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Greek FM Dendias on dour anniversary of Constantinople pogrom of 1955



Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias on Monday marked the 66th anniversary of a pogrom in Constantinople against Hellenism in the ancient Bosporus Metropolis.

The pogrom witnessed organized mob attacks directed primarily at Constantinople's Greek minority on September 6 and 7, 1955, with Dendias reminding of the "disastrous consequences" for the ethnic Greek community.

In a Tweet, the Greek minister said the attacks were "...the beginning of its subsequent dramatic shrinkage, in violation of the Treaty of Lausanne... The pogrom also removed an economically and culturally dynamic element from the City. The portion of Turkish society that looks to Europe became poorer."

The attacks — also referred to as Septemvriana, from the name of the month — were a series of Turkish government-instigated riots that resulted in dozens of deaths, hundreds of injuries and rapes. More than 4,000 shops and 2,000 residences were looted or destroyed overnight, along with dozens of churches, schools, and minority newspapers.

The pogrom greatly accelerated emigration of remaining ethnic Greeks from Turkey.