

## First border post installed on Armenia-Azerbaijan border: Pashinyan publishes photo



Armenia - A border post placed at a newly delimited section of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, April 23, 2024.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has published the photo of the first border post installed in the Tavush-Kazakh section of the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border.

“The first border post has been installed in the Tavush-Kazakh section of the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border,” the Prime Minister said on social media.

According to the statement issued by the press service of the Armenian Government, on April 23, 2024, on the basis of geodetic measurements, within the framework of coordinate adjustment works, the first border post has been installed on the border of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

“The work of the expert groups of the two countries continues. As reported earlier, according to the agreements reached as a result of the 8th meeting of the Commission on the Delimitation and Border Security of the State Border between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Commission on the Delimitation of the State Border between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, on the border of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, the expert groups of the two countries have today started the process of determining the coordinates, based on geodetic measurements on the site,” reads the statement.

Pashinyan’s administration has agreed to hand over several contested border areas to Baku without securing any Azerbaijani territorial concessions in return.

The move has sparked angry protests by residents of nearby Armenian villages joined by people from other parts of Armenia.

Armenian opposition leaders say the land handover will create severe security risks for not only those communities but also the entire country. Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan dismissed the opposition criticism, saying that Baku will recognize the first small section of  page 3

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## Alen Simonyan, Lorenzo Fontana sign protocol on cooperation between parliaments of Armenia and Italy



On April 23, the delegation led by the Armenian National Assembly President Alen Simonyan met with the President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Italy Lorenzo Fontana within the framework of the working visit to Spain.

According to the readout issued by the press service of the Parliament, the interlocutors highly assessed the relations established between Armenia and Italy, noting that the common cultural, spiritual and democratic values unite the two countries.

The opportunities of expanding the parliamentary cooperation between Armenia and Italy, the perspectives of the rapprochement of the Armenia-EU relations, the security situation existing in the South Caucasus and in Eastern Europe were thoroughly discussed.

The National Assembly President

presented to his Italian colleague the Crossroads of Peace by the Armenian Government, highlighted the support of Italy in the implementation of the project and in the establishment of lasting peace in the region.

“Armenia can surely rely on the support of Italy in the establishment of peace in the South Caucasus,” the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy noted.

At the end of the meeting the parties signed a Protocol on Cooperation between the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Italy.

## EU fully supports the Armenia-Azerbaijan negotiation process - Toivo Klaar

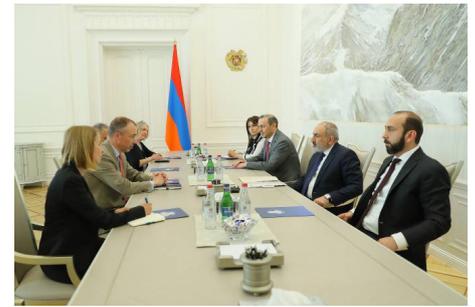
Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Toivo Klaar, EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia.

The head of the EU delegation to the Republic of Armenia, Ambassador Vassilis Maragos also participated in the meeting.

According to the readout issued by the PM’s office, reference was made to the regional situation, negotiations on the peace

treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the border delimitation process. Issues related to Armenia-European Union cooperation and its further development were discussed.

Toivo Klaar once again noted that the EU fully supports the Armenia-Azerbaijan negotiation process with the aim of reaching a comprehensive and lasting settlement, as well as the agreement on



the process of delimitation on the basis of the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration.

## Armenia actively involved in global efforts to prevent new crimes against humanity – MFA

Armenia continues its active involvement in international platforms in order to coordinate efforts in the fight against the crime of genocide, to prevent new genocides and crimes against humanity, and to protect the rights of victims, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

### *The statement reads:*

On April 24, we commemorate and bow to the memory of the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide committed in the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century.

Starting from 1915, as a result of the crimes against humanity committed by the government of the Young Turks around 1.5 million Armenians, including children, women and the elderly, were killed solely

on the basis of their nationality, for being Armenian. Millions of Armenians were deprived of their property as well as historical, cultural and spiritual heritage.

This crime committed against the Armenians later became the basis for the definition of the international convention “On the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”. Unfortunately, despite the consequent efforts, the threat of genocide is still present in the world.

Already in the 21st century, in 2020-2023, we faced new manifestations and consequences of the policy of ethnic cleansing. More than 150,000 Armenians were forcibly displaced and forced to leave their historical homeland because of war, xenophobia, crimes based on identity, siege and consistent acts of intimidation against the population.

Taking into account the risks of genocide and cases the modern world witnessed, and many other examples of gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, Armenia continues its active involvement in international platforms in order to coordinate efforts in the fight against the crime of genocide, to prevent new genocides and crimes against humanity, and to protect the rights of victims.



## Prime Minister receives the delegation of the Armenia-France friendship group of the Senate

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the delegation led by Gilbert-Luc Devinaz, head of the Armenia-France friendship group of the French Senate.

According to the read-out issued by the Prime Minister's office, Pashinyan welcomed the visit of the delegation of the French Senate to Armenia and emphasized the high level of Armenia-France relations and the importance of consistent development

of cooperation. At the same time, Nikol Pashinyan noted that inter-parliamentary ties and cooperation on various



international platforms also have their own place in bilateral relations.

Agenda issues of multilateral

cooperation between Armenia and France were discussed. In particular, reference was made to the steps taken towards the implementation of joint projects in the economic, infrastructure and humanitarian spheres.

The interlocutors touched on issues of regional significance, including the process of normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations and delimitation, in particular, the agreement to start the delimitation process based on the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration.

The parties exchanged ideas on the "Crossroads of Peace" project of the Armenian government, as well as Armenia-European Union cooperation.

## Armenia does not harbor any ambitions beyond its internationally recognized borders, assures Pashinyan



The Republic of Armenia is not planning to wage war for Nagorno-Karabakh, stated Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in an interview with British media representatives.

"Armenia does not harbor any

ambitions beyond its internationally recognized borders. We hope that the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia will be restored through the delimitation process," Pashinyan said.

"By the way, I believe that we have already demonstrated our sincerity with the decisions made today in the delimitation process. We have demonstrated our sincerity by also taking the following steps: we have confirmed that the government of the Republic of Armenia is ready, within its jurisdiction, to take actions to make life possible for people in Azerbaijani villages, specifically in 4 villages - Qizilhachili,

Khairimli, Ashagh Askipara, Baghanis Ayrum, where people currently do not live.

"But we also acknowledge that as a result of this same process, life should become equally possible for people in Armenian villages such as Baghanis, Voskepar, Kirants, and Berkaber, without stress. These people should be able to live in their homes, start families, and raise children without concerns about security.

This is the point around which the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan must be able to transform the theoretical agenda of peace into concrete peaceful reality," said the Prime Minister.

the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

As a result of the delimitation process in Tavush region, Armenia and Azerbaijan will fix the state border, Alen Simonyan has said.

According to him, border guards will be stationed in the delimited areas.

"I have great hope that we will continue to delimitate our entire border in this way," said the NA Speaker.

Simonyan mentioned that this whole process is the beginning of the adjustment of the border between the two countries.

"I am very pleased that we have reached this point; we are already installing posts and marking the border. This border is not only fixed for the Armenian side but also for the Azerbaijani side. Is establishing a border a unilateral concession? Is the recognition of Armenian border by a potential aggressor a one-sided

concession? Is it? No," said Simonyan, emphasizing that this action now enhances the protection of the area.

Commenting on the statement of the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, that 10-12 kilometers near the state border can already be considered delimited, Simonyan noted that this means that Azerbaijan has no territorial claims to Armenia in the area of 10-12 kilometers.

## US President Joe Biden releases Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day statement



United States President Joe Biden issued a statement on Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day, April 24.

Below is the full statement released by the White House.

“Today, we pause to remember the lives lost during the Meds Yeghern—the Armenian genocide—and renew our

pledge to never forget.

The campaign of cruelty began on April 24, 1915, when Ottoman authorities arrested Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. In the days, months, and years that followed, one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths—leaving families forever broken, and generations forever changed.

As we mourn this tragedy, we also honor the resilience of the Armenian people. After enduring one of the darkest chapters in human history, survivors began forging a better future for our world. With courage and commitment, they rebuilt their

lives. They preserved their culture. They strengthened the fabric of nations around the world—including our own. And they told their stories to ensure that the mass atrocities that began on this day 109 years ago are never again repeated.

This remains our solemn vow. Today—and every day—the United States will continue to stand up for human rights and speak out against intolerance. We will continue to meet hate and horror with hope and healing. And, we will continue to stand with all those who seek a future where everyone can live with dignity, security, and respect.”

## US Ambassador, Senate representative pay tribute to Armenian Genocide victims in Yerevan

Senior Professional Staff Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations at United States Senate, Hannah Thoburn on Tuesday visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial, accompanied by US Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Armenia, Kristina Kvien, the Armenian Genocide Memorial-Institute said.

Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Edita Gzoyan accompanied the guests to the Armenian Genocide Memorial, providing insights into the history of the creation of the memorial.

Gzoyan also mentioned the three khachkars (cross-stones) placed within



the territory of Tsitsernakaberd in memory of Armenians who perished in massacres organized by the Azerbaijani government in Sumgait, Kirovabad (Gandzak), and Baku at the end of the last century.

Additionally, she highlighted the stories of the five freedom fighters laid to rest in front of Hushapat during the Artsakh war, emphasizing the connection between these events and the Armenian Genocide.

Edita Gzoyan also addressed the historical and legal aspects of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, highlighting Azerbaijan’s anti-Armenian actions and propaganda.

They laid a wreath at the memorial to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Subsequently, they placed flowers near the Eternal Flame and observed a minute of silence to honor the innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide.

## My colleagues and I in the EU will continue to stand by the people of Armenia- MEP Viola von Cramon

Member of the European Parliament, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, has assured that she and her colleagues are committed to doing everything possible to protect the people of Armenia, who continue to be the target of the Azerbaijani violence.

“Today I pay tribute to the memory of the one and a half million innocent



Azerbaijani violence.

My colleagues and I in the EU will continue to stand by the people of Armenia so that they may prosper in their own land and become members of the European family if they choose so,” the MEP stated in the video message on the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

## Uruguay MFA commemorates Armenian Genocide anniversary



The Foreign Ministry of Uruguay commemorated the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, reminding that the country's Parliament was the first in the world to declare April 24 as "Day of

Remembrance of the Armenian Martyrs."

"As a result of the genocide, tens of thousands of Armenians had to settle in different countries. In Uruguay, the Armenian community has not only been integrated in an exemplary manner, but also constitutes a relevant part of the society, to whose richness and diversity it has contributed," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Republic of Armenia maintain excellent bilateral relations, which have been strengthened in recent years with

high-level reciprocal visits and the opening of the respective resident Embassies, in Yerevan (in September 2021) and in Montevideo (in October 2023). The latter was inaugurated by the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ararat Mirzoyán, on the occasion of his visit to Uruguay on March 21," the Ministry said.

"Uruguay wishes for the development and prosperity of the Armenian State and people, within a framework of regional peace and stability, based on respect for International Law and its fundamental principles," the Foreign Ministry stated.

## Armenia to open Consulate General in Tabriz, Iran

Armenia will open a Consulate General in Tabriz, Iran. The decision was approved by the Government on April 24.

According to the government, in 2022 the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran reached an agreement to increase the trade turnover between the two countries to one and then to three billion US dollars. The activities of the



Armenian Consulate General in Tabriz

can contribute to the development of Armenia-Iran economic relations.

Since October, the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been operating in the city of Kapan, Syunik region. The establishment of the Consulate General in Tabriz will ensure the implementation of the principle of reciprocity, the Government says.

## The victims of the Armenian Genocide must never be forgotten – President of Greece

President of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellariopoulou has issued a statement on the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

"It has been 109 years since the beginning of the systematic extermination of one and a half million Armenians during the last period of the Ottoman Empire. It is a genocide that almost wiped out an

ancient people, a thriving Christian nucleus in the southern part of the Caucasus.

The recognition of such tragic events, as well as the constant vigilance against violence and hatred against our fellow human beings, are a necessary condition for the non-repetition of similar crimes and the peaceful coexistence of nations and peoples. The victims of the Armenian



Genocide must never be forgotten," the statement reads.

## Dina Titus submits bill on sanctions against Azerbaijan to US Congress



Dina Titus, a member of the US House of Representatives on April 27, presented a bill to Congress for the review of sanctions against Azerbaijan.

"I just introduced the Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act to take action against 44

Azerbaijani officials following the ethnic cleansing of Armenians from Artsakh and the violent repression of political opposition. The U.S. must take a strong stand against the genocide of Armenians," Dina Titus said in a post on X.

## Defense Minister Papikyan discusses Armenia-France cooperation with French delegation



Defense Minister of Armenia Suren Papikyan received a delegation led by the Chairman of the France-Armenia Friendship Group of the French Senate, Gilbert-Luc Devinaz on April 23.

According to a Facebook post by the minister, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Armenia, Olivier Decottignies also

participated in the meeting.

The meeting addressed various aspects of Armenia-France relations, with a particular focus on cooperation in the defense field.

Regional security issues and the substantial reforms underway in the Armenian Armed Forces were discussed as well.

## Expert: Armenia's energy independence level is about 27%

According to data for 2022, Armenia imports 73% of its energy resources, that is, the level of energy independence is about 27%. Abgar Budaghyan, head of USAID Armenia's energy security project stated on April 26 during public discussions on the topic "Prospects for diversification of the energy sector in Armenia."

He noted that the Armenian government is implementing quite serious programs to increase the share of renewable energy. "Last year, together with the Cabinet of Ministers, new goals for renewable energy were set. In particular, it is envisaged that by 2030 Armenia will have solar stations with a total capacity of 1 thousand MW, which will have to satisfy 50% of domestic consumption from renewable energy sources," the expert said.

According to Budagyan, by 2040, this indicator is planned to be improved by building an additional capacity of 500 MW of solar energy and 500 MW of wind. As a result, the share of domestic consumption from renewable sources will be



increased to 60%.

In addition, as Budagyan noted, the implementation of these programs will lead to an increase in the number of electric vehicles and the use of new technologies in the heat supply system. The specialist drew attention to the fact that Armenia's dependence on gas, which is mainly supplied from RF, is mainly associated with its widespread use in the transport sector. A USAID representative said that 28% of imported gas is consumed by transport. "If we want to reduce the dependence of transport on gas, we must be able to provide people with the tools to purchase electric vehicles," he said.

At the same time, Budagyan noted that as a result of a targeted policy, there are opportunities for refueling electric vehicles using solar energy. "It is impossible to reduce dependence on gas in one day, but in at least 30 years this prospect seems more than realistic," the specialist said, adding that energy independence has a price. "This cannot happen under today's pricing conditions. And if Armenia tries to increase the level of its energy independence, then prices will have to change," he emphasized.

Notably, the Armenian government intends to ensure an increase in the share of solar energy in the country's energy balance to 15% by 2030.

It is planned to build additional solar power plants with a capacity of up to 500 MW, which, if necessary, will be combined with storage stations. In parallel, wind power plants will also be built. It is planned to increase the total capacity of solar and wind power plants to 2000 MW by 2040.

## Armenia and Czechia reach agreements on military-technical cooperation

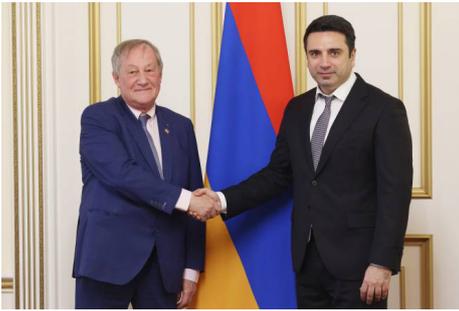
A delegation led by the Director General for the Industrial Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic, Konderlová Radka, visited the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia on April 22. The delegation included representatives from Czech military-industrial companies.

According to a statement by the



Armenian Ministry of Defence, during the meeting with RA Deputy Minister of Defence, Karen Brutyan, discussions were held regarding the progress and development prospects of military-technical cooperation between Armenia and the Czech Republic. Several agreements were reached.

## Alen Simonyan, Head of France-Armenia Friendship Group discuss Armenia-EU visa liberalisation process



On April 25, the President of the Armenian National Assembly Alen Simonyan received the delegation led by the Head of the France-Armenia Friendship Group of the Senate of the Republic of France Gilbert-Luc Devinaz, the press service of the National Assembly said in a statement.

Welcoming the guests, the National Assembly President noted with satisfaction that Armenia greatly highlights the unconditional support of friendly France

to Armenia on the international different platforms.

“I would like to express my gratitude to the Senate of France for adopting on January 17 the multi-party Resolution by absolute majority On Condemning the Military Attack of Azerbaijan in Nagorno Karabakh, on Preventing the Violation of Territorial Integrity of the Republic of Armenia and the Further Attempts of Aggression, Calling on to Impose Sanctions against Azerbaijan and Requiring the Guarantee of the right of the return of the Armenian population to Nagorno Karabakh,” the Head of Parliament noted.

According to the source, Gilbert-Luc Devinaz noted that France is ready to expand the framework of the interaction supporting the Republic of Armenia at the parliamentary level, underlining the cooperation in the spheres of education,

culture, security and in other spheres.

The parties discussed the Armenia-EU visa liberalisation process and the large scope of issues on the rapprochement of the Armenia-EU relations.

Regarding the security situation in the South Caucasus, Alen Simonyan highly assessed the works done by the French parliamentarians accompanied by the EU Observation Mission in Armenia, thanked them for providing humanitarian assistance to the persons who moved from Nagorno Karabakh to the Republic of Armenia as a consequence of ethnic cleansing.

It is noted that, the interlocutors exchanged ideas on the development of defensive capacities, security and economic diversification opportunities.

The Head of the Armenia-France Friendship Group Vladimir Vardanyan attended the meeting.

## Yerevan considering a proposal from Kazakhstan to host a meeting between Armenian, Azerbaijani FM's – MFA

The date of a possible meeting between Armenian and Azerbaijani Foreign Ministers in Kazakhstan will be announced when an agreement is reached, Spokesperson for the Armenian Foreign Ministry Ani Badalyan has said.

“The Republic of Armenia considers and favors mediation efforts or negotiation platforms that are really aimed at achieving lasting peace in the South Caucasus, support the recognition of each other's territorial integrity by Armenia and



Azerbaijan and the process of delimitation based on the fundamental principles and mutually agreed documents, including the

1991 Alma-Ata Declaration,” the Spokesperson said.

“We will inform about the date of the possible meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan at the suggestion of the Kazakh side as soon as an agreement is reached,” Badalyan stated.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said earlier this week that Baku had agreed to the proposal of Kazakhstan to host a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries.

## Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister, Senior Qatari diplomat discuss regional and international security issues

On April 26, in Doha, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Vahan Kostanyan had a meeting with Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, the Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.

According to the readout issued by the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Armenia, during the meeting, both sides emphasized strong mutual willingness to

enhance political and economic cooperation between Armenia and Qatar.

The parties touched upon the issues of regional and international security.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia briefed his counterpart on the efforts of the Government of Armenia towards normalizing relations with neighbors. In the context of unblocking transport and

economic communications in the region, connecting the Black Sea with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Vahan Kostanyan presented the principles and potential opportunities of the “Crossroads of Peace” project.

The interlocutors also exchanged views on the prospects of cooperation on multilateral platforms.

## Armenia and Azerbaijan are primary beneficiaries of peace -PM

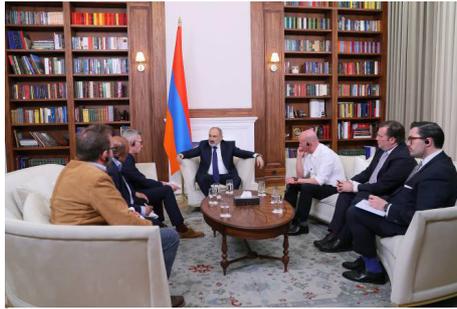
Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, in an interview with several British media outlets, addressed the issue of the leverage some countries can have on Azerbaijan in the context of achieving peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The PM stressed that the primary beneficiaries of peace are Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The journalist gave the example of “British Petroleum”, which supplied \$35 billion worth of oil and gas from Azerbaijan in the last four years, asking whether the Armenian government would like the United Kingdom to use that leverage.

“First, I would not like to comment on business activities, investments that take place in neighboring countries. In general, I believe that any investment should be aimed at promoting peace within the investment environment and the region, thereby contributing to overall stability.

In general, I believe that the establishment of peace is in the interests of both the international community and investors. However, I want to emphasize that the primary beneficiaries of peace are Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is particularly significant that we have reached two major agreements with Azerbaijan in the last 5 months,” Pashinyan said.

The Prime Minister added that a number of statements coming from Azerbaijan



But what worries us is that even in the face of this imbalance, Azerbaijan reacts very aggressively to the reforms of the armed forces of Armenia and the acquisition of weapons and equipment, although we all understand that these achievements have exclusively defensive significance,” explained Pashinyan.

“We have proposed to Azerbaijan to establish a bilateral mechanism for mutual arms control. In other words, to enable us to regulate our weaponry within the boundaries of these mutual agreements and avoid inciting an arms race in our region,” said Pashinyan.

The Prime Minister noted that the Armenian government has proposed a mirror-like withdrawal of troops based on the 1991 border line.

“We are discussing military budgets, but certainly, a stable and long-term peace would provide us all with the opportunity

to allocate those funds, at the very least, not in such vast amounts, and to invest the remaining funds in addressing the socio-economic problems of our countries.

This year, Armenia has made significant progress in terms of gross domestic product per capita, but there are still many social problems in our country, as well as in Azerbaijan. When there is peace, the governments of both countries will have an opportunity to invest in socio-economic development. Additionally, it will enable us to contemplate regional economic development in the future,” said Pashinyan.

Pashinyan said that amid regional economic developments, Armenia has adopted the “Crossroads of Peace” project.

“We are not preparing for war; we are preparing for peace. However, until we are convinced that the Republic of Armenia will not be attacked, we naturally have to develop our defense capabilities.

Moreover, I have stated that aside from the 29,743 sq. km territory, the Republic of Armenia has no ambitions in any direction: neither to the south, nor to the west, nor to the north, nor to the east. We believe that we should build and develop our sovereignty and independence on this foundation,” said the Armenian Prime Minister.

## Nikol Pashinyan, Antony Blinken hold telephone conversation

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a phone conversation with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the agenda of Armenia-US bilateral relations, the meeting held in Brussels on April 5, as well as the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process.

Prime Minister Pashinyan expressed satisfaction over the activation of Armenia-US bilateral relations. The Prime Minister also highlighted the implementation of the agreements reached in Brussels on April 5 this year, stressing that these agreements are reflected in the press release issued following the meeting, and the meeting did not have any secret agenda.

Prime Minister Pashinyan also spoke positively about the process of delimitation of the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border, stressing that the concerns of the residents of Voskepar, Kirants and Berkaber villages of Tavusht region are understandable, and everything will be done to address their legitimate concerns.

In the context of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process, the interlocutors emphasized the importance of the agreements reached during the quadrilateral meeting in Prague on October 6. The recognition of each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty by Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of the Alma-Ata Declaration, as well as the implementation of the process of demarcation and

delimitation on the basis of the same declaration, paves the way for the signing of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Peace Treaty.

The “Crossroads of Peace” project was also discussed. Prime Minister Pashinyan emphasized once again that it expresses the agreements reached in Brussels in July 2023 between President of the European Council Charles Michel, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and himself, according to which regional communications should be opened based on the sovereignty and jurisdiction of countries, on the principle of equality and reciprocity. These arrangements are reflected in President Michel’s statement following the mentioned meeting.

## Yerevan, Riyadh to develop ‘road map’ for diplomatic relations, says Foreign Minister Mirzoyan to Arab News



During his visit to Saudi Arabia on April 17-18 Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan gave an interview to the ‘Arab News’. Taking into account the historical nature of the visit which took place after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the interview focused on the discussions held during the visit and on prospects of development of relations.

Minister Mirzoyan answered the questions also on regional topics. Below are the main quotes from the interview presented by the foreign ministry.

### - Prospects of development of relations between Armenia and Saudi Arabia after the establishment of diplomatic relations

Historically we have enjoyed friendly

relations with the Arab World, with all the Arab countries, and these relations have been based on traditionally, historically friendly ties between our peoples, between Arab people and the people of Armenia. And we also should remember that many Arab countries became home to Armenian refugees, the survivors of the Armenian Genocide. But of course, the cultural ties, the relations were there even before that. So in this context, it was also a little bit strange that between the Republic of Armenia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, there were no diplomatic relations even. And in this sense, 2023 was indeed a historical year: we established diplomatic relations. And now I am visiting Riyadh, I am having meetings with the respective officials, and my colleagues here. And it is worth mentioning that the two countries, Armenia and Saudi Arabia, assure each other that this is only a start, we don’t want to stop here. There are so many areas, there are so many fields where we can deepen our cooperation, and there are so many spheres where we can explore what we can do jointly. And hopefully, after this visit a road map will

emerge - a road map of the development of our relations.

I had meetings in Riyadh, not only with my counterpart, his highness the Foreign Minister but also I was received at the Ministry of Economy and Planning and the Ministry of Education where I met my counterparts, and we discussed the opportunities that emerge. And frankly, there is no limit here: education, sciences, advanced technologies, urban development, agriculture, tourism, people-to-people contacts, trade investments, infrastructure. There are so many things going on on the ground here in Saudi Arabia but also in Armenia. And of course, the future is quite promising for our cooperation.

Our vision is that we should build a very good and close cooperation with Saudi Arabia including when it comes to regional affairs, but also international fora. I would like to mention that when Saudi Arabia came up with the bid for Expo 2030, Armenia was among the countries who supported it. And by the way, this is a very good occasion to congratulate Saudi Arabia.

## Ethnic cleansing of Artsakh reminds the world how destructive pan-Turkic ideology can be - Swedish MP

On the occasion of the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Swedish-Armenian Friendship Group in the Swedish Parliament will arrange a ceremony with the Armenian Ambassador to Stockholm and other guests, Member of the Swedish Parliament, Erik Hellsborn said.

“Here in the Swedish Parliament, the Swedish-Armenian Friendship Group will arrange a ceremony with the Armenian Ambassador to Stockholm and other guests. Sadly, this year’s Remembrance Day feels more relevant than it has been



in several years,”said Hellsborn.

Drawing comparisons between the Armenian Genocide and the ethnic cleansing carried out by Azerbaijan in

Nagorno-Karabakh in 2023, he noted: “With last year’s ethnic cleansing of Artsakh, the world was reminded of how destructive pan-Turkic ideology can be.”

“Therefore, this is my promise to you. I will continue to use the platform I have been given to shine light on what has happened and what continues to happen in the region and to continue to build ties and closer relations between the peoples of Europe and the people of Armenia for a brighter future,” Member of the Swedish Parliament, Erik Hellsborn.

## Recognition of Armenian Genocide and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are not mutually exclusive events - The Boston Globe

April 24 will mark the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, when more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically exterminated by the Ottoman Turks, an event that Turkey denies to this day. For the more than 400,000 Armenian Americans, it is also a stark reminder that history is repeating itself. History rear its ugly head in fall 2020 when Azerbaijan launched an illegal and unprovoked war against ethnic Armenians living in their ancestral homeland of Nagorno-Karabakh, which was followed by a nearly 10-month blockade of the only road linking Armenians living in the region to the outside world.

With such a preface, the American periodical [The Boston Globe](#) has referred to the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in its article.

“Azerbaijan’s destructive campaign culminated in September when more than 120,000 Armenians moved from Nagorno-Karabakh rather than live under Azerbaijan’s rule, making it the largest displacement of Armenians since the Armenian Genocide. Luis Moreno Ocampo, the former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, called it a genocide; it created one of the world’s,” reads the article.

According to the publication, Armenian Americans see these latest acts of aggression by Azerbaijan as a continuation of the Armenian Genocide and a threat to their very existence.

“We see what is happening today in Nagorno-Karabakh through the lens of our painful history. It is why recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Azerbaijan and the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh are not mutually exclusive events.

Denial of the Armenian Genocide by countries like Turkey and Azerbaijan has helped establish a level of indifference

from the international community that is allowing autocrats to act with impunity and with no repercussions. Shockingly, the rhetoric stemming from Baku today harkens back to the final days of the Ottoman Empire, when Armenians became scapegoats to stir up nationalism and fear. So, while the messenger might be different, the message is the same. Azerbaijan is promoting ethnic hatred against Armenians by violating the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and there seems to be an unending cycle of violence and hate. That hate has manifested itself through words and actions. In recent speeches, Azerbaijan’s president, Ilham Aliyev, has unequivocally claimed that Armenia is Azerbaijan’s historical land, while calling Armenia “Western Azerbaijan.”

This follows a troubling pattern of other speeches in which the petro-dictator has made similar arguments and has even said that Armenia’s capital, Yerevan, belongs to Azerbaijan. We have seen this hate carried out through the treatment and torture of Armenian POWs and the blatant execution of captured Armenian soldiers,” reads the publication.

Per the article, Aliyev is the same leader who commissioned a Military Trophies Park in Baku that featured a display of hundreds of helmets taken from dead Armenian soldiers. That park also features wax mannequins of captured soldiers portrayed through exaggerated caricatures based on Armenian stereotypes and tropes like crooked noses and bushy eyebrows. Many of those mannequins are shown in their dying moments or chained to jail cells.

“Aliyev continues to plant the seeds of hate by enacting a state policy that hatred toward the Armenian people be taught to schoolchildren across Azerbaijan.

Make no mistake: Azerbaijan is promoting a culture of hatred and fear and is breeding a whole new generation of anti-Armenian sentiment. It is dangerous. It is irresponsible. And it needs to stop. This type of rhetoric should be a warning sign that hatred and violence in all their ugly forms don’t end at the border.

Sadly, hatred and violence have found their way to the United States. Over the past couple of years, the number of hate crimes committed against the Armenian American community has been on the rise. In San Francisco, a local Armenian school was vandalized in 2020 with hateful and racist graffiti, which was followed by an arson attack on St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church. And in 2023 in Los Angeles, home to the largest number of Armenians outside of Armenia, fliers were posted throughout the city calling for the destruction of Armenia and the “completion” of the Armenian Genocide,” reads the article.

In accordance with the article, in many ways, these hate crimes appear to be an extension of Azerbaijan’s ongoing campaign to wipe Armenia off the map and show that it continues to be a threat to Armenians’ existence anywhere in the world.

“It’s why every April 24 Armenian Americans come together to honor and remember the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide and to make sure that we honor our past and embrace the future.

This year will take on a whole new meaning as our existence as a community in the United States and the world over is at risk of being further terrorized. Holding Azerbaijan accountable is one way to make sure that doesn’t happen,” reads the publication.

## Armenia and Italy discuss military cooperation



A delegation led by the Deputy Minister of Defence of the Republic of Armenia, Karen Brutyan, was on a working visit to the Republic of Italy from April 23 to 25.

According to a statement by the Ministry of Defence of Armenia, during the

visit, the delegation had meetings with officials, including the Secretary General of Defence-National Armaments Director of the Ministry of Defence, Luciano Portolano, the Undersecretary of State for Defence, Matteo Perego di Cremona, and the President of AIAD of the Italian Republic, Giuseppe Cossiga, along with representatives of military-industrial companies.

The discussions during the meetings focused on the Armenia-Italy military, military-technical, and military-technological

cooperation. Several agreements were reached as a result of the discussions.



## Spanish MP Jon Inarritu calls on Turkey to accept its own history and recognize the Armenian Genocide



The Armenian Genocide is a historical fact, so the more states do recognize that, the more Turkey will remain isolated in this regard and at some point will have to accept the truth, Jon Inarritu, a member of the Spanish parliament, told Armenpress on the occasion of the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

**- This year marks the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. How do you assess the process of recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide by the international community?**

Nowadays, 34 States recognize the Armenian Genocide. In recent years, several European Union States such as Portugal and Italy have done so and the United States did in 2021 as well. Although it comes late, I think it is positive that more and more States recognize the first genocide of the 20th century. These years we have seen how the persecutions against Armenians have continued. It is important to remember and recognize to prevent it

from happening again.

**- Although many countries and international organizations have recognized and condemned the Armenian Genocide, Turkey continues its denial policy after 109 years. What do you think the international community should do? Do you see the need for other actions besides calls and exhortations?**

In fact, not only Turkey does not recognize the Armenian genocide, but it also puts pressure and threats against states so that they do not recognize it. Turkey would do well to embrace its history, just as other states have done. I consider that Germany is an example of how a historical fact can be assumed. For Turkey recognizing the facts, could help improve relations in the region and would make this State a better State.

**- In your opinion, under what circumstances or under what conditions will Turkey finally face the historical truth recognizing the Armenian Genocide?**

In my opinion, the Armenian Genocide is a historical fact, so the more states do recognize that, the more Turkey will remain isolated in this regard and at some point will have to accept the truth.

**- A dialogue between Armenia and Turkey is taking place these days. In your opinion, in what way can this**

**process have an impact on the issue of the Armenian Genocide?**

As I mentioned previously, I believe that accepting this historical fact would help improve relations with Armenia and even with the Armenians of the diaspora, largely descendants of the survivors. But it would also make Turkey a better country.

**- When touching on the subject of the Armenian Genocide, the phrase "Never again" has often been uttered by various famous figures, but history shows that it appears that the world has not learned enough lessons, as unpunished crimes tend to repeat themselves. What do you think advanced humanity needs to do to make "Never Again" practically visible?**

Indeed, the extermination of the Armenians that occurred during the last years of the Ottoman Empire must be recognized not only to remember the victims but also to prevent similar events from occurring again in the future. Unfortunately, with regard to the Armenian people, we see how we have once again seen images of extermination, persecution and expulsion of Armenians from their ancestral land, in Nagorno Karabakh. As if that were not enough, now the threats do not stop. Never again cannot be a phrase without commitment. The international community must go further and protect.

## Threats to Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem raised at UK Parliament

Edward Leigh, Conservative MP for Gainsborough, raised the threats to Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem at the UK House of Commons.

He asked Second Church Estates Commissioner Andrew Selous whether the Church has taken steps to support the Armenian church in the old city of Jerusalem.

“The Bishop of Southwark has raised this issue repeatedly in the other place over the past six months, and it remains an ongoing and very concerning issue. Only 15 days ago, an unlawful eviction was led by the Israeli police within the premises of the Armenian Patriarchate, with no court orders or permits present-ed,” Andrew Selous said in response.

“Those of us who are good friends of Israel need to call out the violent activities of the settler movement. The Armenian



Christians have enjoyed the best part of 2,000 years in their part of the old city in tranquillity. The appalling incident on 3 April was led not just by thugs but by an Israeli officer called Assaf Harel. Frankly, there was downright intimidation and an attempt to force out Armenian Christians. The Christian population in the old city has declined from 25% a century ago to just 1%,” Edward Leigh said. He asked whether the Church of England stand up

for Christians in the Old City.

“I am extremely grateful to my right hon. Friend for his sustained interest in this really important issue. It would be an absolute tragedy if there were to be no Christians left in the Holy Land. The House will have heard the figures that he has just presented. The pressures facing the Armenian church exemplify those faced by other churches in Jerusalem and the west bank. The Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem is one of the custodians of the Holy Land and overseers of the four quarters of the city. The Church of England is absolutely clear that the historic settlement and the status quo of Jerusalem need to be maintained. The lack of any call for restraint from the Israeli Government is escalating tensions in Jerusalem, and that remains a great concern,” Andrew Selous responded.

## Aurora co-founder Noubar Afeyan issues global call to prevent a second Armenian Genocide

The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative announced that Co-Founder Noubar Afeyan has issued a global [call to action](#) to prevent a second Armenian genocide, on this 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide Day of Remembrance. Afeyan made the global call to action in The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The London Times, as well as on global social media channels.

The Call to Action underscores the similarities in atrocities that took place 109 years ago, and are happening again today:

*“Even as we mourn the past, history is repeating itself. Armenians are once again the target of ethnic cleansing, political leaders are unlawfully held as hostages, and the country of Armenia faces existential threats to its sovereignty and self-determination.*

*A busy world has been looking the other way. So it’s not widely understood that since last September, Azerbaijan has driven 120,000 Armenians—the entire population of Artsakh, the Armenian enclave also known as Nagorno Karabakh—from their*



*ancestral homeland.”*

He also calls on the government of Azerbaijan to restore peace in the region and to act with justice towards the prisoners it has unlawfully captured:

*“Azerbaijan also continues to unlawfully hold Armenian hostages, including my friend and colleague Ruben Vardanyan, a businessman and philanthropist who briefly served as state minister of Artsakh. Meanwhile, escalating clashes on Armenia’s border continue to fuel growing fears that Azerbaijan may be planning to invade Armenia itself.*

*Azerbaijan today should find no grounds for conflict with Armenia. After last year’s invasion, Armenia relinquished efforts at self-governance in Nagorno-Karabakh. For Azerbaijan to now insist that peace must be premised on Armenia accepting incursions on its own internationally recognized border*

*enable a corridor connecting Azerbaijan with Nakhchivan and Turkey is both unlawful and unjust.”*

Commenting on his effort to raise awareness of the injustices happening against Armenians and the fear of a second genocide, Afeyan said, “Today is the 109th anniversary of 1.5 million Armenians being driven from their homes and killed at the hands of Ottoman Turks, and now, it is happening again. Today, we must do more than mourn the massacres of the past. It’s time to step up to prevent the massacres of the future.”

# UK Prime Minister urged to recognize the Armenian Genocide

Bishop Hovakim and prominent British Church Leaders and Members of the House of Lords sent a letter to British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on 24th April, urging his government to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide.

*The letter reads:*

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you on the occasion of the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. On April 24th, Armenians worldwide commemorate this day, which has profoundly impacted millions and continues to resonate in our collective memory.

The United Kingdom has always been at the forefront of defending human rights and justice on the global stage. Historical figures such as former Prime Ministers David Lloyd George and Sir Winston Churchill have openly spoken about the massacres of Armenians from 1915 to 1923, referring to them as “the holocausts of 1915” and the “clearance of the Armenian race from Asia-Minor,” respectively.

These acknowledgements from your predecessors underscore the significance of the events that transpired and the importance of formally recognizing them. In recent years, the global community has made significant strides in acknowledging historical injustices, including key allies such as the United States and several European nations formally recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

This recognition is not merely symbolic but serves as a powerful statement against atrocities and a step toward preventing



future acts of genocide. Unfortunately, the atrocities committed against the Armenians over a century ago in the Ottoman Empire have yet again been repeated recently. Following the 44-day devastating war in Artsakh in the autumn of 2020, in September 2023, Azerbaijan launched a campaign which Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “genocide,” defined as “a coordinated plan of different actions aiming at the destruction of essential foundations of the life of national groups, with the aim of annihilating the groups themselves.”

The nine-month blockade of Artsakh (known as Nagorno Karabakh) was the beginning of such a genocidal policy, culminating with a military atrocity that resulted in the ethnic cleansing of Armenians from their ancestral homeland.

Today, as we witness ongoing conflicts and challenges to international law and human rights, the role of historical truth in fostering peace and justice has never been more critical. The United Kingdom’s formal recognition of the Armenian Genocide would send a strong message to the world about our commitment to historical truth and justice, transcending political

and economic interests.

Prime Minister, the Armenian diaspora was formed not as a result of natural migration but because our people were forced to flee their historical homeland; our people were killed, raped, sent on death marches to the Syrian deserts, and our churches and homes were burnt and totally destroyed. The same is happening now. Today, the Azerbaijani government, backed by Turkey, continues to threaten Armenia, and exerts pressure to gain control over more territories within the sovereign territory of Armenia.

I respectfully urge you and the government to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide. Such an act of recognition would not only honor the memory of those who suffered and affirm justice but would also reaffirm the UK’s commitment to upholding human rights.

Recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the UK would also send a clear message to Turkey and Azerbaijan to cease their aggression against Armenia. Indeed, there is a high risk that the actions of Turkey and Azerbaijan would result in a new war breaking out, adding a third conflict to a world already beset with global uncertainty and wars in Ukraine and the Middle East. Thank you for considering this significant and heartfelt request. I look forward to your support in making this recognition a reality, as it would profoundly resonate with all who cherish justice and historical truth.

## We must act now to hold Azerbaijan accountable - Robert F. Kennedy Jr.



Independent Presidential Candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has issued a statement and video commemorating the Armenian Genocide and calling for accountability for Azerbaijan’s ethnic cleansing of Artsakh, the release of hostages, and

sanctions on Azerbaijan.

“After the ethnic cleansing of Artsakh, the Azeri regime is still holding onto the civilian political leadership of Artsakh: its prior presidents, ministers, and parliament members, as well as dozens of others as hostages to coerce further territorial concessions from Armenia.

“The regime threatens to invade Armenia if they don’t cede several towns and villages inside Armenia’s territorial boundaries. Today, Azerbaijani bulldozers are destroying what remains of Armenian heritage in Artsakh. If left without international support, the Armenian Genocide

of 1915 will be finalized in the coming weeks and months.

“We must act now to hold Azerbaijan accountable by calling for the release of the hostages and enforcing sanctions until a safe and viable path for the return of the indigenous Armenians to Artsakh is achieved. Though today we commemorate the 109th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide, the plight of the Armenians is not over – and we must recommit ourselves to end the ethnic cleansing and defend Armenians’ right to self-determination,” the statement reads.

## Memorandum of Cooperation signed between Armenian National Academy of Sciences and Athens Academy

A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed on April 25 between the Armenian National Academy of Sciences and the Athens Academy. The Armenian side was represented by the President of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, academician Ashot Saghyan, and the Greek side



by the president of the Athens Academy, professor Stamatios Krimigis. Former President of Greece, member of the Academy of Athens Professor Prokopios Pavlopoulos, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic

of Armenia to Greece Tigran Mkrtchyan, former President of the Academy of Athens Michael Stathopoulos and General Secretary of the Academy of Athens Christos Zerefos were also present at the signing ceremony.

The memorandum provides an opportunity for the development of joint scientific programs and cooperation. The memorandum will provide an opportunity to start mutual visits, launch professional training programs, implement joint scientific initiatives and implement exchange programs.

The parties agreed that long-term and short-term cooperation in various directions may include the implementation

of joint scientific research programs in Greece and Armenia, as well as the organization of joint events, conferences, summer schools, exchange programs for scientists, publication of joint scientific materials.

## Ambassador Lilit Makunts meets with participants of Rumsfeld Fellowship Program

Lilit Makunts, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the US met with the participants of Rumsfeld Fellowship Program.

According to a statement by the Embassy of Armenia to the US, during the discussion with Ambassador Makunts, the current challenges in the South Caucasus region, the security situation of Armenia, the peace agenda, as well as Armenia-US bilateral relations were discussed.

The 6-week Fellowship Program, with participants from Central Asia, the South Caucasus regions and other countries, consists of a series of high-level meetings with top policy-makers, journalists, academics, military personnel, business leaders, non-governmental organizations and regional experts through which Fellows are exposed to inside perspectives on how the public and private sectors work in the US.



Within the framework of the program the fellows have the opportunity to visit embassies, and get acquainted with the

bilateral relations of the participating countries and the United States.

# ARMENIA

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