

"MY STEP" ALLIANCE DEPUTY MEMBER OF
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

SISAK GABRIELIAN

Dear Mr. Gabrielyan,

“The A.D. Sakharov Armenian Human Rights Protection Center”, NGO (hereinafter referred to as Sakharov Center) welcomes the decision to finally put the repatriation project into circulation in the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and is pleased to state that the Sakharov Center initiative has finally been discussed and will be brought to life. It is unfortunate, however, that the Sakharov Center, being the owner of this project idea, was not included in the project development team, and therefore its efforts remained unnoticed by your side.

For your information, the Sakharov Center has repeatedly applied to the Chairman of the State Revenue Committee (SRC) who assisted with the development of this project, submitting written comments and suggestions on promoting repatriation and facilitating its process. However, the State Revenue Committee of the Republic of Armenia has provided negative answers, limiting itself to citing only absurd and confusing articles of the current legislation. In fact, for the SRC in order to be vigilant on this issue, it was only necessary for the Sakharov Center to apply to the RA Prime Minister (attached the copy of the letter).

The letter addressed to the Prime Minister was also presented to the RA Diaspora Affairs Commissioner, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sport, and the SRC Chairman. However, Sakharov Center received a proposal from none of them for cooperation and teamwork.

Then, by chance, your Facebook page stated that a team has been formed to develop a repatriation project and you thank the team members. And your team members have not attempted to collaborate with the author and initiator of those suggestions and involve their representative or representatives in that team work. We hope that after this precedent you will cooperate not only with the media, but also with human rights organizations, and at the earliest stage of legislative drafting you will involve their representatives.

The revolution in Armenia has given us hope that the barrier between the new authorities and non-governmental organizations will be eliminated and, through joint work, a real social

partnership will be formed between us: only through joint work and cooperation will a new Armenia be built. Unfortunately, experience shows that there is no bridge between the Armenian authorities and the civil society structures.

Attached are:

- 1. Letter No. 2656 to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, 09.10.2019,*
- 2. USSR People's Council Copy of Decision No. 2947 of November 21, 1945, which stipulated in paragraph 4, to exempt the Armenian citizens from customs duty returning from the USSR to their new place of residence from abroad.*

Levon Nersisyan

Executive Director