



Circassian National Assembly (CNA)
АДЫГЭ ЛЪЭПКЪ ХАСЭ (АЛЪХ)
Çerkes Ulusal Meclisi (ÇUM)

His Excellency;

Kazbek Valeriyevich KOKOV,
President of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic

May 19, 2026

Dear President,

We are following with deep concern the reports of pressure directed against our compatriots living in the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic within the framework of the May 21st Memorial Day. As has been solemnly observed every year for decades both in the Homeland and across the diaspora, we view the pressure targeting our compatriots who wish to mourn the deepest collective trauma in our history this year as a meaningless and futile attempt. We consider the disregard for social identity and cultural values, alongside the obstruction of the freedom of assembly and demonstration -which constitutes one of the most fundamental human rights- to be entirely unacceptable.

We request that your government make the necessary arrangements and facilitate the endeavors of voluntary initiatives to ensure that the memorial day events -commemorating the genocide and subsequent catastrophic exile inflicted upon the Circassian people during the Russian-Caucasian Wars, and revitalizing collective memory- are conducted in a civilized environment, within the framework of Decision No. 977-XII-V dated February 7, 1992, of the Parliament of the Supreme Council of the Kabardino-Balkarian SSR.

We would like to take this opportunity to note that we consider the following issues to be of great importance for healing our historical traumas and laying the groundwork for peaceful coexistence, and we hope you will support the efforts of Circassian civil society organizations in these areas:

1. Official recognition by the Russian Federation of the genocide and exile perpetrated against the Circassians by the Tsarist regime, and the issuance of a formal declaration of apology,
2. The restoration of dignity to our ancestors who were subjected to multidimensional violations of rights,
3. Granting Circassians living in the diaspora the unconditional right of return to the Homeland,
4. Strengthening the bonds between the homeland and the diaspora by focusing on our national values (Xabze), human rights, and democratic participation.

Your Excellency, please accept our sincere wishes for the establishment of cooperation based on mutual understanding between the Kabardino-Balkar Republic and the CNA, so that our people, who are scattered across fifty countries around the world, may have a better future.

Respectfully yours,

Dr. Nusret BAŞ
President of the CNA

