

## Ombudsmen of Armenia and Artsakh send joint Invitations to Diplomatic and International Organizations



Human Rights Defenders of Armenia and Artsakh Arman Tatoyan and Artak Beglaryan have sent an invitation to visit Artsakh to all foreign ambassadors and heads of international organizations in Armenia for humanitarian mission, the Armenian Ombudsman’s Office said.

In the joint invitation the Armenian Ombudsman expressed his readiness to personally visit with them Stepanakert and Shushi, and organize with his Artsakh counterpart their humanitarian mission, ensuring their security and exclusively humanitarian nature of their visit in close coordination with the law enforcement agencies.

The invitation aims at showing the Azerbaijani atrocities against the peaceful civilians, their mass destructions in the peaceful settlements, the proofs of the use of banned weapons to all international partners accredited in Armenia.

“At least 44 civilians were killed and 141 were injured, including children, women, the elderly, as of October 30. On October 28, Azerbaijani military heavily struck the Central Hospital and the Maternity Hospital of Stepanakert, as well as residential areas of Stepanakert, Shushi and other communities.

In addition to targeting civilian objects and population, jihadists and members of terrorist groups from Lybia, Afghanistan, northern parts of Syria and other countries together with members of the Azerbaijani armed forces, with the extensive support of Turkey, commit atrocities: beheadings of members of Artsakh Defense Army, mutilations, willful killings of prisoners of war and civilians.

All above mentioned is accompanied with massive hate speech and aggressive calls for violence, including killings from Turkish and Azerbaijani media and social network sources towards ethnic Armenians.

Children are targeted with social media attacks illustrating violence and torture. And these enjoy state support from Azerbaijan.

All these factors clearly demonstrate the policy of ethnic cleansing and terror-inspiring means by Azerbaijan against the Armenian civilian population. These have already caused a humanitarian disaster and sufferings for tens of thousands of peaceful innocent people including children, women, and elderly.

Thus, we kindly invite all heads of diplomatic missions and International organizations accredited in Armenia [by individual invitations] to carry out a humanitarian mission to Nagorno Karabakh to verify the real situation with human rights violations, evidence of cluster munitions used and damaged caused to the peaceful population of Artsakh.”, the letter says.

<b>Armenia condemns terrorism in all its manifestations: Pashinyan offers condolences to Macron</b>	<b>Robert C. O'Brien calls on all outside parties to refrain from interference in the Karabakh conflict</b>	<b>UK to allocate about USD 1.3 million for humanitarian aid to Nagorno-Karabakh</b>	<b>Artsakh forces capture Syrian mercenary</b>
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## Belgian MP George Dalman leads delegation to Artsakh

On 30 October President of the Artsakh Republic Arayik Harutyunyan received a delegation led by George Dalman, Member of the Belgian House of Representatives.

The President thanked the Belgian MP for visiting Artsakh during the difficult period of the war to get first-hand information on the ground.

According to President Harutyunyan, it is very important for civilized humanity not only to be aware of the objective reality, but also to take concrete measures to prevent hostilities in the region and to impose appropriate sanctions on the offensive side.

“Unfortunately, we see that this war ini-



tiated by the Turkish-Azerbaijani tandem in the South Caucasus, in which various terrorist groups have been involved, is already spreading to Europe, and the recent events in French cities are a vivid evidence of that,” he said.

The President added that the inaction of

the international community can in no way be justified.

Member of the Belgian House of Representatives George Dalman thanked the President for the warm reception, noting that he was shocked to see the atrocities committed by Azerbaijan against the peaceful population of Artsakh.

“Confirmations that mercenary terrorists are involved in Azerbaijan show that official Baku is trying to create a new hotbed of terrorism.

“This is an unacceptable phenomenon. If no immediate action is taken today to curb these actions, I am very afraid that if they succeed, the world will pay a much higher price,” said Georges Dalman.

## Armenia condemns terrorism in all its manifestations: Pashinyan offers condolences to Macron



Armenia condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a letter of

condolences to French President Emmanuel Macron over the terrorist act in Nice.

“I am shocked by the horrible crime committed in Nice. Armenia condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It is more than obvious to us that extremism and fanaticism have no justification or moral justification,” PM Pashinyan said.

“The people of Armenia share the pain and anger of the fraternal people of France,

express their sincere condolences and words of condolence to the relatives and friends of the victims,” the Prime Minister added.

Three people were killed in a knife attack at a church in the French city of Nice, police say.

Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi said there had been a “terrorist attack at the heart of the Notre-Dame basilica.”

One elderly victim who had come to pray was “virtually beheaded.” A suspect was shot and detained shortly afterwards.

## Azerbaijan’s policy of ethnic cleansing doomed to failure – Armenia MFA

During the last three days, the peaceful settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh have been under continuous attacks with the use of various types of missiles, artillery and UAVs, as well as air force of Azerbaijan.

Since the second half of October 28 till now Stepanakert, Shushi and Martakert have been under continuous attack. Stepanakert and Martakert are under the most intense bombing, which have resulted in heavy damages among civilian population and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Amid the pandemic, the hospitals and other healthcare infrastructures have been targeted. There are numerous casualties and

wounded.

“The war crimes of the Azerbaijani regime against the civilian population are accompanied by the direct involvement of Turkey and the foreign terrorist fighters, and pursue the objective to annihilate the Armenian people of the Nagorno-Karabakh,” the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement,

“Despite the calls of the international community and the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Azerbaijan persistently rejects the implementation of the ceasefire agreements and the introduction of the verification mechanisms to maintain

the ceasefire in the conflict zone,” the Ministry added.

It noted that “while pursuing its genocidal intent and evading the responsibility, Azerbaijan simultaneously launched a campaign based on falsification and fabrications to mislead the international community.”

“Azerbaijan’s policy of crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing is doomed to failure and will encounter the resolute resistance of the people of Artsakh, which will be carried out through all the means necessary for self-defense,” the foreign Ministry stated.



## If Europe does not address Erdogan, it should expect Turkey near Vienna, Armenian PM says

If Europe does not address Erdogan, it should expect Turkey near Vienna, Armenian prime Minister said in an interview with the European Post, The Telegraph, Foreign Policy, Tagerblatt and Il Giornale.

He accused Turkey of having initiated the war by giving military equipment to Azerbaijan and by sending jihadists to fight. He also underlined that there is a non-conventional war in Europe with people being beheaded in the streets saying the Western community has failed to assess Turkey's conduct appropriately and in a not so distant future, they should expect Turkey near Vienna.

"We need to acknowledge that the main initiator of this war was Turkey which transported mercenaries and terrorists



from Syria to Azerbaijan and transferred some part of its armed forces to Azerbaijan, including military equipment as well as some armed groups from Pakistan," the Prime Minister said.

According to him, the objective was a blitzkrieg to take Nagorno Karabakh under control.

"According to their calculations that war was supposed to last maximum a week to ten days but Nagorno Karabakh stands

firm and continues to fight and will continue to fight. Turkey has come here not so much for assisting Azerbaijan in Nagorno Karabakh but for continuing its imperialistic policy," Pashinyan stated.

"What is happening here is the continuation of the policy that Turkey is carrying out in the Mediterranean Sea against Greece and Cyprus and in Libya, in Syria, in Iraq. In the South Caucasus, Armenians are the last obstacle on Turkey's path of continued imperialistic policies towards the Northeast and the Southeast. The Western community has failed to assess Turkey's conduct appropriately and in a not so distant future, they should expect Turkey near Vienna," the Armenian PM said.

## Armenian forces confidently carry out their task on front line – Tonoyan meets with US Ambassador



Defense Minister of Armenia Davit Tonoyan received Ambassador of the USA to Armenia Lynne Tracy.

As ARMENPRESS was informed from the press service of the MoD Armenia, the U.S. Ambassador expressed concerns

over the non-compliance with the ceasefire agreements and hoped that the diplomatic efforts will give result.

At the request of the Ambassador, the Defense Minister of Armenia presented the process of the military operations and the situation on the front line, specially emphasizing the fact of the involvement of foreign servicemen and mercenaries in the operations.

Davit Tonoyan noted that under the light of the absence of the ceasefire, the Armenian forces continue to carry out their tasks with confidence. He underlined the ceasefire can be possible to achieve only in case of applying verification mechanisms on the ground.

## Robert C. O'Brien calls on all outside parties to refrain from interference in the Karabakh conflict



US President's National Security Adviser Robert C. O'Brien has called on all outside parties to refrain from interference in the Karabakh conflict.

"During my call today with Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan I reiterated the need for Azerbaijan and Armenia to follow through with their commitments to a ceasefire," Robert C. O'Brien said in a Twitter post.

"The people of both countries have suffered badly, with the people of Armenia, who are facing offensive military operations, now taking the brunt of the casualties. Our prayers are with the many Armenians and Azerbaijanis who have been killed or wounded," he added.

Mr. O'Brien stressed that there is no military solution to this conflict.

"We call on all outside parties to refrain from interference and join the United States in pressing for a return to negotiations facilitated by the Minsk Group Co-Chairs," he concluded.

## A neutral force of Russian troops could be the "optimal solution" to Karabakh conflict – Armenian PM



Armenia's Prime Minister has said that he will accept Russian peacekeepers in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone if it helps end the war with Azerbaijan.

In an interview with the Telegraph, Nikol Pashinyan said that a neutral force of Russian troops was now the "optimal solution" to the conflict.

"I am in favor of deployment of Russian peacekeepers in the conflict zone. But the problem is that deployment of Russian peacekeepers in the conflict zone needs to be acceptable to all sides of the conflict," Pashinyan said.

Christian Armenia is also appealing to

the West to help end the conflict. Mr Pashinyan said Europe should do more to stop President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey – a Nato member – from backing Azerbaijan.

Mr Erdogan's backing for Azerbaijan, he said, was part of a new "imperialistic policy" designed to restore Turkey's Ottoman empire across Europe, the Middle East and the Caucasus.

"What is happening here is the continuation of the policy that Turkey is carrying out in the Mediterranean Sea against Greece and Cyprus and in Libya, in Syria in Iraq," he said.

"The South Caucasus Armenians are the last obstacle on Turkey's path of continued imperialistic policies towards the northeast and the southeast," he said.

Portraying Mr Erdogan as a common enemy for both Armenia and Europe, he also brought up Mr Erdogan's recent broadside against the French President, Emmanuel Macron, over the latter's response to the beheading of a French schoolteacher for showing caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed.

Mr Erdogan said that Mr Macron must be suffering from mental health difficulties after the French leader vowed to end Islamic "separatism" in France in the wake of the murder.

"Could you ever conceive of any country's official representative possibly saying about the President of France in that tone?" Mr Pashinyan asked. "Who could conceive that 15 years ago?"

Describing Mr Erdogan's comments as a declaration of war, Mr Pashinyan said the Turkish leader was effectively lending sanction to attacks such as the beheading. "We are seeing the center of energy from which all of this is being encouraged," he added.



## Russia will provide all necessary assistance if hostilities are transferred to the territory of Armenia



Russia will provide Yerevan with all the necessary assistance if the clashes are transferred directly to the territory of Armenia, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

“In response to the appeal of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan to the President of the Russian

Federation Vladimir Putin with a request to start consultations in order to determine the type and amount of assistance that the Russian Federation can provide to the Republic of Armenia to ensure its security, we reaffirm the commitment of the Russian Federation to its allied obligations in relation to the Republic of Armenia, including those

arising from the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia dated August 29, 1997,” the Foreign Ministry said.

It added that a number of articles of this Treaty presuppose specific actions in the event of a threat of armed attack or an act of aggression in relation of each other's territory.

In accordance with the Treaty, Russia will provide Yerevan with all the necessary assistance if the clashes are transferred directly to the territory of Armenia.

“We once again call on the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for an immediate ceasefire, de-escalation of tensions and a return to substantive negotiations in order to achieve a peaceful settlement based on basic principles in line with the agreements reached by the Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia in Moscow on October 10,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

## Artsakh forces capture Syrian mercenary

Units of the Artsakh Defense Army have captured another terrorist, whose brief interrogation leaves no doubt about the presence of terrorists on the Azerbaijani front line, Spokesperson for Armenia's Ministry of Defense reports.

The captured Islamist-extremist terrorist is named Mehred Muhammad Alshkher, born in the Syrian city of Hamma.

He says he is married and has three chil-



dren. He admits that he was transferred to the Artsakh-Azerbaijani front line on Octo-

ber 19 along with 250 other fighters from Turkey. They were promised \$2,000, but it was not paid.

The man was abandoned by his comrades-in-arms after being wounded. He says that they fight on the front line, while the Azerbaijani military is deployed on the 2nd and 3rd lines.

Before being brought to the front, they were trained by Turkish military instructors.

## Iran won't tolerate presence of terrorists near its borders, FM Zarif



Iran will not tolerate the presence of terrorists near its borders, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, commenting on the involvement of mercenary-terrorists by Turkey in the military operations unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno Karabakh and revealing some aspects of proposed Iran's plan to end the conflict, IRNA reports.

"As for the terrorists we are almost sure that they have participated in the clashes. We have stated that this action is not beneficial to anyone. During the negotiations and before that we have told the Armenian and Azerbaijani officials, as well as Russia and Turkey that Iran will not tolerate it. Now these terrorists are not close to our borders, but maybe they are at some distance from our borders, and we have expressed our serious concern to the sides", Javad Zarif said.

Zarif said that Iran has been in talks with regional countries such as Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, and Turkey from the start of tensions in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone.

"We believe that the war will inflict most damages on regional countries and so these countries can have the most influence on ending the war. In this framework, and without any effort to compete with other mechanisms such as Minsk, we pursued these dialogues and aims", added the minister.

He noted that Deputy FM Araghchi has offered the plan to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, and Turkey and that Iran is now awaiting these countries' response to it.

## Nagorno Karabakh: EU provides additional €400,000 in emergency aid for civilians affected by the hostilities

The EU has allocated an additional €400,000 in humanitarian aid to cover the most urgent needs of civilians affected by the conflict in and around Nagorno Karabakh.

With this emergency support to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Red Cross of Armenia and Red Crescent of Azerbaijan will deliver food packages, blankets, hygiene items and other urgently needed help to civilians who were forced to flee due to the hostilities.

Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič said: "The

EU calls for an immediate end to the hostilities that have already claimed civilian lives. We are extremely concerned about the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, given the upcoming cold season and the aggravating coronavirus pandemic."

This funding brings EU emergency humanitarian aid to €900,000 since early October when the hostilities started.

EU humanitarian aid is provided solely based on needs, without discrimination, and in line with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

## Armenian Assembly of America to donate over \$2 million to Hayastan Fund

The Armenian Assembly of America announced that it surpassed its \$2 million Humanitarian Campaign fundraising goal to support the Armenia Fund, an aid effort that directly benefits the people of Artsakh and Armenia.

The campaign kicked off with the generous offer by an anonymous Assembly member to match all contributions up to \$1 million. After a period of just 17 days, the Assembly raised \$1,095,938.12, which combined with the \$1 million match brings

the total to \$2,095,938.12.

"The groundswell of community support in such a short time has been truly inspiring. Together, we continue to stand in solidarity with the people of Artsakh and Armenia, and these funds will provide them much needed aid in these difficult times. Together we are Artsakh strong," said Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.



## UK to allocate about USD 1.3 million for humanitarian aid to Nagorno-Karabakh

The United Kingdom will allocate 1 million pounds (around USD 1.3 million) for humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan's conflict-torn region of Nagorno-Karabakh at the request of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Foreign Office said.

Earlier this week, the ICRC requested USD 9 million to provide Nagorno-Karabakh with humanitarian assistance.

"Now much-needed medical supplies, including dressing kits and bandages, will be provided for civilians caught up in the crisis through a new 1 million pounds UK aid package, in response to an appeal by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Peo-



ple injured in the fighting, including children caught in the crossfire, will receive life-saving treatment at health facilities or from emergency responders supported by the ICRC," the Foreign Office said in a statement on late Friday.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to cooperate with the OSCE Minsk Group and look for a peaceful, political solution to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

## Germany to allocate €2 million to Red Cross for Artsakh aid



Germany will allocate 2 million euros to the International Committee of the Red

Cross (ICRC) to provide Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) with humanitarian aid, the

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said.

"The Red Cross, which is currently the only humanitarian organization that has access to the conflict-hit region, has asked the international community to allocate 9 million euro in urgent aid. Germany ... will allocate 2 million euros," Maas said at a parliament's hearing on Thursday.

Maas called for a cessation of hostilities in Karabakh without preconditions, and said that the international community should make more efforts to ensure a ceasefire. He said that a military resolution to the conflict "would not be accepted by the international community."

## FIDH calls on Azerbaijan and Turkey to stop the use, recruitment, financing or training of mercenaries

Ten member organizations of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region call on all parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to uphold the most recent ceasefire and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and the observance of peace in line with the United Nations Charter.

FIDH and 10 of its member organizations are aghast at the escalating deaths and injuries – both civilian and military – and the destruction of homes, cultural property, hospitals and critical infrastructure caused by the ongoing armed conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region in the South Caucasus. They call on all parties to ensure respect for the humanitarian ceasefire which came into effect on 26 October.

Moreover, FIDH said, the humanitarian crisis, and intensity of hostilities, could be alleviated by **the immediate withdrawal of mercenaries and other fighters recruited or otherwise provided by Turkey to Azerbaijan.**

“Soon after the flare-up of violence on 27 September 2020, reliable sources established that **Syrian fighters hired by Turkey are brought to participate in combat near the Nagorno-Karabakh contact line on Azerbaijan’s side,**” the Federation said.

“Azerbaijan’s use of mercenaries constitutes **a violation of international law.** The country is party to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use,



Financing and Training of Mercenaries which, in addition to prohibiting the recruitment, use, financing, or training of mercenaries, requires parties to take the appropriate measures to prevent and punish these acts. While classifying fighters as mercenaries is often difficult, due to the treaty’s detailed definition, in this particular case, direct reports strongly suggest that all conditions are fulfilled. Numerous combatants have confirmed that they are Syrian nationals who fight on behalf of Azerbaijan, often on the front line of the battlefield, for material gain,” FIDH added.

**It emphasized that the use of mercenaries in hostilities not only violates international law; it affects the peace and security of the entire region by drawing in regional powers – in this case, Turkey.**

“While Turkey did not ratify the treaty, its recruitment of mercenaries and their participation in the current conflict might violate several principles of international law, including sovereign equality of States and self-determination of peoples. The conduct

is also inconsistent with the principle of non-intervention in the internal and external affairs of any State, as embodied in the UN Charter and customary international law,” the organization stated.

**FIDH and its undersigned member organizations call on:**

- all parties to the conflict to engage in negotiations facilitated by the international community, leading to the continuation of the current ceasefire and the ultimate cessation of hostilities;
- all parties to the conflict to refrain from targeting the civilian population or persons hors de combat, or taking any other action that might threaten the life and health of civilians, including through the use of cluster munitions, and to avoid targeting and damaging homes, schools, hospitals, and the civilian infrastructure crucial to the delivery of food, water, and electricity to the conflict-affected region;
- all parties to the conflict to conduct impartial and effective investigations and prosecutions of those responsible – on all sides – for serious violations of international human rights law and crimes under international law, in particular against civilians;
- Azerbaijan and Turkey to stop the use, recruitment, financing or training of mercenaries in violation of international law.



# Pastor René Léonian: “Mr Minister, Innocent People Dying Everyday in Artsakh...So Recognize the Republic!”

## Open letter to the French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves le Drian

**Foreword and translation by Gourgen James Khazhakian, Chief Correspondent**



*...I know Pastor René Léonian for many years already...Once, we travelled together in an Armenian countryside, where the local villagers gave us shelter...Those were dark, cold, postwar years, and hot water – just to shave – was a kind of dream...So we all, members of the “crew”, were terribly unshaved at the next day morning... Suddenly, our friend Rene appeared smiling, with brilliantly shaved face...with cold water...*

*As one of us, an editor, later an Armenian Ambassador to a European country, noted: “Look, René is a real role model Pastor”...*

*Rev. Dr. Léonian was Chief of the Chancery of Armenian Embassy in France, Consultant for the President of the Republic of Armenia, Consultant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Artsakh Republic.*

*René Léonian is Dr. of Theology and of Education Sciences.*

*He was member of the Board of Directors of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Eurasia.*

*In Armenia and Artsakh, from 1994-2011, Rev. René Léonian was a Representative of the Armenian Evangelical World Council and of the Armenian Missionary Association of America.*

*For many years, René Léonian accomplished pastoral works (ministries) in Europe, Canada and Uruguay.*

*And just a few days ago great patriot Dr René Léonian addressed with an open letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic H.E. Mr. Jean-Yves le Drian.*

Mr. Minister,



We had the opportunity to meet on April 16, 2016 in Beirut. That day, the President of the French Republic, H.E. Mr. François Hollande was in Beirut on an official visit. On this occasion, President François Hollande invited a number of French and Franco-Lebanese to a reception held at the Residence of the French Ambassador to Lebanon. Among the many guests were members of the CHREDO delegation (Coordination for Eastern Christians in Danger) of which I was a member. CHREDO was then on mission in three countries (Lebanon, Syria and Iraq). At the end of his speech, François Hollande spent a long time greeting people and to be photographed with them. Taking advantage of a certain break, I approached the President and shared two concerns with him. The first concern was the issue of the Armenian Genocide.

I told him: «Mr. President, you have made a commitment to pass a law penalizing the denial of the genocide against the Armenians and we are convinced that you will keep your word». The President replied that he was doing the necessary. The second concern was the current situation in Karabakh. I told him: «Mr. President, we are appalled by the recent Azeri aggression in Karabakh with its share of cruelties (April 2-6, 2016). It seems to us that the best solution to resolve this conflict is the recognition of the independence of Karabakh. I ask you, Mr. President, to have France recognize the independence of Karabakh ». The President replied that it was not that simple and that France was not alone in finding the right solutions, that it was working within the framework of the OSCE and, particularly, with the United States and Russia. Then I suggested to President Hollande that France take the initiative to recognize the independence of Karabakh and go forward with its partners. I approached then you, Mr. Jean-Yves le Drian. Then, you were Minister of Defense. I have tried to make you aware of the painful situation of

the Armenians in Karabakh. I explained to you that it was no longer possible for the Armenians in Karabakh to consider a return to Azerbaijan. I told you then that the only solution was to recognize the independence of Karabakh. And I urged you to work on this recognition. You then looked at me and said very calmly: «Mr. Pastor, I am Minister of Defense and not Minister of Foreign Affairs. You have to see that with my colleague of Foreign Affairs». I admit that I was very surprised by your answer. In recent years, on several occasions, I have spoken about you and your words to different people in France, Armenia and other countries. The years have passed, and you are now in charge of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Four years ago, in Beirut, you advised me, to contact your colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for the recognition of the independence of Karabakh. As I am of a patient nature, I knew I had to wait for the day when I will contact you again, no longer as Minister of Defense, but as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

That's what I'm doing today. Mr. Minister of Foreign Affairs, have courage, listen to your conscience and make the right decision. It is true that you have been criticized quite a bit on the Karabakh issue. You dared to speak of France's «neutrality». I also know that you are going to tell me that you are not alone at the Quai d'Orsay (French Foreign Ministry). And then, these questions are decided at the Presidency of the Republic ...

As I said before, I am of a patient nature. Maybe you will do the same pirouette as four years ago. And if you say that you are only Minister of Foreign Affairs and not President of the Republic, maybe we can wait two or four years, that you become President of the Republic ... However, know one thing; it is that the Armenians in Karabakh can't wait anymore. Innocent people are dying every day. And, if Karabakh falls, tomorrow maybe Armenia will fall.

Mr. Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, I don't know if you will read this letter, but I know that a lot of people will read it. As a believer, the Bible teaches us to respect our authorities and to pray for those who govern us. This is what I do regularly for all those who are in charge of high responsibilities in our dear country of France.

Please be assured, Mr. Minister, of the expression of my highest consideration.

Pastor René Léonian

## Australian Government Minister Paul Fletcher raises Nagorno Karabakh ethnic cleansing concerns in Parliament



Australia's Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety & the Arts, Paul Fletcher MP has used a speech in the Federal Parliament to raise his concerns at the threat of ethnic cleansing against the indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh (Republic of Artsakh), reported the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU).

The Member for Bradfield, which covers some Armenian-populated suburbs in Sydney's Upper North Shore, was the first Federal parliamentarian to speak about the Republic of Artsakh's rights to self-determination in 2010, when he told the House of Representatives: "I support the application of the principle of self-determination for Nagorno Karabakh."

In 2019, Minister Fletcher joined the Australian Friends of Artsakh network, which now has over 60 prominent Australians in

support of the indigenous Armenian people's rights to self-determination.

In his latest speech to Parliament, Fletcher revisited the history of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh): "In the early 1920s, Stalin placed Nagorno-Karabakh under Azerbaijani rule, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union created a vacuum for conflict to escalate in the late 1980s and early 1990s. There was a war from 1988 to 1994, and in 1991 Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh declared themselves an independent state. A ceasefire was reached in 1994, but that has sadly not eliminated hostilities."

On September 27 2020, Turkey-backed Azerbaijani forces launched a full-scale attack along the entire line of contact with the Republic of Artsakh, which has resulted in independent reports from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch condemning the dictatorship in Baku for committing war crimes through the use of cluster munitions on the civilian population of capital Stepanakert. Genocide Watch has issued an Emergency Alert on the plight of the Armenians in light of Azerbaijan's aggression.

Fletcher added: "With no sign of the situation improving, this is an exceptionally concerning situation, and there is the very

worrying scenario of the ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh. The prospect of hundreds of thousands of people being forced from their homes and traditional lands is shocking."

Officials from Turkey and Azerbaijan have said a ceasefire is only possible if Armenians leave Nagorno Karabakh.

"It is very important that this hostility not continue. It's very important that stability be returned," Fletcher said.

Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU) Executive Director Haig Kayserian thanked Fletcher for his statement.

"We thank Mr. Paul Fletcher for raising the threat of ethnic cleansing, which does shine a spotlight on the threat of another genocide being faced by the Armenian people by the Neo-Ottoman dictatorships of Turkey and Azerbaijan," said Kayserian.

"This does not mean we will stop calling on the Australian Government and all its ministers to stop referring to this as fighting or conflict, and rather commit to the fact that this existential threat Armenians are facing is due to the belligerent attacks by the expansionist regimes in Ankara and Baku."

## French MP Valerie Boyer alarms over growing Turkish nationalist sentiments and attacks

French lawmaker Valerie Boyer expresses concern over the growing Turkish nationalist public disturbances in France. She shared a video on Twitter showing a large group of aggressive Turkish nationalists marching in Dijon, while police attempt to disperse the crowd.

"Every day the Turkish nationalists are challenging the French authorities with general indifference," she tweeted. "Tonight, it's Dijon's turn. That's enough!"

On October 29, Boyer posted another video from the French commune of Vienne, where Turks had attacked police officers. "The Turks attacked policemen and wanted to hunt Armenians like they did in 1915.

How long will France stay neutral? How long will we close our eyes on Turkish ex-

pansionism? Why doesn't France impose severe sanctions upon Turkey?" she said.





## Armenian-American protesters gather outside SpaceX headquarters, demanding cancellation of Turkish satellite



Protesters gathered outside SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne Thursday night demanding the cancellation of TurkSat5A...a Turkish satellite that is scheduled to launch next month, Fox 11 reports.

Hundreds of pro-Armenian protesters are demanding SpaceX to not conduct business with regimes like Turkey's Erdogan. They are also calling on the US government to sanction Turkey for backing Azerbaijan in its war with Armenia.

“We have a Turkish war general on record as extorting the virtues of this TurkSat5A and its benefits to the defenses industry of Tur-

key, which we now know is not being used defensively but is being used offensively against peace loving people, our Christian brothers and sisters in Artsakh right now. This is wrong,” said Donald Wilson Bush.

SpaceX CEO and founder Elon Musk traveled to Turkey to meet with President Erdogan regarding this satellite in 2017.

This is a geostationary communications satellite built by Airbus that will serve a large area of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. This deal has been in the books for a long time.

## Bodies of 25 more Turkish-backed mercenaries killed in Azerbaijan transported to Syria – SOHR

Syrian Observatory activists have monitored the arrival of the bodies of 25 Turkish-backed Syrian mercenaries killed in the raging battles in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The bodies were transported into Syria on October 28, via Hoor Kilis military border in northern Aleppo, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) informs.

In the past few hours, Syrian Observatory activists documented the death of 29 Syrian fighters in Nagorno-Karabakh battles, nearly 15 of whom have been transported to Syria. Accordingly, the total death toll among the Turkish-backed factions since the Turkish government sent them to the frontlines in late September has risen to at



least 217. The bodies of 163 fighters have been transferred to Syria, while the rest remain in Azerbaijan.

SOHR sources reported earlier this morning the arrival of a new batch of 300 fighters in Azerbaijan in the recent days. However, Turkey struggling to recruit more fighters and send them to Nagorno-Karabakh, as a large part of the fighters refuse to fight alongside Azerbaijani forces due

to the “sectarian” factor, in addition to the heavy human losses among the batches which were sent to fight in Azerbaijan.

It is worth noting that some of fighters sent to Azerbaijan were not even aware that the Azerbaijani forces are of the Shiite community, and they returned to Syria just after they learnt about it, not

to mention the difficult conditions of the fighters there.

As a new batch of fighters arrived in Azerbaijan, the total number of Syrian fighters thrown into Nagorno-Karabakh battles rose to at least 2,350, of whom 320 fighters returned to Syria after they had given up and forgone their payments.

## U.S. citizens instructed to avoid visiting Ararat, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik provinces in Armenia



menia urges its citizens not travel to the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The U.S. Embassy in Armenia urges U.S. citizens to exercise caution when traveling within Armenia.

The U.S. Embassy has instructed Embassy employees and their families not to travel to the areas listed below and urges U.S. citizens to avoid travel to:

Tavush province east of the M4 and M16 Highways north of the Dilijan National Park and up to the border with Georgia.

Gegharkunik province east and south of Lake Sevan and east of the M10 Highway.

All of Ararat, Vayots Dzor, and Syunik provinces.

The U.S. Embassies in Azerbaijan and Turkey earlier warned their citizens to avoid visiting the countries due to the threat of terrorism and kidnapping risks.

As military confrontations continue in Nagorno-Karabakh, the US Embassy in Ar-

## New York City Council to vote on Artsakh Resolution

The U.S. should help bring about a peaceful end to the deadly conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, a Queens lawmaker said on October 29, New York Daily News reports.

“Once again, Armenia, the homeland of my wife and family, finds itself under attack and fighting for their survival,” Councilman Paul Vallone said during a full Council meeting.

“It’s my hope that an immediate, peaceful resolution can be reached to



the heartbreaking violence, destruction and loss of life currently impacting the region

of Artsakh,” he added.

Vallone, a Democrat, introduced a resolution calling on President Trump and Congress to “work towards a lasting ceasefire and peaceful resolution” and noting an estimated 10,000 people of Armenian descent live in the Big Apple.

A U.S.-brokered ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan failed earlier this week.

A date is yet to be set for a Council vote on Vallone’s resolution.

## Spanish lawmakers urge government to refrain from selling weapons to Azerbaijan

The Plural Group faction of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, on the initiative of MP Miriam Noguera i Camero, has submitted a proposal to the Congress urging the government to:

Refrain from selling weapons to Azerbaijan

Promote a peaceful settlement of



the conflict at the international level based on the will of the majority of the people of Nagorno Karabakh

Condemn Turkey’s military assistance to Azerbaijan by initiating sanctions against Turkey for its “aggressive” expansionist actions in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Caucasus.



# Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator General Manager Ralph Yirikian and the Staff Appeal to Join Them to Donate in the Name of the Victory

Viva-MTS (having 1,300 employees) General Manager **Ralph Yirikian** and the staff recorded the following appeal:

“We start #inthenameofmotherland challenge and just appeal to all organizations to join this initiative and to organize donations on a voluntary basis with your staff members to Hayastan All Armenian Fund.

They call us Armenians, and our country – Armenia, and...

#WE'LL WIN

#ArtsakhStrong

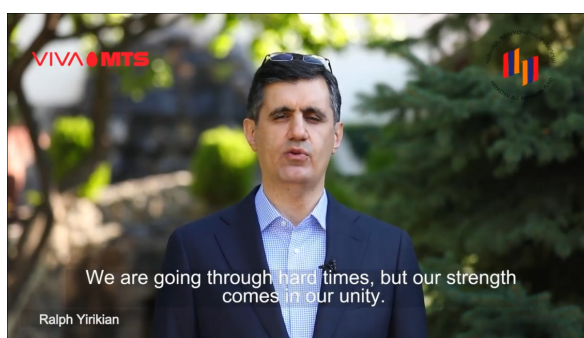
#PeacetoArtsakh”

**Ralph Yirikian:** We are going through hard times, but our strength comes in our unity. We started an initiative together with our employees.

**Lara Tcholakian:** Today our Motherland needs our support.

**Armen Kerobyan:** We, as employees at Viva-MTS, have decided to make a continuous donation from our monthly salaries to the Hayastan All Armenian Fund.

**Irina Zhamharyan:** From now on, by



continuously collecting the donations, those will be transferred to the Fund at the end of the month.

**Manuk Sirunyan:** I work at Viva-MTS, I join this initiative.

**Arthur Chilingaryan:** I also join the initiative.

**Ada Voskanyan:** I join this initiative for the sake of peace.

**Ani Baburyan:** Our Motherland belongs to all of us.

**Ralph Yirikian:** Make your decision and join us to organize donations on a voluntary basis with your staff members.

**Aneta Yeprikyan:** Join the initiative, let's support defending our Homeland.

**Rozi Kalantaryan:** Take the initiative, make your decision.

**Hamest Grigoryan:** Join this initiative.

**Mariam Bunatyan:** You also join this initiative.

**Arpine Harutyunyan:** Join this initiative.

**Mary Simonyan:** Your participation is important.

**Maro Vardanyan:** Join this initiative.

**Elen Ghevondyan:** Join this initiative.

**Liana Voskerchyan:** You also join this initiative.

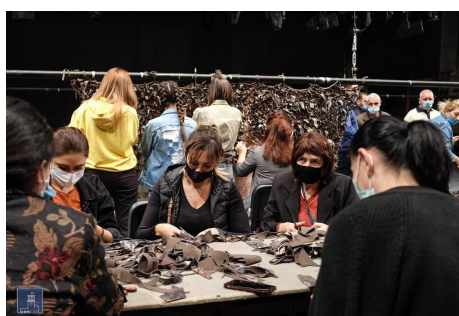
**Lilit Sargsyan:** Join this initiative.

**Inna Mnatsakanyan:** Glory to our Heroes!

## Opera and Ballet Theatre Staff Knitting Masking Nets for the Frontline at the Stage

**By Gourgen James Khazhakian,**  
Chief Correspondent

According to the Theater First Deputy Director Dr Karine Kirakosyan, “like every Armenian, the staff of our Theater is happy to take part in the Patriotic War for Artsakh. And when the opportunity arose to prepare the necessary masking nets for the frontline, our entire team set to work with the great inspiration and enthusiasm. The benefactors provide us with relevant materials to do that work. We thank Davit Aghajanyan and his colleagues for giving us such an opportunity”. She said the stage was provided for that purpose, as its technical parameters allows the work to be organized more efficiently organize the works 24/24, with several shifts, about 60 people participate in the



work during the day. And...“Everyone is involved in that work: the soloists, the musicians of the orchestra, the ballet and choir artists, the members of the technical staff, the stage machinery specialists are doing a great job, in a word, everyone. We are often approached also by volunteers from abroad, who have been informed that we produce masking networks in our Theater.

Many of them are thankful for the opportunity to participate in this work”.

To note, there are volunteers who walk around the places where they work for the frontline and provide protective masks against COVID-19 and other means.

“People approach us and offer transportation service by their own cars... And in the conditions of such unification of the Armenian people, it is impossible to break its spirit, to suppress it. We all understand very well that what we are doing is a very small thing compared to what our soldiers and officers standing on the frontline are doing.

It is the duty of all of us to support them by all the means.

And so we will definitely win”, Mrs Kirakosyan concluded.

## Armenian Football Federation demands to exclude FK Qarabag from European club competitions



The Football Federation of Armenia has submitted numerous complaints to UEFA and FIFA regarding the belligerent publications, militaristic behavior and anti-Armenian posts of various representatives of Azerbaijani football. Most of these complaints are currently being investigated by the UEFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, press service of the Football Federation informs.

The militarized, politicized reprehensible

attitude of the representatives of Azerbaijani football has been demonstrated for about a month, but the publication, which was spread on the Internet today is terrible, violating all civil and moral standards.

Nurlan Ibrahimov, a PR and media manager of Qarabag FK, made a publication on his social media page, calling to kill all the Armenians, old and young, without distinction. He also justified the fact of Armenian genocide committed by Turkey. Ibrahimov has already deleted his post, but hundreds of users managed to see and save it.

It is difficult to describe in words the action of the representative of the Azerbaijani club. This is not one of the "ordinary" posts of Azerbaijani football officials, after which the FFA demanded not to militarize or politicize football. This is a call for a murderous attitude, a brutal propaganda of ethnic violence, a de facto new genocide

by a representative of a club that plays in a tournament under the auspices of UEFA.

UEFA is the governing body that constantly pursues the policy of not politicizing football, excluding xenophobia among members of the football family, and establishing solidarity. Nurlan Ibrahimov's intolerable action should be treated adequately by UEFA. A different approach would mean that all the slogans spread before international football matches are formal.

The Football Federation of Armenia has sent a corresponding complaint to UEFA, demanding to punish both the above-mentioned employee and the Azerbaijani club severely, even to the expulsion from the European Cups. Hate speech, calls for violence, xenophobia must be eradicated from football, adhering to the values accepted in the European football family.

## Persian mosque in Shushi damaged in Azerbaijani shelling

Azerbaijan continues to shell the peaceful settlements of Artsakh, the State Service of

The city of Martuni and the surrounding villages of the region were subjected to airstrikes. No casualties have been reported, the extent of the damage is being calculated.

In the afternoon, the enemy forces fired rockets at the city of Shushi from various weapons, mainly from



the Grad and Smerch systems. The Persian Gohar Agha Mosque in the fortress city was partially damaged.

The War Gonzo project presents exclusive footage from the site.

Military aviation was also used in Martakert. The city was once again bombed. There are no casualties among the civilian population.

Explosions were also heard in Stepanakert. There are no victims.

## Azeri use of phosphorus munitions create environmental disaster hazards, warns Armenian military

The Azerbaijani military's use of banned phosphorous munitions against Artsakh not only intends to inflict damage on the Armenian forces but also aims to cause massive forest fires and create real environmental disaster hazards in the area, the Armenian Ministry of Defense said, releasing a video from the attack where the Azeri military used the phosphorus munitions which contain elements of chemical weapons.

"The hostile force used phosphorous munitions containing elements of chemical weapons in the Artsakh-Azerbaijani conflict zone, which is a gross violation of In-



ternational Humanitarian Law, norms, and principles of Customary Law, Geneva Conventions, as well as the provisions of the relevant UN conventions and documents.

Apart from the intent to inflict damage on the Armenian forces, the enemy also aims to cause massive forest fires and create real environmental disaster hazards in the area. Prohibition of the above-mentioned actions and the concomitant rights and values rest primarily in the realm of customary law, whereas the use of such weapons, which do not distinguish between military and civilian targets, while causing environmental disasters and possible human losses, constitute war crimes," Defense Ministry spokesperson Shushan Stepanyan said.



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