IN APPRECIATION OF PASHINYAN

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Category: Opinions

By Jirair Tutunjian, Toronto, 10 May 2026

To express their appreciation for Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's servile cooperation, Turkbeijan leaders Recep Erdogan and Ilham Aliyev recently invited the Armenian leader to a private dinner a trois *in Erdogan's 1,000-room Presidential White Palace in Ankara.*

Erdogan: Nikol, I am glad you took the time off from the busy election campaign to join us.

Pashinyan: It's always a pleasure to see you and brother Aliyev.

Aliyev: We also wanted to thank you for deleting Mt. Agri from your passport stamps.

Erdogan: That's a modest improvement. Down the road, we expect more friendly measures from you.

Aliyev: For example, we want you to remove Mt. Agri from your coat-of-arms, also the lions and eagles from the insignia. They are aggressive beasts. They suggest that you are planning to attack us someday.

Erdogan: As you know, lions have never inhabited in Armenia.

Pashinyan The star and the crescent are not native to Turkey.

Erdogan: Ho, ho, ho. A witty Armenian. By the way, it's Turkiye.

Pashinyan Sorry.

Aliyev: We want you to take more steps to demonstrate your submission..errr…cooperation with your friendly neighbors.

Erdogan: What do you have in mind?

Aliyev: We have learned several Armenian MPs mean to provoke us. It would not be a wise.

Pashinyan You know I cooperate with you, but I can't do anything unless you explain the provocative measures.

Erdogan: Two foolish Armenian MPs want to raise the profile of your so-called victory at the so-called Battle of Sardarabad a million years ago.

Pashinyan It's news to me. Who are the MPs?

Aliyev: You can't expect us to remember the names of some Armenian MPs from a country which has more than 100 political parties.

Erdogan: Let me explain. These foolish MPs want to make a visit to the Sardarabad Monument a must on the itinerary of visiting dignitaries.

Aliyev: Very, very foolish.

Erdogan: These MPs say dignitaries visiting Israel are always dragged to the Masada fortress where a million years ago about a thousand rebellious Jews committed mass suicide rather than surrender to the Romans. They say Presidents Biden, Obama, Bush, Clinton have visited Masada to pay their respects. These wayward MPs want to drag visiting dignitaries to your fake monument so as to brag about Armenia's victory.

Pashinyan I don't know why you are so worked about two MPs who are on a mission impossible. I might not recognize them even if you gave me their names.

Aliyev:: So, it's set: no Sardarabad jount. Anything else?

Erdogan: I understand there are towns and communities in Armenia which have the same name as Turkish cities but with "New" preceding them. This practice more than suggests revanchist tendencies on Armenia's part…that you want to keep alive the name and someday grab them.

Pashinyan With all due respect, brother Recep: You have 85 million people while Brother Aliyev has ten million. That's thirty-three times our population. You also have the second-largest NATO army. These names are sentimental gestures. However, if you strongly object to the names, I can re-name them.

Erdogan: You see, had your people in 1915 been cooperative as you are now, there would have been no gen… you know…isolated violence against them.

Pashinyan May I have another cup of your delicious Turkish coffee?

Erdogan: *Efferim*, Nikol.

After Pashinyan departs, Aliyev sits morosely contemplating his coffee.

Erdogan:: What's the matter with you?

Aliyev: The cunning little Armenian agreed with everything we demanded. He didn't give us an excuse to move on Western Azerbaijan.

Erdogan: What I demanded is just the beginning, my friend. The Chinese proverb says the worst torture is applied drop by drop.

Aliyev: You are so well-read, brother. Do you think he will win?

Erdogan: Nikola is leading in the polls and the opposition, per tradition, is divided. A significant percentage of the voters say they will not vote. Others say they will damage the election chits. Welcome to the Republic of Nikola.



Turkish Toponym Boss Consults Erdogan

By Jirair Tutunjian, Toronto, 11 May 2026

Errol Hosni (EH), boss of the Turkish Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate, recently met President-for-Life Recep Erdogan (RE) to update him on Turkish toponym (the study of place names) developments.

RE: How do you take your tea?

EH: Thank you. I would rather have Turkish coffee.

RE: *Entres nous* I am taking French lessons, let's not play nationalistic games. I am taking French lessons. You know there's no such thing as Turkish coffee. The designation occurred when Ermeni merchants introduced coffee to Europe. Since they were citizens of the Ottoman Empire, Europeans assumed coffee came from Turkey.

What's on your mind? As Americans say.

EH:: In the 16th century, our great, great, great, great, great Ottoman grandfathers began to Turkify 288,000 Armenian, Georgian, Greek, and Kurdish place names. This continued in the late 19th century. Then Kemal Ataturk Turkified a further 12,000 toponyms in the 1920s.

RE: Errol, I know all this. Why are you here?

EH: I wanted to thank you for your recent decision to Turkify the name of our homeland.

RE: Our reluctant association with the clumsy bird had been annoying me all my life—especially when my American friends celebrated Thanksgiving.

EH: I am sure all our compatriots share your view. There's a second reason why I asked for the honor to see you.

RE: You certainly took your sweet time to come to your point, as my American friends say.

EH: I am deeply and profusely sorry for taking your valuable time. I wanted to tell you that after five centuries we have failed to completely erase the foreign names from our map. As a matter of fact,

almost all our big cities still have foreign names.

RE: What are you talking about?

EH: Sanliurfa. It's an Aramaic name. I think it means spring or water.

RE: Hmmm.

EH: Close by is Gaziantep. Antep is not Turkish. The "Gazi" was affixed by the peacock Kemal.

RE: I like the "peacock" adjective.

EH: Adana is in the same area. One version says Adana is an Indo-European name. Let's call it Alma. It's the heart of the agricultural region.

RE: Hmmm.

EH: Antalya, our biggest resort and after Istanbul the largest tourist attraction was named by King Attalus of Pergamum.

RE: Hmmm.

EH: Izmir is the corruption of Smyrnia. Bursa is the Greek Prusa. Van is Armenian. Ani is Armenian. Kars is Armenian.

RE: Enough! I get it.

EH: Pardon me Your Excellency. Our two most important cities also have non-Turkish names. Our capital Ankara is the Phrygian Angora. Our biggest city, our pride, the world's most beautiful city…Istanbul has a foreign name. Some say it's Greek for "I am going to the City" while others say it's a corruption of Constantinople…the city of the pagan Roman Emperor Constantine who supposedly saw Christ's cross in the sky while in battle. Upon winning he converted to Christianity.

RE: So there are three reasons to object to the city's name: Constantine was pagan, he became Christian, and the appearance of the cross in the sky is typical Christian nonsense.

So, the question is what we should call the above cities?

EH: I have given a great deal of thought about renaming these proudly Turkish cities.

RE: As my *Engleeze* friends say, I am all ears.

EH: Here are my suggestions. Change Urfa to Orhan. A solid Turkish name. Marash should become Barish, meaning reconciliation

RE: Drop "Gazi" from Antep. I will not honor the drunken braggart who named himself "Ataturk" because he couldn't have children.

EH: Antalya can become Anadolu, meaning "the mother is pregnant."

RE: "Anadolu" means sunrise in Greek. I am eager to learn your suggestion for Istanbul.

EH: Suleiman…after the greatest sultan.

RE: Unacceptable. Suleiman is a Jewish name.

EH: What about Sinan, after the great architect?

RE: You must be the only Turk who doesn't know he was Armenian.

EH: I am sorry. How about KURT? After the Grey Wolf.

RE: You must be joking. People will think we are honoring the Kurds.

EH: I got it. JANISSARI. It has power, it has music. It's historic.

RE: I don't like it. Most Janissaries were *gavoors*. I think I got it: YATAGHAN. It's powerful. It has music. It's colorful. It's TURKISH. YATAGHAN-SUR-BOSPORUS in French.

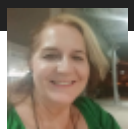
EH: Pure genius, if I may say so.

Comments



Jirair – 2026-05-18 14:53:57

Dear Nurnisa, Following his heavy dinner with Erdogan, Ilham Aliyev proceeded to the 7-star AzGaz hotel where his wife --Mehriban Aliyeva-- had been waiting for him in their football pitch-sized emperor suite. Aliyev headed to one of the all-green bedrooms and slept. Several hours later, when he was making loud moaning noise, Mehriban of the Thousand Facelifts squeezed his pregnant nose to wake him hup. She said she woke him up because it was obvious he was having nightmare. "Au contraire," said the Baby Dictator. He had picked the word from Erdogan who had been learning all the languages spoken at the United Nations. He said he had a marvelous dream which he was eager to share with a bored Mehriban. "In my dream, you and I were walking down Erivan's GasGad steps which were decked by million flowers. Countless people were applauding us. We proceeded to the Ermeni Vatican which we renamed Sultan Heydar Aliyev Mosque. We then took the stretch limousine to what was some alleged genocide museum which we renamed the Khojali Genocide Memorial. Then it was off to the Azerbaijan University where a variety of high-powered historians proved the so-called Datev Monastery had been a Turkic fortress, that the oldest shoe had Azeri seams. We then headed to the airport which until recently had an incomprehensible name. We named it Nikol Pashinyan Airport. The ratty-baldy Nikol was there pushing his belly. The airport was crowded because it was welcoming 500,000 Azeris who were kicked out of Western Azerbaijan when it was temporarily ruled by gavur Ermenler. I forgot, a famed musicologist proved Aram Khachaturyan was of Azeri extraction. His real name was Erem Khalisjada. That's why his music sounds so Turkic-Azeri. It was wonderful. "Yes. Go back to sleep dear, and dream of visiting Northern Azerbaijan in Tiflis-Tblisii," said vice-president-magazine-editor-beautician-and the darling of facial enhancers Mehriban.



Nurnisa Erismis – 2026-05-17 04:51:00

Dear Jirair, Your satire made me laugh, but it also left a bitter taste, as good satire often does. What appears at first as a comic dinner scene is in fact a very serious warning about asymmetric normalization. When one side is asked to remove symbols, soften memory, avoid monuments, rename places, and call this “cooperation,” peace begins to look less like reconciliation and more like the disciplining of historical memory. There is an old saying among the peoples of Anatolia and Mesopotamia about Turkish statecraft: “If you give them your hand, they will take your arm.” Your satire captures precisely this fear: that every symbolic concession may not satisfy the other side, but simply prepare the ground for the next demand. The second satire is equally sharp because it touches one of the deepest anxieties of Turkish nationalism: the fear that the map itself might remember more than the state wants it to remember. Toponyms are never just names. They are small archives. They carry older peoples, older languages, older wounds, and older forms of belonging. This is why the obsession with renaming places is not a harmless bureaucratic habit, but a politics of erasure. A state may change the sign at the entrance of a town, but it cannot so easily change the memory buried in the word. From Turkey, this irony feels especially painful. We grew up with maps that looked stable and official, but beneath many of those names there are silenced Armenian, Greek, Kurdish, Syriac, Georgian, and other histories. Your satire reminds us that the land itself is multilingual, multi-layered, and stubbornly disobedient to nationalist fantasy. Taken together, these two satires expose both the diplomatic disciplining of memory and the nationalist cleansing of the map with painful clarity. No ministry can fully erase that memory. The map may be edited, but the earth remembers. Best regards Nurnisa

H – 2026-05-15 11:36:43

Call it satire! How turkey erased and/or turkified original Armenian, Greek, names and words to falsify the ownership of lands and cultures occupied. Degrading for civilized cultures, yet no alternatives for now.