

"NEVER AGAIN" - THE IMPERATIVE OF SECURITY GUARANTEE OF THE JEWISH AND ARMENIAN PEOPLES

Dr., MG Hayk Kotanjian, Head of the Institute for National Strategic Studies, Counterterrorism Fellow, NDU, Eurasia Security Program Fellow, Harvard, JFK School of Government

On May 24, 2011, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke at the joint session of the US Congress.¹ This speech can be regarded as a well balanced word of a statesman, aimed at focusing the international community on safeguarding the real guarantees for peace in the Middle East and the security of the Jewish and Arab peoples of Israel and Palestine. According to Israeli Prime Minister, the true reason of Palestine-Israeli conflict is not the resistance of Israel against the establishment of the State of Palestine, but the rejection of the Palestinians to recognize the right of existence of Israel. In conformity with this, Netanyahu called the Palestinian side to lay the foundations for mutual security guarantees, emphasizing the importance of Palestine's self-determination into an independent and democratic state subject to mutual recognition between Israel and Palestinian State and their peaceful coexistence in the atmosphere of good neighborliness, starting from the formation of approaches aimed at the mutual recognition of the Jewish and Palestinian states in the negotiation process.

This assessment is applicable to the Karabakh conflict, being the consequence of the fact that Azerbaijan does not recognize the right of existence of Nagorno Karabakh Republic. The non-recognition of Nagorno Karabakh people's inherent right for the free self-determination up to the independence and the legal fact of its lawful implementation till today figures as a local exotic version of international law interpretation by Azerbaijani authorities. As for the armed phase of the Karabakh conflict, it was the result of Azerbaijan attempt to abolish legally self-determined Nagorno Karabakh Republic by dint of out-breaking the war against the latter with the threat of Genocide catastrophe recurrence. Thereby, both in the foundation of the peaceful resolution of the Karabakh and Palestine-Israeli Conflicts the necessity of mutual recognition between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh Republic as well as between Israel and Palestine sides are to be laid. In the appeal to the American people and to all peoples of the world, addressed from the podium of the U.S. Congress, Prime-Minister Netanyahu presented the imperative -"Never again" that underlies the National Security Strategy of Israel, and for Israel and World Jewry means an inadmissibility of Holocaust catastrophe repetition. At the same time the understanding and support

¹. Netanyahu's Address to U.S. Congress, May 2011, Council on Foreign Relations, <http://www.cfr.org/israel/netanyahus-address-us-congress-may-2011/p25073>

by all nations is counted on. American Senators and Congressmen in recognition of the irreproachability of the high moral of “Never again” principle interrupted the speech of Netanyahu by standing applause for 18 time, publicized by the Prime Minister of Israel from the tribune of the US Congress by the example of Jewish people, all in all - for the safeguarding the security guarantees of other people that suffered from Genocide.

The "Never Again" principle brings together logical and moral basics of the right of the Jewish and Armenian peoples to assist the world community in possession of guarantees by Armenia and Israel of non-recurrence of any Genocide committed in the XX century against the Jews and Armenians. This principle underlies also the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Armenia².

It is this "Never Again" principle that determines the importance of respecting the boundaries, formed as a result of protection against the recurrence of Genocide of the Jews within the borders of Israel and the Armenians - within the borders of the two Armenian states. It comes to keeping in general the existing borders that provide the security of the Jewish and Armenian peoples in the State of Israel and in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, established by a referendum³ in full accordance with the Law of the USSR “On seceding from the USSR” of 3 April, 1990⁴. In this connection it should be noted that the Azerbaijani minority of Nagorno Karabakh, being invited to participate in a legitimate referendum on self-determination, boycotted it by the instructions of Azerbaijani authorities⁵. Documental evidences about this fact are stored in the archives of Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Prime Minister Netanyahu sees the securing of guarantees in preserving the existing territory of the State of Israel within the borders ensuring the security of the Jewish people, if an achievement of limited compromises is possible that requires negotiations and agreements. As a condition for peace and mutual security Netanyahu considers the termination of hateful upbringing towards Jews among the younger generation of Palestinians.

Another important factor that contributes not only to the guarantee of the non-recurrence of Genocide, but also to the sustainable and safe development of the conflict parties, Benjamin Netanyahu sees in the democratic system of the future Palestinian state consistent with the level

² . See “Стратегия национальной безопасности Республики Армения”, <http://www.mil.am/1297157753>, Стратегия национальной безопасности Республики Армения, “Айкакан Банак”, специальный выпуск, Ереван , 2007

³ . See “Акт о результатах референдума о независимости Нагорно-Карабахской Республики”. Статус Нагорного Карабаха в политико-правовых документах и материалах. Е., 1995, сс. 85-87, также: “Декларация о государственной независимости Нагорно-Карабахской Республики”, там же, сс. 88-89

⁴ . See “Закон о порядке решения вопросов, связанных с выходом союзной республики из СССР”, М., изд. Верховного Совета СССР, “Ведомости Съезда народных депутатов Верховного Совета СССР”, 1990, No 15

⁵ . Карабахский конфликт 1988-1993. Хроника событий, <http://karabah88.ru/conflict/karabah/12.html>

of democracy of Israel. In his speech Israeli Prime Minister attached great importance to the democratic orientation of the "Arab spring"⁶.

And finally, the only possible peace at the zone of the Palestine-Israeli conflict, according to Netanyahu, is the one that is secured with arms. By this factor the necessity of Israeli troops' interposition in the Jordan Valley is conditioned.

This approach - taking into account the peculiarities of the Karabakh conflict - generally is applicable in respect of its peaceful resolution under the auspices of the Co-Chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Group. New guarantees of a similar realistic search for solutions are enclosed in a statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at the G8 summit in Deauville, adopted on 26 May this year by the presidents of Russia, the United States and France - Dmitry Medvedev, Barack Obama and Nicolas Sarkozy⁷.

The Armenian and Jewish peoples, for all their specificity, have the fact in common that they decided to respond to the Genocides committed against them by rebuilding their independence and by establishing democratic states. The Republic of Armenia and the State of Israel were created, respectively, on 28 May, 1918 and on May 14, 1948 - after WWI and WWII that brought the catastrophe of The Genocide and the Holocaust to the Armenian and Jewish peoples.

As for the Armenians of Azerbaijan, during Perestroika they faced pogroms in Sumgait and Kirovabad in 1988 and then in 1990, in Baku⁸ - in response to peaceful political actions of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh for self-determination and withdrawal from the Azerbaijani SSR. Moreover the National Front of Azerbaijan, struggling for the seizure of power and the impeachment of Azerbaijani president, blaming the latter in inaction, in 1992 commenced a massacre of its own citizens in Khojaly, ascribing its organization to the Armenians who left humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of Khojaly residents during the suppression of the enemy's firing positions⁹. In response to these genocidal actions, their falsification and the propaganda of Armenophobia, the Armenians of Karabakh following the example of Armenia and Israel and enjoying the right of self-determination, prescribed by the legislation in force, responded

⁶ . See Netanyahu's Address to U.S. Congress, May 2011, Council on Foreign Relations

⁷ . Joint Statement by Presidents Sarkozy, Obama and Medvedev on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, <http://www.g20-g8.com/g8-g20/g8/english/live/news/joint-statement-by-presidents-sarkozy-obama-and.1295.html>

⁸ . Pallone Commemorates 18th Anniversary of the Sumgait Massacres, http://www.house.gov/list/press/nj06_pallone/022610SumgaitMassacres.html

⁹ . “Я гуманист в душе”. Интервью Президента АЗР А. Муталибова чешской журналистке Дане Мазаловой. “Независимая газета”, 02.04.1992

to the real threat of The Genocide's recurrence by the legal establishment of an independent and democratic state – The Republic of Nagorno Karabakh¹⁰.

Thus, the assertion of Prime Minister Netanyahu from the tribune of American Congress that for the Jewish people, which responded to the Holocaust by the creation of the independent State of Israel, "Never again - means Never again," is absolutely applicable to the Armenian people. The Republic of Armenia, in cooperation with the Armenian Diaspora, expects the understanding by the world community of its moral right and duty not to let any recurrence of the Genocide against the Armenian people in the part of historical lands of its multi-millennial residence – both in the Republic of Armenia and in The Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

¹⁰ . On this in more detail see Гайк С. Котанджян. Азербайджан-антидемократизм и колониализм в перспективе региональной безопасности. “Политологические проблемы безопасности: Перестройка СССР- Карабах, Армения, Закавказье-Афганистан”, Ереван 2008, стр. 384-385