

The message President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan sent to Armenian Patriarch of Türkiye, Reverend Sahak Maşalyan

Armenian Patriarch of Türkiye, Reverend Sahak Maşalyan,

Distinguished members of the Armenian community,

My dear citizens,

I salute you with my most heartfelt feelings and affection.

Today, you have gathered in the Armenian Patriarchate of İstanbul to commemorate the Ottoman Armenians who lost their lives under the harsh conditions imposed by the First World War.

I once again remember with respect the Ottoman Armenians who passed away, and offer my sincere condolences to their relatives.

I wish Allah's mercy upon all the Ottoman citizens who passed away into eternal life in the difficult conditions of the First World War.

The last years of the Ottoman Empire, which corresponded to the First World War, were a very painful period for millions of Ottoman people.

It is a humanitarian duty to understand and share these common pains without any religious, ethnic or cultural discrimination.

It is important for us, who have shared common joy and grief for centuries, to heal the wounds of the past together and further strengthen our humane ties.

With this understanding, I believe that we should build the future together with the inspiration we derive from our deep-rooted unity of almost a millenium, instead of aggravating the pain.

Indeed, to this end, we have started a constructive process with our neighbor Armenia.

I know that the normalization process is sincerely supported by our citizens of Armenian origin who are in favor of close cooperation between the two neighboring countries, and I attach great importance to this.

I expect you to make a strong contribution for seizing this historic opportunity that has emerged for the sake of lasting peace and stability in our region after many years.

I assure you that we will make every effort to ensure that our Armenian citizens, who have left indelible marks in our cultural and social life throughout our centuries-long togetherness on this land, lead their lives in peace, security and safety.

With these feelings and thoughts, once more I respectfully commemorate the Ottoman Armenians who lost their lives in the First World War, and offer my greetings and respect to all my citizens participating in the commemoration ceremony.

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN
President of the Republic of Türkiye