



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE COUNCIL OF UNITED CIRCASSIA
AND
THE KARELIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT**

September 20, 2023

Our organizations have decided that the Circassian and Karelian peoples, whose homelands have been under occupation and oppression by the Russian Federation for years, should have their independent states established in order to protect their existence, gain their freedom and secure their future. The following decisions have been taken in order to take the necessary measures for both peoples and to create joint actions and plans to end the occupations in the international arena.

- a) The occupied territories of Circassia and Karelia must be liberated,
- b) A common political struggle must be waged in the international arena,
- c) Our organizations must fight together against the Russian Federation's propaganda based on lies and deceit,
- d) It must be explained to the whole world that the Russian Federation is an enemy of all humanity and a lawless state that is incompatible with the prestige and respect that a modern state should have, that does not hesitate to apply brutal methods,
- e) It must be made clear to the relevant states, nations, and the international organizations that cooperation with the Russian Federation might be complicity in crimes against humanity and all kinds of unlawful acts.

In order to achieve these goals:

The Council of United Circassia and the Karelian National Liberation Movement officially recognize each other as official representatives of the Circassian and Karelian peoples. They undertake to struggle together by supporting each other in the international arena.

Cooperation of the Circassian and Karelian peoples with other national organizations will be realized only by mutual consent, provided that it does not contradict the interests of the parties.

The Council of United Circassia and the Karelian National Liberation Movement mutually approve and accept the following articles of agreement.

DEMANDS OF THE COUNCIL OF UNITED CIRCASSIA ACCEPTED BY THE KARELIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT



The President of the Karelian National Liberation Movement, Mr. Dimitri Kuznetsov, within the framework of international law, fundamental human rights, and universal humanitarian values, approves the agreement submitted by the Council of United Circassia on behalf of the Circassian (Adyghe) people, the articles of which are set out below:

1. The Karelian National Liberation Movement recognizes the territory of Circassia where the Circassian nation has lived throughout its history as the national borders of Circassia and acknowledges the full independence and sovereignty rights of the Circassian nation within this territory. These borders encompass the historical Circassia, covering an area of 190,000 square kilometers, surrounded by the Don River to the north, the Manych River to the northeast, Dagestan, Chechnya, Ingushetia, and North Ossetia (with the Mozdok region within the boundaries of Circassia) to the east, the Caucasus Mountains and Abkhazia to the southeast, the Black Sea to the south, and the Sea of Azov to the west.

The Karelian National Liberation Movement, while situated within the mentioned borders of Circassia, acknowledges that central settlements such as Bjedugkale (Krasnodar), Shetkale (Stavropol), Psihuabe (Piatigorsk), Sache (Sochi), Tsemez (Novorossiysk), Anapa, and Taman, which were excluded by the Soviet Union, the successor to the Russian Empire's occupation of Circassia, remain the property of the Circassian Nation and are under Russian occupation.

2. The Karelian National Liberation Movement accepts only the Council of United Circassia as the official interlocutor on behalf of the Circassian people. It undertakes that it will not legally recognize and address any element or structure claiming rights over the lands of Circassia other than the Circassian nation.

3. During the period of the occupation of Circassia, which extended uninterruptedly from 1763 to 1864, the Russian Empire, as a state policy, meticulously executed an absolute genocide with the aim of annihilating the Circassian Nation. This genocide encompassed barbaric acts such as the wanton killing of people, the burning of homes, places of worship, and settlements, the destruction of crops, agricultural lands, forests, and other habitats. It occurred throughout the Circassian-Russian Wars and culminated with the Great Circassian Exile after the loss of the war. The Circassian Genocide, undertaken with the intent to annihilate the Circassian Nation, is officially recognized by the Karelian National Liberation Movement as a historical and moral responsibility.

The Karelian National Liberation Movement pledges to collaborate in solidarity with the Circassian Nation for the purpose of bringing awareness and international recognition to the Circassian Genocide, ensuring that it is conveyed to the entire world.

4. The Karelian National Liberation Movement officially acknowledges that the Russian Federation assimilates the Circassian people by implementing the policy of "Russification"; severely violates the fundamental rights and freedoms of Circassians by implementing to illegal methods; and aims to destroy Circassian culture, language, and national identity.

The Karelian National Liberation Movement undertakes to support the Circassians in their struggle to create a public opinion and to explain to the whole world that the Russian Federation does not hesitate to resort to violence against the Circassian people and continues to implement the assimilation policy.

5. The Karelian National Liberation Movement undertakes to cooperate with the Circassian people on political, economic and legal platforms for the liberation of Circassia and Karelia from the occupation of the Russian Federation and the establishment of an independent and democratic Republic of Circassia.

The Karelian National Liberation Movement undertakes to support any state structure to be elected by the official representatives of the independent and democratic Republic of Circassia.

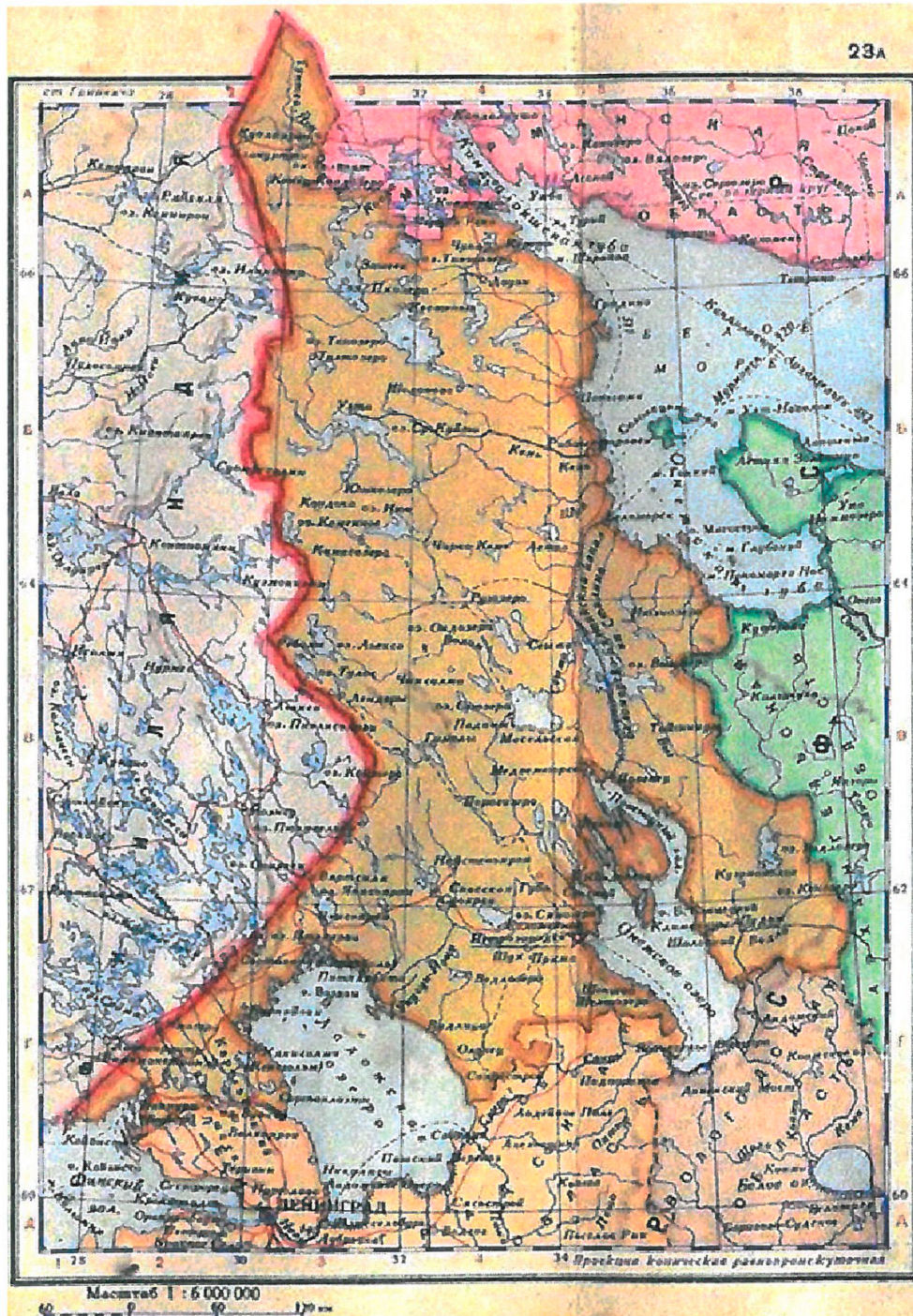
6. The Karelian National Liberation Movement, together with the Council of United Circassia, undertakes to carry out a joint struggle in the international arena to seek support in political, economic, legal, and other fields by expressing its national problems, concerns and expectations to the international political structures.

7. The Karelian National Liberation Movement agrees and undertakes to assist politically, financially, legally and in other ways in the implementation of programs that will make it possible for the Circassian people, most of whom live in the Diaspora, to return to their homeland in order to restore and decolonize Circassia.

8. The Karelian National Liberation Movement undertakes to support and cooperate with the Circassian people by adhering to the provisions of this agreement after the establishment of Circassia and Karelia as independent states.

9. The Karelian National Liberation Movement undertakes that it will not establish any commercial and diplomatic relations with Circassian organizations that harm the interests of the Council of United Circassia.

DEMANDS OF THE KARELIAN NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT ACCEPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF UNITED CIRCASSIA



The President of the Council of United Circassia, Mr. Kenan Kaplan, approves the agreement reached with the Karelian National Liberation Movement, which leads on behalf of the Karelian people within the framework of international law, fundamental human rights and universal values, and whose articles are listed below:

1. The Council of United Circassia officially recognizes the right of the Karelian people to independence and sovereignty within the official borders of the Republic of Karelia with an area of 180,520 km². It also recognizes the legitimate claims of the Karelian National Liberation Movement on all territories that were part of the Karelian-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic before 1956, unless these territories are claimed by Finland.

2. The Council of United Circassia officially recognizes the systematic genocide and forced assimilation carried out by the Russian Empire against the Karelian people for the last 300 years and continued by the Russian Federation today.

3. The Council of United Circassia officially recognizes that Karelia's right to independence, recognized by the will of the people at the Congress in Ukhtua (now Kalevala) in March 1920, has been grossly violated by the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) in the past and the Russian Federation today.

4. The Council of United Circassia recognizes that the borders of Karelia were artificially narrowed under the pressure of the Russian occupation regime, and that the Karelians were subjected to genocide and forced assimilation both in Karelia and in their historical lands, which are now excluded from its borders.

The Council of United Circassia is committed to support and act in solidarity with the autochthonous Karelian people, both in Karelia and in their historical territories, which are now excluded from its borders, in the international arena in their struggle to obtain all their rights.

5. The Council of United Circassia undertakes to make initiatives before state institutions and international organizations to ensure that the Republic of Turkey and other countries grant refugee status to the Karelians who have fled Russia for the last 30 years due to the persecution of the Russian occupation regime and have taken refuge in Turkey and other countries, to support and act in solidarity in their struggle to raise awareness in the Turkish society and the world public opinion about the persecution to which they have been subjected.

The Council of United Circassia undertakes to support the Karelian people to achieve independence through political, legal, financial, and other possible means.

6. The Council of United Circassia undertakes to support and stand in solidarity with the people of Karelia in spreading positive news in the Turkish and world media and in creating a public opinion about the Karelian National Liberation Movement.

7. The Council of United Circassia undertakes to support and stand in solidarity with the people of Karelia in explaining to the Turkish community and the international community that the occupying Russian regime has grossly violated Karelia's right to independence as a result of the

Referendum held in full compliance with international law and procedures and continues its policy of suppressing and completely obliterating this Referendum.

8. The Council of United Circassia undertakes that it will not establish any commercial and diplomatic relations with Karelian organizations that do not work for but harm the interests of the Karelian National Liberation Movement.

The Karelian National Liberation Movement is officially represented outside Karelia by the organization "Stop the occupation of Karelia," which has been registered in Sweden in 2012.



Karelian National Liberation Movement
President
Dimitri KUZNETSOV



Council of United Circassia
President
Kenan KAPLAN

20.09.2023