

### Appendix 3.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SECURITY OF ARMENIA AND ARTSAKH: PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Since time immemorial, the Armenian people have created countless monuments of material culture in their cradle; yet unfortunately, as a result of the unfavorable developments of various historical events, most of them found themselves within the borders of the neighboring states of the Republic of Armenia: Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran and Georgia. It should also be noted that there are hundreds of thousands of monuments created by Armenians in settlements.

It is noteworthy that civilized states consider the cultural values of other peoples in their territory as the wealth of their own country and take them under their protection.

In this light, what has been said is best applied to the Armenian monuments located in the neighboring Islamic Republic of Iran and the Armenian colonies scattered around the world (India, Dagestan, Italy, Romania, Poland, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, USA and elsewhere, in short, the Diaspora), which are preserved in good condition, are not endangered and are not subjected to any encroachment, that is, what the Armenians have created is mostly preserved and is under the protection of the state. For example, in Iran, research, rehabilitation or reconstruction works are regularly carried out. In addition, Monastery of Saint Thaddeus, Saint Stepanos Monastery (Maghardavank) and Dzordzor Saint Astvatsatsin Church are included in the UNESCO world heritage list.

There are a number of other examples of Armenian historical and cultural heritage in different corners of the world, which are under full or partial protection. For example, the second largest Armenian manuscript repository following Matenadaran in the world is located in the Cathedral of Saint James in Jerusalem. More than 4000 Armenian manuscripts are stored there. And in the Armenian Quarter of Old Jerusalem the Armenian Patriarchate is located, adjacent to which, as well as in other parts of the quarter, there are many Armenian institutions. These and other historical and cultural values have received certain protection at different times within the framework of various programs and initiatives, receiving attention from local and/or other Armenian communities, city authorities and other bodies.

Unfortunately, we cannot say the same for Turkey and Azerbaijan, within the borders of which the Armenian monuments of material culture (mainly Christian monuments: monasteries, churches, cemeteries and Armenian inscriptions) are subjected to discriminatory and intolerant treatment; they are considered as pillars betraying the historical reality and are obliterated in every way, including vandalism. For example, the entire Nakhijevan has already been completely

deprived of its actual Armenian culture, especially the Christian heritage. Here, 218 monasteries and churches, hundreds of Armenian cemeteries with thousands of grave monuments were completely destroyed. There were about 15,000 khachkars in Jugha city alone. Most of them have already been destroyed and annihilated.

In the early 20th century, the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople had 1181 churches and 132 monasteries in the territory of the Ottoman Empire. Today only 43 churches remain. The cultural treasury of the world civilization suffered an irreparable loss with the destruction of the world-famous cemetery of Old Jugha. Given the situation, it seems that the Armenian side is only left with the responsibility of recording and alerting of what has been done.

In recent years, the anti-Armenian wave, due to which many Armenian monuments were lost (destroyed or appropriated) in Georgia, from the capital to the regions, has fortunately weakened. Armenian monuments in Javakhk, in Gugark province of historical Armenia, are mostly in good condition, except for certain cases. Demolition and reconstruction of destroyed churches are also carried out by Armenians living in Javakhk.

It can be concluded that the Armenian historical and cultural heritage outside the borders of the Republic of Armenia, with the exception of the culturicidal Turkey and Azerbaijan, is under the direct protection of the government in Iran and in a number of Armenian settlements.

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