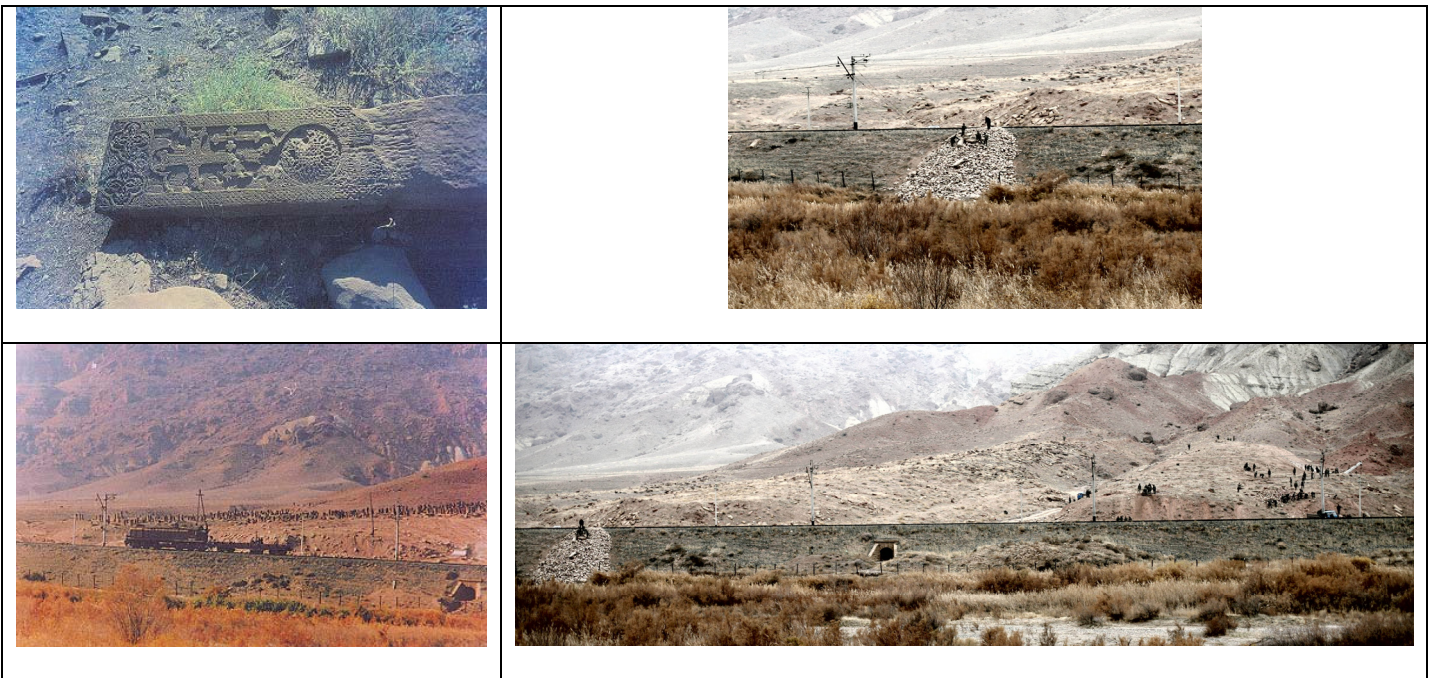
Nakhitchevan, an historically Armenian region, then becomes an autonomous region annexed to Azerbaijan.

This is followed by the implementation of a policy of « desarmenization » of Nakhitchevan until 1988, an ethnic cleansing and pogroms, resulting in the eviction of Armenians from Nakhitchevan.

December 14th 2005 : A battalion composed of 200 Azeri soldiers and mechanical engines carries out the final stage of the ethnocide, destroying the Armenian medieval cemetery of Djughha in Nakhitchevan, one of the finest jewels of the heritage of humanity, composed of 10 000 « khatchkars » (tombstones) dating back to more than four hundred years, demonstrating the existence of an important Armenian population in Nakhitchevan and a high cultural level.

Films and photos showing the destruction of the cemetery by Azeri soldiers

YESTERDAY	TODAY



The Union of Armenians of Nakhitchevan and the Pahapan non-governmental organization appeal to the UNO and the UNESCO, declaring that the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict -adopted in The Hague on May 14th 1954- and ratified by Azerbaijan on September 20th 1993 and thus coming into force on September 20th 1993, has been infringed before the international authorities.

The crime

Observing the *flagrante delicto* ;

Observing that the Azerbaijani authorities use the army to destroy Armenian graves ;

Deeming that the respect due to the dead was violated and that no reason can justify such a barbarous action ;

Deeming that this act of blind violence against Armenian graves, against the dead, by an official army cannot contribute to the implementation of a peace plan and of serenity between the peoples ;

Deeming that the loss of Djughha cemetery as an invaluable loss for the Armenian heritage, for the heritage of humanity, a loss inscribed in the memory of the Armenian nation ;

Request sanctions to be taken within the shortest possible time, request the Azerbaijani State to be declared guilty of crime against humanity and request the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights of Armenians from Nakhitchevan.

Protection against racist crimes

Deeming that Azerbaijani authorities feed an anti-Armenian hatred within the Azeri population for the purpose of revenge on civilian populations, using military preparation methods on the burial places, graves and remains of our parents ;

Declare that, maintaining such a hatred and racial violence within a military structure opens the way to genocides ;

Declare having officially warned the international authorities and the UNO of the *de facto* danger resulting from a situation of blind violence.

The Rights of Armenians from Nakhitchevan

Further to the ethnic cleansing suffered by the Armenians from Nakhitchevan since 1921 ;

Further to the unilateral decision of Soviet authorities to transfer the government of this autonomous Armenian region to Azeris ;

Further to the unilateral decision of the Azeris to declare this Armenian province an autonomous Azerbaijani region ;

Further to the policy of destruction of all traces of the existence of Armenians in Nakhitchevan conducted by the Azeri authorities ;

The Armenians from Nakhitchevan officially request from the international authorities and the UNO the enforcement of the lawful Rights to existence of Armenians in Nakhitchevan, in accordance with the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the Charter of United Nations, the International Pact of Civil and Political Rights, the International Pact of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ;**

Request the means necessary to the enforcement of the lawful rights to existence of Armenians in Nakhitchevan ;

Declare that it is today the responsibility of the international authorities and the UNO to have international law enforced in Azerbaijan, a State guilty of crime against humanity, after the ethnic cleansing and the ethnocide today suffered by the Armenians from Nakhitchevan.

Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

The Union of Armenians from Nakhitchevan and the Pahapan non-governmental organization appeal to the European Court of Human Rights and the UNO, declaring that the preamble and the Articles 1, 7, 8, 18 and 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been infringed by Azerbaijan.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Again request the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights of the Armenians from Nakhitchevan, of their rights to existence on their land in the same way as all human beings in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ;

Denounce the racist and discriminatory acts of the Azeri authorities towards the Armenians from Nakhitchevan ;

Again request the Human Rights to be applied to the Armenians from Nakhitchevan without any discrimination to prevent racist, violent and acts ;

Declare that the non-enforcement of the Fundamental Rights of the Armenians from Nakhitchevan and the military preparation to hatred and racism of the Azerbaijani Army carry the germs of blind violence,

Declare once again that it is today the responsibility of the international authorities and the UNO to enforce international law in Azerbaijan, a State guilty of crime against humanity, after the ethnic cleansing and the ethnocide today suffered by the Armenians from Nakhitchevan.

The Armenian National Council

The Union of Armenians from Nakhitchevan, the Pahapan non-governmental organization.