

**Open Letter To:**

**THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY &  
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**Date:** December 6, 2009, New York

**Reference: 1)** "The Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Armenia and Turkey" and "The Protocol on Development of Relations between Armenia and Turkey." Dated October 10, 2009. <http://news.am/en/print/6260.html1%20von>

**2) Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative:**

[http://www.lightmillennium.org/tasynergy/tas\\_formed\\_news\\_oct26\\_09.html](http://www.lightmillennium.org/tasynergy/tas_formed_news_oct26_09.html) &

<http://www.csi.am/en/conflict-transformation/2009/10/26/initiative>

As the co-founders of the Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative ("TAS") under the aegis of the Light Millennium (NY) with the Civil Society Institute (Yerevan), and the members of the Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative Committee, including Bircan Ünver (NY), Diana Khachaturyan (Yerevan), Marianna Khachaturyan (Lincoln, Nebraska), Azime Aydogmus (NY), Korcan Yurdacan (NY), Gokhan Kiling STGM.Org (Denizli, Turkey), Maia Gachechiladze (Budapest, Hungary) and Aamir Sadiq (Chicago, IL);

we **welcome** and **support** the two signed "**Protocols**" between Turkey and Armenia, which aim to provide an opportunity to better relation-building, understanding, reconciliation, collaboration, and partnerships between the two neighboring countries.

We strongly think that "**Ratifications of the two Protocols**" by the **Grand National Assembly of Turkey** and the **National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia** are imperative. Through these ratifications the people of both countries will eventually be able to move into a peace process that would enhance their daily lives economically, culturally, and socially in a globalized world.

Since the signed **Protocols** coincide with the general context and concept of the (ref#2 -- see above) TAS Initiative's overall vision and missions, we would be strongly willing to contribute to its implementation.

Although the Initiative was officially formed on September 30th, 2009, the initial idea was seeded on the Web in 2007. In reference to #2, the first and main goal of the **Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative** is to focus on the **GOOD** and **POSITIVE** aspects of the **Turkish-Armenian relations**, which were forgotten, suppressed, or obliterated long ago.

We will base our activities on our common historical 'forgotten' cultures that have existed more than 900 years in an effort to re-connect them and reach the greater goal of "**a shared future**" between the two countries.

Our first objective is to launch the Initiative at the United Nations by obtaining support from the Permanent Missions of Turkey & Armenia to the United Nations for a joint program in parallel to

several public programs in and around NY with a series of diverse start-up programs (tentatively in 2010).

Since TAS Initiative is formed under the Light Millennium, which is a multi-media and cultural organization associated with the **Department of Public Information of the United Nations**, our general program and activities will be focused on culture, education, arts, poetry/literature, and media projects. These projects may involve organizing concerts, promoting film-documentary at art festivals, exhibitions, biennials, and competitions in many fields, in particular involving youth, as well as making e-publications, book publications, documentaries, and films that will serve to bring the two communities together at each and every event. Each program will be undertaken by the TAS Initiative.

The overall mandate will and must be constructive, positive, and creative, allowing each program to be a stepping stone for the next one. Each program will also elevate and expand, reaching out to wider groups to enable TAS to bring in positive strong connections from many perspectives, generating synergy between the two countries as well as worldwide. Through the very first launching programs at the UN and around NY, we aim to set up the Initiative's parameters at the most powerful and effective international institutions that will be guidance for the TAS Initiative to open many new doors and potentials for the purposes of the TAS. We aim to present each and every program on an equal participatory level from both countries. We also aim to have speakers/presenters from major international institutions, academia and from other cultural backgrounds, so that the **Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative** will not be limited only to Turkey and Armenia.

As the **Light Millennium** and **Civil Society Institute**, we will work towards developing, enhancing, and diversifying various cultural, educational, art, media, and global concern programs together. We will strive to implement and promote these programs on various public spheres, multi-platforms, and on the Internet in order to contribute to "*better understanding*", "*fostering global connectivity*", "*removing prejudices*" and "*Promoting 'Freedom of Expression' from all walks of life in every corner of the world*" as well as "*re-embracing the long shared-cultures*".

Thank you very much in advance for your potential support for the "**Ratification**" of the two Protocols (ref#1) by each and every **Minister of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey** and **Deputy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia**.

Sincerely yours,

**Bircan ÜNVER, Co-Founder of the  
Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative**  
with The Light Millennium - New York, USA  
<http://www.lightmillennium.org>

**Diana KHACHATURYAN, Co-Founder of the  
Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative**  
with the Civil Society Institute, Yerevan, Armenia  
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Special Thanks To: **Maya Barkhudaryan** and **Figen Bingül** for their contribution into this *Open Letter*.

**- For the Light Millennium's On-Line Open Membership & Partner Campaign  
through NYCharities.Org>** <http://www.nycharities.org/app/lightmillennium>

"Turkish-Armenian Synergy Initiative is formed under The Light Millennium organization by Bircan Ünver with Diana Khachaturyan of the Civil Society Institute, Yerevan, Armenia - <http://www.csi.am>) on September 30, 2009. The Light Millennium, is a 501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt and Public Benefit Multi-Media and Culture Organization & Associated with the UNDPi effective on December 12, 2005, and member of the Non Profit Coordination Committee of New York. Officially formed in July 2001, based in Queens, New York."