

**Resolving the Armenian Question as the Basis for the National Unity
and the Only Path for the Endurance of the Armenian People**

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Dear friends:

I'm confident that we are here to tell the truth and only the truth, regardless how grave it is. I hope that we can handle the truth.

The existence of the Armenian people has never been in greater danger in the course of her five-thousand-year history than it is at present. Even though we are facing several serious threats currently I'll elaborate on only the most severe one – the demographic crises. Armenia presently is in a demographic crises, due to the falling birth rate, an ageing population, the increasing death rate, not to mention emigration. The reasons are many, but they will not come under discussion now. According to data from the UN, the population of Armenia will decrease up to 25% within 15 years. During that same time, the population of Azerbaijan will increase 31%, while that of Turkey, by 43%. Fifty years from now, only half the current population of Armenia, i.e. 1.5 million, will remain in the country, because in order to guarantee the basic rehabilitation of any society, it is necessary to maintain a minimal birth rate of 2.11. The peoples with a birth rate of 1.3 are condemned to destruction. In 2007, Armenia's birth rate was 1.34.

The situation was not as tragic even during the years of the Armenian Genocide. It was clear that some Armenians would be saved, that they would re-create their homes on one part of the Homeland, and that the Homeland would be built up of their children. It was a question of time; if many were saved, it would take less time for the nation to recover, if few were saved, it would take longer. In five years, for the first time in Armenia in years of peace, there are to be fewer children coming into the world than those who are to depart from this world. Currently in some villages of Armenia three times more people die than are born. That is to say, if nothing will be changed, we are to begin to end, as the water in the brook upon the drying of the spring. The bright, twenty-first century, might be our last.

Let us now take up an obvious question: what to do, then? The answer is simple: having many children must be encouraged, healthcare must be improved and the living standards must be enhanced. An extra seven to eight billion dollars a year would be necessary for this. That would also be the amount needed to renew infrastructure, to improve healthcare and education, in a word, to have a sustainable country.

And now let us turn to the most important question: where and how to acquire this money? It is evident that, in terms of collecting taxes or of guaranteeing human rights, Armenia is never going to be a Switzerland or a Sweden. Let's say it does. Then what? Well,

then, best-case scenario, Armenia's budget would double, and we would be the equivalent of Albania. Is our goal the creation of an Armenian Albania? Of course, not. Even with a budget twice of what we have now, we could not allow ourselves to spend five to six billion dollars on the preservation of the nation. Thus, the internal resources of Armenia are not and never will be enough to secure the survival of the nation. Regarding to Diaspora, I would like to underline that the Diaspora neither has the capacity of that amount nor the will to give it.

It is clear that our circumstances today are the dull echoes of the Armenian Genocide and the dispossession of our Homeland. If there hadn't been a genocide, we would be more in number, within the frontiers of a larger and more prosperous homeland. And so, the two greatest tragedies of the existence of our nation – the Armenian Genocide and the dispossession of our Homeland – will serve as the two main sources for a new serum of our national survival. We have no other choice.

Dear friends:

Extensive research and diplomatic experience have led me to the following conclusion: during the forthcoming 10-15 years we have to pull all our recourses` human, intellectual, financial, political, diplomatic, etc. for the acquiring reparations from Turkey and for the securing certain rights in Western Armenia. If we cannot achieve these, then we will go on to join our old neighbors, the Babylonians, Sumerians, and others.

One thing must be clear to all of us, that a resolution to the Armenian Question is not a thought experiment or a theoretical riddle. It is the only—and I stress, the only—way for the survival of the Armenian people.

Commencing as an issue of the individual and collective security and dignity of the Armenian subjects of the Ottoman Empire, it gradually grew into an issue of Armenian statehood and the reaffirmation of the rights of that statehood. One must have the courage to view the bitter truth and be clearly aware that we find ourselves without any options. The Republic of Armenia, as a singular and dignified political entity, can either exist only by the affirmation of its unalienable and permanent rights, or it cannot exist as such.

This is the very perspective from which one must analyze the current processes and the pair of protocols that go along with it. Is it that signing the protocols benefit the consolidation of the existential factors of Armenian statehood and increase the strength of the nation and state, or can it, as an opposing expectation, have a destructive effect?

Due to shortage of time I'll not go into details. For more detailed evaluation please refer to my "**Strategy Paper on the Armenian Cause**" or please visit the web- site www.wilsonforarmenia.org.

It is time for practical solutions, i.e. creation a sustainable state, and, through the minimal requirements necessary for security and development, to guarantee the survival of the Armenians as an inseparable and unique part of mankind.

Thus, without a solution to the Armenian Question, Armenian statehood will remain politically unstable, militarily vulnerable, economically dependent and psychologically timid. The very purpose of the Armenian state would be questioned.

The conclusion: There is no alternative to resolving the Armenian Question. Not resolving the Armenian Question would render the Republic of Armenia ever-dependent on the circumstances or goodwill of her neighboring countries. Resolving the Armenian Question is the singular opportunity of consolidating Armenian Statehood, which is the only path for the endurance of the Armenian people.

A Chinese man was once asked: When is the best time to plant a tree? He answered: It was twenty years ago. We are late at least for twenty years and we are out of choices. The Republic of Armenia and Diaspora must cease the policy of half-measures and instead of action-oriented policy, pursue a result-oriented policy. We have nothing to lose. If we continue current policy within 50 years we will become a gypsy-nation with an ordinary BANDUSTAN as a fatherland.

Thank You.