
ANY DEMAND OF AZERBAIJANI PEOPLE IS COMMAND FOR TURKEY: DEFENSE MINISTER

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Any demand of the Azerbaijani people is a command for Turkey, Nurettin Canikli, the Turkish defense minister, told Trend.

The minister made the remarks ahead of his Baku visit to attend the sixth meeting of the Turkey-Azerbaijan High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council scheduled for Oct. 31 in Baku.

The occupied territories of Azerbaijan will be liberated sooner or later, the minister said.

Canikli stressed that a state must also develop its national defense industry and armament system for the liberation of lands and for defense.

"Everyone should know that Azerbaijan and Turkey provide the most necessary support to each other and will continue to do so," Canikli said.

He noted that Turkey and Azerbaijan don't need any special agreements for the cooperation.

Furthermore, Canikli said Azerbaijan also does everything possible for Turkey.

He noted that, Turkey and Azerbaijan need each other, further elaborating that the two countries are joining forces in all spheres, including the defense sector.

Canikli said since Turkey and Azerbaijan are "one nation, two states", the power of Azerbaijan is the power of Turkey.

The minister mentioned that the joint military exercises of Azerbaijan and Turkey will be continued in the future.

"The development of the defense industry and the provision of support to each other is very important, " the minister concluded.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on withdrawal of its armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

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