

RELEASE IN PART  
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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2009 8:29 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: Nalbandian statement/S Calls

Phil wanted you to see before your turkish call.

**From:** Gordon, Philip H  
**To:** Steinberg, James B; Burns, William J; Abedin, Huma; Sullivan, Jacob J  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
**Sent:** Sat Sep 19 05:57:33 2009  
**Subject:** Nalbandian statement/S Calls

*Nalbandian statement: "The Turkish side is informed and we are confident that they realize that we exclude the conditioning of the normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations on steps toward the settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Trying to link these two processes could lead to the failure of both. A number of countries, including those of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs, have the same position. They have said many times that the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia must be without preconditions. With this mutual understanding, we have started and conducted negotiations and come to agreements that are reflected in the initialed protocols. If the Turkish leadership has problems with the signing of these documents, they should not try to solve them by distorting the spirit, essence, and goals of the initialed documents. The signing and implementation of the agreed documents is a process that is full of difficulties. Nevertheless, Armenia is ready to respect the agreements and move forward. If the current authorities in Turkey are not ready to accept the fact of the genocide perpetrated in the Ottoman Empire, then they are at least obliged to show respect toward the survivors of the Armenian genocide and their descendants."*

**Huma can you make sure S sees this before calls.**

*Erdogan quote: "Until the Karabakh issue is solved we cannot open the border. We have told them that already. We cannot open the border until the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict is overcome. There are frequent meetings of Aliyev-Medvedev-Sargsian. We are much closer to a Karabakh solution. Without that issue being resolved, it is impossible for our side to take this step. Armenia must free itself of being led by the diaspora. Armenia doesn't get any benefit from the diaspora. The diaspora scores points by using Armenia. That's what it does. The diaspora in the U.S. and France does this."*

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