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## YEREVAN SLAMS ERDOGAN'S STATEMENT ON KARABAKH

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On 15 October, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan delivered a speech on Nagorno-Karabakh issue in which he criticized Armenia's continuing violation of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. In response, the speaker of the ministry of the Foreign Affairs of Armenia issued a stern response. the statement is primarily problematic in the sense that it completely ignores Armenia's faults that rise out of its irresponsible and aggressive behaviours towards Azerbaijan and its territories.

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Armenia on Wednesday condemned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogans latest pro-Azerbaijani statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and scoffed at his claims that the Turkish state has never massacred civilians.

Speaking at a summit of Turkic nations in Baku earlier this week, Erdogan again decried Armenian occupation of Karabakh and other ancient lands of Azerbaijan. We will do our best to ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, he was reported to say.

For his part, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev described Armenias southeastern Syunik province, also known as Zangezur, as historically Azerbaijani territory. Aliyev claimed at the summit that its transfer to Armenia had led to a geographic separation of the Turkic world.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry condemned Aliyevs pan-Turkist statement as a further manifestation of Azerbaijani territorial claims to Armenia.

Azerbaijans and Turkeys distorted perceptions of and approaches to regional security based on racism and discrimination hinder peaceful resolution of conflicts and contribute to instability in and outside the region, the ministry spokeswoman, Anna Naghdalian, said in written comments.

All this underlines the importance of our priority to ensure the security of the Armenian people in the region, she added.

Turkey has lent full and unconditional support to Azerbaijan throughout the Karabakh conflict. Successive Turkish governments have made the normalization of Turkeys relations with Armenia conditional on a Karabakh settlement acceptable to Baku. Yerevan rejects these preconditions.

Naghdalian also shrugged off Erdogans separate claims that Turkey has never committed any civilian massacre in its history. After Turkeys president tried to justify in his statement on April 24 the [1915] genocide of the Armenian people perpetrated in their historical homeland, any further

statements by him on this subject do not deserve a response, she said.

Erdogan was responding to growing international criticism of Turkey's military incursion into northern Syria and resulting human rights abuses reported by international media. "If you're looking for civilian massacres, look at Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nagorno-Karabakh and Bosnia," he said earlier on Wednesday.

The Armenian government has strongly condemned the Turkish invasion and expressed serious concern over the safety of Syrian Armenians and other civilians affected by it.

<https://www.azatutyun.am/a/30219999.html>

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