

## Memory of the Circassian Genocide and Catastrophe

By: "[Omar Shabsigh](#)"

*MosNews: U.S. Lawmakers Urge Bush To Pressure Putin Over Democracy In Russia*

Date: Thu, 22 Jun 2006 11:38:16 +0300

Memory of the Circassian genocide and Catastrophe

This year 2006, the memory of the Circassian genocide comes to us not like every year. When most Adighe still have a dream to realize to re-establish their Homeland, a new danger is showing its face for our compatriots in the Caucasus and all other Circassians in their Diaspora. As if what our people suffered during the war of annihilation for over 100 years was not enough, now we have a new story that aims at extracting our final roots from Circassia. We also have a deliberately induced economic crisis that is going to be deeper and deeper. The reason for the crisis is the refusal of the local authorities under Moscow orders to increase the areas allocated for agriculture to the farmers. An act that caused a large scale lowering of their standard of living. The Circassian areas have become at the lowest level of economic development in Russia.

What I am going to say here, are facts and practical suggestions that do not hurt anybody (not the least, the settlers), and which are based on history and geography, even if these two disciplines are not liked by some people. Here I do not want to hurt the Russian people or the Russian state.

What is important for us is for our people and its name to stay on the face of the earth. The Circassians had their imprint on human civilization. No person that respects that civilization has the right to erase the name of Circassians from Earth. It will be cruel and barbarian. I am not going to boast, and do not want to become as the selected people of God. But the Circassians had their big impact on human civilization. According to archeology and historian G. Turchaninov in his book "Deciphering the writings of the Northern Caucasus", it can be seen that the beginnings of an alphabet had its roots among the ancient Circassians in the 20<sup>th</sup> century BC and indicated that the Phoenician alphabet in Byblos (nowadays Lebanon) could have been derived from the ancient Circassian writing. Here we should remember that Greek and later Roman writings were derived from Phoenician. The Arabic alphabet has its roots also in Phoenician. So here we can see some links of Circassian culture.

The Circassians are immortalized by hundreds of mosques, schools, hospitals, libraries, public baths and monuments that preserved the Arabic language and culture and Islam in all of the big Syrian land (today's Syrian, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan), Hijaz (today's western Saudi Arabia) during the Circassian rule in the 14-15-16<sup>th</sup> centuries AD and in Egypt from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The Circassians lead the defeat of Mohgols in AinJalut and the cleaning of the Syrian shores from the remnants of the crusades, thus saving the area's people and culture. The Palestinian war of 1948 on the Syrian front showed the courage and victories of the Circassians for their new country.

These people gave to the Arab region big politicians, famous military commanders and literary dignitaries, not only during the Circassian rule between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but even later until now. This nation or its remnants in the Homeland, since 2005 could suffer still more. They have fears of a new dilemma and want our support. The reasons for these fears are as follows. Because of the Russian war on Chechnya after 1999, the Russian government came out with the idea of canceling all of the ethnic autonomy republics, so as not to give reason for the repetition of the Chechen conflict in another place in Russia.

It seems that the Russian government wanting to test its plan in the weakest ethnic area, namely the Adighey Autonomous Republic, started procedures to efface that name and entity and make it as any other part of Krasnodar Region (Kray).

This way the Russian government wants to rub out completely the name Adighey from the maps, the civil registers and others.

I never liked politics and never practiced it nor will I. What I shall say here has nothing to do with politics. It is a statement of facts and some positive ideas. The Russian government is the recognized authority, on all the lands of the Russian Federation. In that capacity, it is responsible for the well-being of all the population of the Russian Federation and we value that. The official document signed by the then President of Russia Boris Yeltsin about the tragedy of our people in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is a clear admission that our people's rights to their Homeland were prejudiced and ways should be found to give it back to them.

Our compatriots in the Homeland, these days are anxious about canceling the Adighey Republic. Although the Adighe are a minority

in Adighey among the crowds of settlers of different nationalities, but at least the name "Adighey" is there officially. Taking away the name, nothing will remind us of the historical name of the land and its people. This contradicts Yeltsin's declaration.

Similar steps are underway in other parts of Circassian administrative entities in the Caucasus.

There is other troubling news. The Black Sea Circassians are not given any infrastructure to their villages (schools, medical centers, gas to the houses ...etc.) in order to force them to immigrate to big towns. And maybe give the area to the Armenian settlers. Outside help for development by Diaspora Circassian businessmen in the Circassian areas is becoming more difficult. See what happened to Mr. Muzaffer Avci from Turkey two months ago when he was refused admission at Krasnodar Airport.

I hereby appeal to all Circassian dignitaries in the Diaspora, and with all due respect to the Russian government and to its president Mr. Vladimir Putin to do the following:

1- Send a message to his Excellency President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin raising the following points:

A) Thank the Russian government and people for their good relation with the Adighe in their Homeland.

B) Based on Yeltsin's declaration, as a sign of good gesture and as a moral practical compensation to the Adighe for their sufferings, to establish an administrative entity under the name of Adighe Autonomous Republic, or Adighe Region (Kray) which shall include all of the present Krasnodar Kray and Stavropol Kray (excluding Ossetia, Chechnya and Ingushitia) (see map).

This entity shall be under Russian Constitution. All nationalities shall live in friendship and cooperation in this entity taking into consideration that the Circassians living now in the Homeland, never showed any violence against Russia. This measure is aimed only at showing a geo-historical fact of the land's original inhabitants since ten thousand years. It can be named by its old 17-19 century name of Tcherkesstan. This is in line with having names like Tatarstan and Bashkirstan.

C) Because of the strategic importance of the subject, establish a natural reserve on the whole uninhabited area of the Black Sea coast of Shabsegh.

D) Forbid immigration of non-Circassians from outside Russia to the formed Adighe region (the Armenians from Armenia and others).

E) Permit all Diaspora Circassians to return to their Homeland without any restrictions on number and politics, this is THEIR HOMELAND for many millennia.

F) Ask the Russian government for help to resettle the Diaspora Circassians wherever they want in the area indicated.

2- In case of realization of points (E) and (F) above, encourage all Diaspora Circassians to settle and establish in the Homeland by building houses, putting up agricultural, industrial and trade projects even if they are not permanent residents there. It is enough at this stage for them to be able to go and come back between the Diaspora and their Homeland freely.

Ymar Shapsegh (Natkhwa)

[www.JusticeForNorthCaucasus.com](http://www.JusticeForNorthCaucasus.com)