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# THE SUBJECT OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS

**Berfin Mahide ERTEKİN**

**Scholar in Residence**

The subject of Nagorno-Karabakh was once again among the agenda items during the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly this year, especially for Azerbaijan, Armenia and Turkey. Armenia approached the Nagorno-Karabakh subject by forming a new discourse.

## *Armenias Emphasis On Nagorno-Karabakh During The UN General Assembly*

During his speech in the session, Pashinyan stated that he had expressed from the beginning that the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue must be applicable for the people of Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia but that, despite these expressions, Azerbaijan is not taking constructive steps and only wishes to deliver a solution suitable for the people of Azerbaijan. Afterwards, presumably with the expectation that he would be honored by the Wests interest and support, Pashinyan asserted a new claim and stated that Azerbaijan wishes to achieve its status during the Soviet era in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Pashinyan characterized this wish of Azerbaijan as a futile effort, made the statement that the people of Soviet-era Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Region declared their independence and exercise their self-determination as did Azerbaijan seceding from the Soviet Union and continued his speech by expressing that *Azerbaijans position is tantamount of claiming restoration of Soviet Union.*[1] Armenias UN Permanent Representative Ambassador Davit Knyazyan, who spoke at the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, stated that *Restoration of Soviet Azerbaijan's 'territorial integrity' is impossible as much as that of Soviet Union.*[2]

## *A Small Reminder*

Pashinyan, who is maintaining a harsh and radical attitude regarding Nagorno-Karabakh, expressed in his recent speeches that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Armenia; in 5 August 2019, Pashinyan stated that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Armenia *during the meeting in the so-called* Nagorno-Karabakh Republics capital Stepanakert.[3] Pashinyan stating Karabakh is Armenia, period *during the press conference organized in Vanadzor is another example of Pashinyans controversial statements.*[4] *While the*

Nagorno-Karabakh region was a region where Azerbaijani Turks were the majority demographically prior to Tsarist Russias invasion, after the invasion, during the Soviet era, the regions demographic structure would change in which the Armenian population would increasingly rise and surpass the Azerbaijani Turks. The Nagorno-Karabakh region was a place that belonged to Azerbaijan before and during the Soviet period. Currently, as a result of the people of Azerbaijan being massacred and forced to flee their homes, the Armenians constitute the majority of the regions population.

Within this context, the speeches of Pashinyan and Ambasador Knyazyan and the Armenian administration aimed to emphasize the imposibility of Nagorno-Karabakh going back to Azerbaijans hegemony; the impossibility of the Nagorno-Karabakh regions population structure being distributed in Azerbaijans favor was implied. Yet until a period which can be considered recent, the Azerbaijani Turk population in the Nagorno-Karabakh region was the majority. Therefore, this statement by the new Armenia administration, in a way, is an admission that the Nagorno-Karabakh region belonged to Azerbaijan prior to Armenias invasion.

***The Issue Of Nagorno-Karabakh In The UN General Assembly***

Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov, who made a speech on behalf of Azerbaijan in the UN General Assemblys 74th Session, expressed that Armenia is misleading its own people and the international community. Moreover, he called on Armenia to give up its aggressive and hostile policy and fulfill its international obligations.[5]

Therefore, the international community has witnessed the injustice of Armenias continuing invasion, despite the Decision of the UN General Assembly, and its playing with perceptions by speaking differently at Nagorno-Karabakh and the UNGA.

***Aliyevs Nagorno-Karabakh Exclamation***

Aliyev, who spoke on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue in Sochi, emphasized that *Nagorno-Karabakh is historical Azerbaijan land* and stated that ethnic cleansing is being conducted against the Azerbaijanis. Additionally, he made the statement *Karabakh is Azerbaijan, exclamation*.[6]

Within this scope, Aliyevs statement can be perceived as a response to Pashinyans speech at the meeting in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and his speech at the UN General Assembly. Another aspect that makes us think is the Armenian administrations discourses and efforts of playing on perceptions regarding the issue of the Nagorno-Karabakh region under the invasion of the Armenian Armed Forces in order to procure acceptance of the invasions legitimacy to the UN General Assembly, despite the UN General Assemblys Decision.

***Lavrovs Statements Regarding Nagorno-Karabakh***

Russias Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who is one of the three co-presidents of the Minsk Group established for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, criticized Pashinyan for describing Nagorno-Karabakh as *an integral part of Armenia*. Lavrov also indicated that such statements hamper the efforts to end the Karabakh conflict.[7] This open criticism of Lavrov and the Armenian administrations radical discourses and attitudes, which lead to deadlock regarding the subject of Nagorno-Karabakh, have been expressed through official channels.

*Photograph: Armenpress*

[1] We should prove that democratic transformation in Armenia is sustainable  Pashinyans speech at U, Armen Press, 26 September 2019 https://armenpress.am/eng/news/989447.html

[2] Armenian diplomat at UN: Restoration of Soviet Azerbaijan's 'territorial integrity' impossible as much as that of Soviet Union, Panorama.am, 30 September 2019 https://www.panorama.am/en/news/2019/09/30/Armenian-diplomat-UN/2173901

[3] ERMENİSTAN BAŞBAKANINDAN ŞOK SÖZLER: DAĞLIK KARABAĞ ERMENİSTAN'INDIR, AVİM Bulletin, 06 August 2019 https://avim.org.tr/tr/Bulten/ERMENISTAN-BASBAKANINDAN-SOK-SOZLER-DAGLIK-KARABAG-ERMENISTAN-INDIR

[4] Paşinya'dan Azerbaycan iddialarına cevap: "Karabağ Ermenistan'dır ve nokta!", Ermeni Haber Ajansı, 17 September 2019, https://www.ermenihaber.am/tr/news/2019/09/17/PPa%C5%9Finyan-Karaba%C4%9F-Ermenistan/164405

[5] AZERBAYCAN'DAN ERMENİSTAN'A BM'DE "DAĞLIK KARABAĞ" ÇAĞRISI, AVİM Bulletin, 30 September 2019 https://avim.org.tr/tr/Bulten/AZERBAYCAN-DAN-ERMENISTAN-A-BM-DE-DAGLIK-KARABAG-CAGRISI

[6] Ortalık kızıştı! "Karabağ, tarihi Azerbaycan toprağıdır", Milliyet, 03 October 2019 http://www.milliyet.com.tr/dunya/ortalik-kizisti-karabag-tarihi-azerbaycan-topragidir-6045746

[7] Russian FM Critical Of Pashinians Karabakh Remark, www.azatutyun.am, 03 October 2019, https://www.azatutyun.am/a/30197687.html

About the Author :

After graduation from Ankara Tevfik Fikret High School, Berfin Mahide Ertekin completed her undergraduate education at TOBB Univercity in 2019. Ertekin attended the Center for Eurasian Studies (AVIM) as a Scholar in Residence after the three months trainee program in AVİM.

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Süleyman Nazif Sok. No: 12/B Daire 3-4 06550 Çankaya-ANKARA / TÜRKİYE
**Tel**: +90 (312) 438 50 23-24 • **Fax**: +90 (312) 438 50 26
@avimorgtr
https://www.facebook.com/avrasyaincelemelerimerkezi
**E-Mail**: info@avim.org.tr
http://avim.org.tr

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