TURKEY IS ALWAYS ON SARKISYAN'S AGENDA

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On the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan has taken the floor. The focus of Sarkisian's speech was again Turkey.

Sarkisyan stated in his speech that the Protocols signed on October 10, 2009, regarding the establishment and normalization of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia, would be declared null and void if Turkey does not take a step. Sarkisyan also said that Turkey uses the protocols just as it would for the benefit of Turkey[1]. Sarkisyans words is distorting the facts. It is known that Armenia has signed the Protocols under pressure. After signing the Protocols, Armenia is also the one way that interpret the protocols one-sidedly and instigate Turkey.

The protocols have not been approved by Turkey nor Armenia until this day. In Turkey, it is on parliamentary agenda, and no negative explanation has been made on how the process would proceed. Armenia proclaimed that they froze the withdrawal of the Protocols long before Sarkisyan spoke at the UN. However, Sarkisyan said that these protocols, which were officially shelved and already put on the back burner by Sarkisyan after the signing. Sarkisyan repeatedly underlined the fact that the Mount Ararat was the symbol of Armenia, contrary to the spirit of this accord and international conventions, and went further and gave advice to the youth:

"Taking Ağrı depends on your generation. For instance, my generation have successfully fulfilled their duty. In the 90's we saved the part of our country, Artsah (Karabakh region), from the enemy. Every generation has a mission. It is up to you and your unity that you will fulfill your duty in the future like we did. We, the Armenian nation, have always been able to rise from the ashes of the phoenix.[2]"

Immediately after the signing of the Protocols, the decision of the RA Constitutional Court dated 12 January 2010 does not serve any purpose other than provoking Turkey. It has been observed that certain articles of the decision of the protocol are restricted and some prerequisites are introduced[3]:

> ***5. The RA Constitutional Court also finds that the provisions of the Protocol on Development of Relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey cannot be interpreted or applied in the legislative process and application practice of the Republic of Armenia as well as in the interstate relations in a way that would contradict the provisions of the Preamble to the RA Constitution and the requirements of Paragraph 11 of the Declaration of Independence of Armenia***

[4].

The definition of "Western Armenia", which is mentioned on Article 11[5] of the Armenian Declaration of Independence, today marks the borders of the Republic of Turkey. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey also stated that this attitude cannot be accepted. It is emphasized that Turkey, in line with its accustomed allegiance to its international commitments, maintains its adherence to the primary provisions of these Protocols[6].

Sarkisyan called on the Azerbaijani government to recognize and respect the right of the illegitimate regime in Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia and the right of people to self-determination of that region. This approach is contradictory to the principles of the UNGA. Despite, Sarkisyan was able to demonstrate these expressions to the UNGA and to take a position far from common sense.

[1] "Sarkisyan: Türkiye'yle Protokolleri Sonlandıracağız." *Voice of America*, September 21, 2017, https://www.amerikaninsesi.com/a/sarkisyan-turkiye-ile-protokolleri-sonlandiracagiz/4038014.html.

[2] "Karabağ'ı biz aldık Ağrı'yı size bıraktık." *Hürriyet*. July 25, 2011, http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/karabag-i-biz-aldik-agri-yi-size-biraktik-18338718.

[3] Ömer Engin LÜTEM, "Olaylar ve Yorumlar." *Ermeni Araştırmaları,* Vol: 35 (June 2010), 19.

[4] On The Case On Determining The Issue of Conformity With The Constitution of The Republic of Armenia of The Obligations Stipulated By The Protocol On The Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between The Republic Of Armenia And The Republic of Turkey And By The Protocol On Development of Relations Between The Republic of Armenia And The Republic of Turkey Signed In Zurich On 10 October 2009, 2 (*The Decision of The Constitutional Court of The Republic of Armenia*, January 12, 2010).

[5] LLC, Helix Consulting. "The Government of the Republic of Armenia." *About Armenia* - Armenian Declaration of Independence - The Government of the Republic of Armenia, http://www.gov.am/en/independence/.

[6] "No: 14, 18 Ocak 2010, Ermenistan Anayasa Mahkemesi'nin Türkiye-Ermenistan Protokollerine İlişkin Gerekçeli Kararı Hk. " *T.C. Dışişleri Bakanlığı*, http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-14_-18-ocak-2010_-ermenistan-anayasa-mahkemesi_nin-

turkiye-ermenistan-protokollerine-iliskin-gerekceli-karari-hk_.tr.mfa.

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