



Council of United Circassia

To: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy
Presidential Office Building
11 Bankova vulytsia
Kyiv, Ukraine

January 27, 2023

Dear President Volodymyr Zelenskyy,

I am writing this letter to you to express my discomfort at the sad images of the Circassian youth, who were forced to participate in the Ukrainian-Russian war against their will and captured by the Ukrainian army, which were also reflected in the media. As it is known, the Circassians have always established friendly relations with the Ukrainian people and fought together against Russian imperialism within the scope of the Caucasus Mountaineers People's Party.

Russia has been sending ethnically non-Russian people to the frontline for its dirty purposes in this unjust war against Ukraine a matter that is followed with concern by the Circassians of the homeland as well as the diaspora. While trying to get rid of ethnically non-Russian peoples, which it sees as a problem for itself, Russia, on the other hand, aims to sow the seeds of hostility between the Ukrainian people and the ethnically non-Russian peoples in Russia due to the deaths that the war will cause inevitably.

The forced conscription of ethnically non-Russian peoples by the Russian Federation in this dirty war and sending them to the front is an imperial trap of the Russian Federation. Ethnically non-Russian people in Russia do not have a hostile attitude toward the Ukrainian people.

As the Ukrainian people know, in this dirty war of Russia, the children of ethnically non-Russian peoples are forcibly recruited into the military and have been sacrificed. We believe that the Ukrainian people are aware of this imperial trap and know that they cannot be in enmity with the ethnically non-Russian peoples whose sons were forcibly recruited and sent to the frontline, and are aimed to be sacrificed in this unjust war. The protests by the families of the Circassian youth who were forcibly conscripted in the past months and the clashes with the Russian security forces were also featured in various media and social media platforms. This is the clearest indication that the Circassian youth and the Circassian Nation are not in a hostile attitude toward the Ukrainian Republic and its people, and that they were forced to take part in this dirty war as a result of Russia's pressure and coercion.

Based on these facts, on behalf of the Circassian Nation, which was tried to be destroyed by genocide, exile, and assimilation by Russian Imperialism in the historical process, we demand the release of the Circassian youth, who were sent to the front forcibly by the Russian Federation and taken prisoner by the Ukrainian forces.

Respectfully yours,

Kenan Kaplan
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