



Turkey and Armenians

A history of blood.

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Introduction

The renewed chronic conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh once again opened up the file of ethnic conflicts fueled by national intransigence, particularly the historical conflict between Armenians and Turks and geopolitical rivalries involving not only Armenians and Azerbaijanis, but also Turks and Russians. The conflict has resulted in the threat to civilian life, widespread human rights violations and the feeding of cross-border terrorism to the conflict between the two rival parties to the disputed territory.

Nagorno-Karabakh is located within the territory of Azerbaijan and is inhabited by a majority Armenian population supported by the State of Armenia, a renewed armed conflict since the late last century that has lasted for years, causing tens of thousands of deaths and injuries on both sides, putting pressure on the human rights situation.

Although Armenians make up 94 percent of the demographic fabric of the region, Azerbaijan refuses to give up the mountainous region of the South Caucasus, and the crisis in this region dates back to the last century. The Armenians, Azerbaijanis and Georgians established their independent state in the Caucasus, known as the Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic, but quickly collapsed as these three peoples differed on principles and objectives, and Georgia resorted to declaring independence on May 26, 1918, followed by Armenia and Azerbaijan, which declared their secession just two days later.

For decades, the international initiatives have failed to contain the ongoing conflict, which has seen dozens of Turkish-Azerbaijani attempts to ethnically cleanse the region of Armenians, as



evidenced by the Armenian genocide committed by the Turks in World War I, which killed approximately 1.5 million of them.

Armenian Genocide

Most countries around the world have recently acknowledged the Armenian genocide by the Ottoman Empire, which killed more than a million Armenians at the hands of ottomans facing international condemnation and widespread anger, as a result of these massacres, which were recorded as one of the worst crimes against humanity.

The story dates back to 1876 after sultan Abdul Hamid II took office, before which there have been demands for constitutional reforms in the Ottoman Empire and the idea of equality between religions and the ethnicities under its rule. During the first half of the 19th century, Armenians had a prominent place and influence in Turkey, with 23 Armenian ministers having served the Ottoman government.

The Armenians demanded constitutional reforms that would give them equal rights with the rest of the Ottoman Empire, but they were harassed and persecuted in the states where they reside and are concentrated, namely Van, Erzurum, Beteles, Ma'ma'ara al-Aziz and Diyarbakir, and Russia intervened to support the Armenians.

In the Treaty of Berlin, Armenians obtained what was known as Article 61, which required the Ottoman Empire to carry out reforms in the Armenian states with notification of the major powers, and the term internationalization of the Armenian issue appeared for the first time here.

The Ottoman Empire did not implement Article 61 of the Treaty of Berlin, and Sultan Abdul Hamid followed the policy of procrastination and stalling, after which Sultan Abdul Hamid



founded what is known as the Hamidi teams, which are fanatical armed groups or militias, and the Sultan began to feed their ideas that Armenians are "infidels", and pose a threat to the Islamic State and the Islamic nation and this is where the massacres began. The first occurred between these groups and Armenians between 1894 and 1896, saw between 100,000 and 150,000 people killing and it was called the Hamidi massacre by Sultan Abdul Hamid, because of which he was called in the Western media by the Red Sultan."

Sultan Abdul Hamid was forced to declare the constitution in 1908 and there were conflicts between his supporters, so-called radical reactionaries, and members of the Constitutional Liberals, and in the midst of those conflicts, the second Armenian massacre in 1909 saw 30,000 Christians killed, the majority of them Armenians.

At that time, Sheikh of Al-Azhar Salim Al-Beshry issued a fatwa prohibiting the killing of Armenians, and he sent a message to Muslims in Turkey to fear God's judgment and protect his subjects of all religions

Thousands of Armenians marched on their feet in harsh conditions to escape the massacres towards Syria, without food or drink, and the savages of the Ottoman militias raced to the hack the bellies of pregnant women and bet on the type of embryos in their stomachs, and killed those who stopped walking for rest.

According to figures announced by Armenians 2.5 million were killed in the genocide, while the Ottoman government said that the number does not exceed 700,000 Armenians, adding that Sharif Hussein, the grandfather of king Abdullah II of Jordan, issued a decree at the time to all tribes to house, host and protect Armenians from massacres, while Egyptian cities raised funds



to care for the displaced, who fled mass displacement and mass massacres and took refuge in Egypt.

Coinciding with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the self-governing region did not hesitate to declare its secession from Azerbaijan, sparking a fierce war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Karabakh that resulted in more than 30,000 deaths, injuries and the displacement of tens of thousands more before it came to an end thanks to a ceasefire agreement, mainly contributed by the Minsk Organization, which emerged in the early 1990s to find a solution to the Armenian-Azerbaijani crisis.

A Russian-brokered ceasefire was signed in 1994, bringing Karabakh and areas of Azerbaijani territory in this enclave under Armenian control.

During the conflict, which displaced more than 1 million people, ethnic Azerbaijanis (who accounted for about 25% of the population) fled Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, while Armenians fled Azerbaijan. The two ethnicities have not been able to return home since the end of the war.

Soldiers from both sides were killed during sporadic breaches of the truce. The closure of the border between Turkey and Azerbaijan has caused severe economic problems for Armenia, being a land locked country.

Russia, France and the United States are the chairs of the so-called Minsk Group, within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is making efforts to mediate an end to the conflict.



During the referendum held by the Region in December 2006, which Azerbaijan considered illegal, the region adopted a new constitution and some signs of progress occasionally emerged during sporadic meetings between the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Significant progress was made during the talks between the two leaders in 2009, but it has not continued, and there have since been several serious violations of the truce, most notably the killing of dozens of soldiers on both sides in mutual hostilities in April 2016.

The clashes were the worst between the two sides in 2016, in which Armenia and Azerbaijan exchanged accusations. As experts warned of the worst, the United Nations and major countries called upon the two sides to deescalate tensions.

Turkey exports terrorism to the region

The Turkish state has been accused of exporting terrorists to the battlefield, and Armenian Ambassador to Russia Vardan Toganian confirmed that Turkey has sent some 4,000 fighters from northern Syria to Azerbaijan, amid on-going fighting in the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region, and the fighters are taking part in internal battles in The Village of Bach.

The Syrian Human Rights Watch confirmed that the first batch of Syrian fighters, mostly members of the Sultan Murad and Amshat factions, had already arrived in Azerbaijan to fight against Armenia.

Turkey has been recruiting Syrians to fight against Armenia in the disputed Nagorno Karapak region between Armenia and its neighbor Azerbaijan, an ally of Turkey.



According to the Syrian Watch, the first batch moved from Afrin, northwest of Aleppo, for salaries of up to \$1,500-2,000 per person.

Turkey is known to be using the remnants of Syrian armed terrorist organizations loyal to Turkey in its regional conflicts, where it has already transferred fighters from Syria to Libya, and is active in supporting cross-border terrorism, where terrorists are used as a pressure tool and bargaining chip on its neighbors amid strange and unjustified international silence.

Ankara stands with Azerbaijan in this conflict, because of the historical dispute between Turkey and Armenia and the latter's adherence to the Armenian genocide file at the hands of the Ottomans during World War I, and its demand for its recognition, and Erdogan's support for Azerbaijan is a pressure tool on Armenia to abandon its position on the issue.

Despite continued international calls for a cessation of hostilities, a warning of widespread fighting between the two sides, and a call by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for an "immediate cessation of hostilities". Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan did not call on the parties to show restraint, contrary to international calls for this, and said Turkey will not hesitate to counter any attack on Azerbaijani territory and support the intensive artillery shelling of residential areas in the Tofuz area on the border with Armenia and announced major arms deals for the Azerbaijani army by Turkey, which is an implicit recognition by Turkey that it will escalate the situation between the two countries and be a threat to security and peace in the disputed region.

Erdogan has made threats to Russia in a veiled and indirect manner with his threats against Armenia, trying to bet on the conflicts between countries, and Erdogan's orientation represents



an extension of the historical animosity between Armenians and Turks on the one hand and the expansionist regional ambitions of the Turkish president.

Turkey's moves reflect clear regional ambitions towards the South Caucasus because of its ambitions to revive the ancient Ottoman Empire, which occupied those areas in the past, and the intervention in the conflicts of its vicinity became part of traditional Turkish diplomacy, where Turkey has already disturbed the situation in a number of neighboring regions, the Middle East, the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa, causing infinite suffering to the people of those areas.

New Ottoman

Turkey and the Erdogan regime are trying to revive the ancient Ottoman caliphate in a new dress that uses its geographical proximity to the South Caucasus and exerts a religious influence on Azerbaijan, through cultural and educational activities associated with the extensions of the international organization of the Terrorist Muslim Brotherhood and its elements scattered in that region and supported by Ankara.

The Azerbaijani people also speak Turkish, and on this basis, they have gained a privileged position among the rest of Turkey's neighbors as the goal of Turkish unity is to create a united front for Turkish-speaking countries and peoples under Turkey's leadership, which is particularly worrying on the Armenian side, especially since Ankara is always seeking to ignite the situation in the region to put pressure on Armenia and seeks to thwart all attempts at peace.



On the other hand, Turkey's ruling regime continues to be hostile to Armenia, and the conflict escalated with international recognition of the massacres committed by the Ottomans against Armenians in 1915.

Karen Krikorian, Armenia's ambassador to Cairo, says it is important to realize that all developments over the past two decades have led us to the current situation, as neighboring countries are aware that they are on Turkey's target list.

In the case of Armenians and the Armenian State, Turkey's hostile policy has deep roots, with the Ambassador referring to the Armenian genocide, the wars against the First Republic of Armenia (1918-1920), Turkey's failed plans to invade Armenian-populated areas during World War II and the economic blockade of modern Armenia. Despite Armenia's attempts to normalize relations between the two countries, diplomatic relations have not been established. "Today, in the twenty-first century, Turkey is building its policy in our region on the tradition of kinship with Azerbaijan, justifying the genocide of Armenians and impunity for this crime."

The extent of Turkey's hostility to Armenia is evident because of the latter's commitment to adopting the issue of armenian genocide at the hands of the Ottomans, and its demand that Turkey recognize the crime of genocide, and Erdogan considers that conflict a strong pressure card to strengthen his position against Russia in both Libya and Syria, given the close historical relationship between Russia and Armenia, the latter a vital area of Russian influence in the Caucasus, where the current conflict zones between Armenia and Azerbaijan are the arteries of many vital projects of Russia in the field of gas, oil, transportation and railways.

Human Rights Mechanisms



According to the previous review, Turkey's violation of Article 19 of annex I to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 on the protection of victims of international armed conflicts, neutral states and other non-parties to the conflict, which provides for the protection of civilians in conflict zones as well as article 3, which is common between the four Geneva conventions of international armed conflict, which include traditional civil wars, internal armed conflicts that seep into other countries or internal conflicts involving third parties or multinational forces, as well as the government, demand humane treatment of all persons, not discriminate against them or harm them, specifically prohibit murder and mutilation, and torture, cruel, inhumane, degrading treatment, hostage-taking, and an unfair trial.

It requires the collection of wounded, sick and survivors of sunken ships and the provision of care for them.

It also grants the ICRC the right to provide its services to the parties to the conflict and has called on the parties to the conflict to put all or some of the Geneva Conventions into force through so-called "special agreements."

This is not the first time that Turkey has violated international humanitarian law and threatened the state of international peace and security by igniting the military situation in its vicinity by intervening to support one party at the expense of another party and the transfer of fighters and militants, which increases the humanitarian crisis and increases the humanitarian cost and infliction of civilian casualties in the disputed areas.

The United Nations has opened an investigation into the use of its paramilitary contractor "Sadat" by the Turkish government in recruiting foreign fighters and training them in terrorist



operations, noting that the Turkish authorities have contracted with private military and security companies to facilitate the selection of fighters as well as the preparation of official and contractual documents, apparently in coordination with the Turkish security services.

There are many concerns that Turkey will send Syrian child fighters to combat zones in Nagorno Karabakh province, especially since there are information and international and legal warnings that indicate that Turkey uses Syrian children under the age of 18 to fight in Libya and may have resorted to supporting the Azerbaijani army, especially since many children under the age of 18 go from the Syrian provinces of Idlib and Aleppo to the northern town of Afrin under the pretext of working, sometimes without the knowledge of their relatives, and there they are recruited by pro-Turkish factions and sent to fight in Libya to support Fayed al-Sarraj's government in Tripoli against the Libyan National Army, in flagrant violation of international law and children's rights, which classify the recruitment of minors to fight as a "war crime."

Turkey has been forced to persuade children under the age of 18 to leave their country in order to travel and take up arms in Libya, where the journey from Idlib and Aleppo to Afrin begins under the pretext of working there without telling their families to be recruited by pro-Turkish factions."

The Armenian side is also documenting war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Azerbaijani forces against the Armenian population of the province and other areas that Azerbaijani forces are trying to control with Turkey's support.

Armenia, with an urgent request to the European Court of Human Rights to take measures against Azerbaijan, while fighting continues in the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region, came



to the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe based in Strasbourg (Eastern France), under article 39 of its regime, which allows for emergency measures when there is an imminent risk of irreparable damage.

"The Armenian government has asked the court to inform the Azerbaijani government to stop military attacks on the civilian population along the line of contact between Armenia's armed forces and to stop targeting the civilian population, civilian property and residential centres," the court said in a statement.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been members of the European Council since 2001, a European organization concerned with the defence of human rights and the rule of law.