

## DOCUMENTS 4

### DECLARATION BY THE TURKISH GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

13 April 2005

DOCUMENTS

The Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) believes that both Turkey's and Armenia's interest lies in reconciling Turkish and Armenian nations who lived for centuries on the same territory with reciprocal tolerance and peace, to save them from being hostage to deep prejudices stemming from war years and to create an environment which will enable them to share a common future based on tolerance, friendship and cooperation.

Government and opposition parties have made a proposal, in this direction, which aims to shed light on historical facts through scientific research so as to prevent history to continue as a burden for these two nations. This proposal foresees the establishment of a joint commission composed of the historians of Turkey and Armenia, to open their national archives without any restrictions to research and to disclose the findings of this research, that will continue in the archives of other related countries, to the world public opinion and to determine the establishment and working methods of the said commission between two countries.

TGNA fully supports and approves this historical proposal.

The cooperation of the Government of Armenia is a must for the implementation of this initiative. In this connection, given that a mutual ground for Turkey and Armenia to view history from a common perspective fails to be provided, the inheritance that both sides would leave to their children and future generations will be nothing more than the feeling of prejudice, animosity and revenge.

Wisdom and logic command Turkey and Armenia not to be afraid of destroying the taboos and to face their history by discovering all the aspects of the human tragedy they experienced together. This is the way to prevent the past to shadow our present and future.

TGNA underlines the fact that the proposal of the Turkish Republic should be considered as an initiative for peace in its essence. If Armenia wants to establish good neighborly relations with Turkey and develop a basis for cooperation, it should not hesitate to accept Turkey's proposal for a joint historical evaluation.

TGNA would also like to emphasize with importance that, all states and statesmen who wish to contribute to world peace and stability in good will, leaving aside domestic political considerations, should look positively to Turkey's proposal based on reconciliation and commonsense. In this respect, those states who sincerely want the normalization of Turkish–Armenian relations and desire the establishment of peace and stability in the Caucasus region, are expected to support this initiative and especially to refrain from activities that can impair it.

On this matter, the responsibility primarily belongs to the states which took decisions on the Armenian allegations in their Parliaments. If these countries attach importance to the improvement of the relations between Turkey and Armenia, as they claim, they should demonstrate their good will and support our proposal on the establishment of a commission of common history between the two countries.

TGNA condemns the decisions adopted by foreign parliaments for political considerations, on some periods of the history of Ottoman Armenians which is a subject of discussion among world historians and legislating on which side of the historical question is right, and perceives these efforts as unsuitable, meaningless, arbitrary and unjust.

TGNA denotes that those who believe in and calculate on imposing Turkey through an intensive international pressure campaign to establish its history over one-sided and misleading assessments based on propaganda material are deeply mistaken and declares that such will never be the case under any circumstances.