

**DECLARATION OF GENERAL STAFF
DATED APRIL 27 TURNS FIVE**

(April 28, 2012 at 05:00AM)

For the purpose of supporting a series of initiatives initiated to prevent the election of the 11th President by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and to destroy the reputation of the TGNA, which is the place of manifestation of the national will; the unfortunate General Staff Declaration, which was published on the website of the General Staff on April 27, 2007 at 23:30 at midnight and referred to as “ELECTRONIC MEMORANDUM” in our political history, completed its fifth year on April 27/28, 2012.

The statement was prepared by me at 03:00 on the night the declaration was placed on the General Staff WEB Site, and sent to the written and visual media, Members of our Law and Executive Organs until 05:00 on the morning of that night, that is, on April 28, 2007 and ASDER Protest, which appeared in the press on April 29, 2007; the full text of our counter-declaration, titled ***“Declaration of General Staff is undemocratic initiative made in coordination with the opposition parties”***, is presented below to refresh the memories. “Electronic Memorandum” of April 27; with their distorted understanding of secularism, they see all kinds of behaviors towards the Islamic religious belief and which are completely a requirement of fundamental rights and freedoms as a threat; with unfounded fears and concerns, advocating the continuation of the unlawful prohibitions and restrictions on the Religious Life of the Nation during the 28 February process and with the aim of putting the GNAT, the Constitutional Court and the Government of the Republic under pressure; **It has taken its place in history as the last open threat of the Military Junta, the last version of February 28, and the Military Trusteeship it established.**

In the afternoon of the same day, the declaration of the Council of Ministers rejecting the Electronic Memorandum was the first step in the efforts to destroy the military tutelage.

After that;

- In the general elections held on **July 22, 2007**; Despite the opposition of the military, the Supreme Judiciary, Higher Education Institutions, some NGOs, the biased press, and political parties inside and outside the Parliament, the AK Party increased its votes from 34% to 46.5%;
- In the elections held in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on **August 28, 2007**; the election of Mr. Abdullah Gül as the 11th President of the Presidency, which until that date was the center of bureaucratic staffing that was contrary to the values of the Nation;
- In the Constitutional Amendment Referendum held on **October 21, 2007**, the election of the President by popular vote was accepted with 67% of the votes;
- The detention and subsequent arrest of two generals in relation to the Ergenekon Trial on **July 01, 2008**;
- In the decision announced on **July 30, 2008**, the Constitutional Court's Failure to Shut the AK Party;
- On **July 24, 2010**, 102 active and retired generals and senior officers could be arrested within the scope of the Sledgehammer Trial;
- On **August 04, 2010**, the promotion decrees were not signed by the Ministry of National Defense, the Prime Minister and our President, due to the fact that the trial of two generals and an admiral within the scope of the Sledgehammer Trial continued despite the Supreme Military Council Decision;
- Preventing the military-civilian crisis initiated by Chief of General Staff İlker Başbuğ with the retirement of General İlker Başbuğ on **August 30, 2010**, citing the admirals and generals whose decrees were not signed;

- The adoption of the Constitutional Amendment Referendum dated **September 12, 2010** with 58% of the votes;
- With the Law No. 6191 dated **March 22, 2011**, some rights of the officers and non-commissioned officers who were victimized due to their beliefs with the Supreme Military Council Decisions during the 28 February Process;
- On **July 29, 2011**, since the requests of the Armed Forces Personnel regarding their promotion were not accepted by the Government; providing the retirement procedures by accepting the retirement demands of the Chief of the General Staff and the Commanders of the Land, Naval and Air Forces (*in the past, such disputes were solved with intervention or military coups*);

There have been important milestones in reaching today and in taking the distance our country has covered on the path to advanced democracy.

Today, we have democratic demands for the future.

Bringing all those responsible for the Military Coups of February 28, 1997 and earlier, including the Electronic Memorandum of April 27, 2007, **to justice and for a fair trial;**

Restoring the rights of all victims, especially soldiers, who have been wronged in the interim periods and the coup on May 27, 1960;

The reorganization of the legal legislation, which was used as a basis for coups in the past, so that some tyrants and adventurers could not aspire or attempt to replace the National Will with something else;

These are the demands and basic expectations of our society.

Allah bless those who brought our country to these days. **April 28, 2012 at 05:00AM**

Adnan Tanrıverdi
Retired Brigadier General
ASDER Honorary President