

## Armenian PM receives new US Co-Chair of OSCE Minsk Group



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received newly appointed US Co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, Senior Advisor on Caucasian Negotiations Philip Reeker.

The Prime Minister congratulated Mr. Reeker on his appointment to the responsible position and welcomed his visit to the region. The Head of the Government emphasized the important role of the US in the process of settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a co-chair state of the OSCE Minsk Group. Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the restoration of the negotiation process within the co-chairmanship of the Minsk Group and the use of the latter's experience in the context of the comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

The interlocutors discussed a number of issues related to the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

Reference was made to the humanitarian problems caused by the 44-day war. The need for immediate repatriation of Armenian prisoners of war and other detained persons, preservation of Armenian cultural and religious heritage in the territories that have passed under Azerbaijani control was emphasized.

The sides also exchanged thoughts on the normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, regional stability and other security issues.



## Queen Elizabeth dies aged 96

Noyan Tapan extends sincere condolences to the Royal Family, the British people and everyone affected by this very sad news.

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## Armenian PM offers condolences over Queen's death

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan offered condolences to British PM Elizabeth Truss, over the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

The message reads:

“Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Armenian government and the Armenian people, I send my deepest condolences to you, the government of the United Kingdom, the Royal Family and the friendly British people on the death of Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The death of the Queen is a great pain and loss not only for the British people, the peoples of the Commonwealth of Nations,



but also for the entire international community.

During the long 70-year reign full of challenges, Her Majesty, with her wisdom, prudence and benevolence, made an in-

valuable contribution to the development of the United Kingdom and left an indelible mark in world history.

Even the disasters of history could not break the unbreakable will of Elizabeth II. Her bright image has always symbolized the harmonious interweaving of a strong stateswoman, motherhood, femininity, and traditions.

The Queen embodying almost an entire era of history will remain vivid in the memories of all of us.

At this difficult moment, the Armenian people pray together with the British people and share their pain and anguish.”

## Pashinyan, Putin discuss bilateral ties, regional developments

Relations between Armenia and Russia are developing in all directions, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on the sidelines of the 7th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Vladivostok.

“Our relations are developing in all directions. Russia confidently maintains the first place among Armenia’s trade and economic partners. Trade turnover has recently increased by approximately 25-30 percent. We really notice economic stabilization in Armenia. Your government has done a lot in that direction,” the Russian President said.

“Of course, one of the most sensitive issues concerns the security situation around Nagorno Karabakh. We always talk to you about it. And I am happy to talk about all these topics during your visit to Russia, within the framework of the economic forum in Vladivostok,” he noted.

“We are expanding the range of companies and people we interact with. In the near future, business operators are also going to hold a regional forum. Other events are also planned, including humanitarian, cultural and educational ones,” Vladimir Putin said, expressing gratitude for accepting the invitation to participate in the forum.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, in turn, thanked Vladimir Putin for the invitation.

“Russia is the closest partner and strategic ally of the Republic of Armenia. And especially in these difficult times, constant communication and clarification of positions are very important,” the Armenian PM said.

He emphasized the importance of the Russian peacekeeping mission in Nagorno Karabakh. “This is not an easy mission. We have talked about it many times. We

highly appreciate the activities of Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh, in the Lachin Corridor, and I think it is very important to highlight that. In general, in the sense of ensuring security in Nagorno-Karabakh, there are nuances that we constantly discuss, and I think that it will be very appropriate to discuss these issues today,” Pm Pashinyan said.

“The issues related to trade and economic relations between our countries are also of a traditional nature. It is very gratifying that in the post-pandemic period, our trade and economic relations have not only restored, but there are also some new positive developments, which we talked about during the forum. Of course, the agenda of our relations is very full, and I am sure that we will have a meaningful and full conversation today as well,” the Armenian Prime Minister said.

## US Minsk Group Co-Chair visits Armenian Genocide Memorial

The delegation led by US Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, Special Adviser for Caucasus Negotiations Philip Reeker visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial, accompanied by Armen Yeghanyan, Head of the American Affairs Department of the Armenian Foreign Ministry and US Ambassador to Armenia Lynne Tracy.

Harutyun Marutyan, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, welcomed the guests and presented the history of creation of the memorial complex. He also briefed the guests on the history of

three khachkars installed in the territory of Tsitsernakaberd, which are dedicated to the memory of the Armenians who died during the ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population in the territory of Azerbaijan at the end of the last century.

Mr. Reeker laid a wreath at the memorial to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, after which members of the US delegation placed flowers near the eternal flame and observed a minute of silence in memory of 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide.



Expressing gratitude for the visit, Harutyun Marutyan presented two volumes of articles on the Armenian massacres and the Armenian Genocide published in the American press between 1890 and 1922 – “The Armenian Genocide. Prelude and Aftermath. As reported in the U.S. Press – The New York Times.”

## Armenian Crossroads project to benefit countries of the region and beyond – PM

Armenia is interested in opening of communications in the South Caucasus, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on September 7 at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF).

“On January 11, 2021, in Moscow, we signed a statement with the presidents of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan on the establishment of a trilateral working group headed by the vice-premiers of the Russian Federation, Armenia and Azerbaijan, which deals with the opening of communications in our region,” he recalled.

“The idea of this project is that Armenia will receive transport routes through the territory of Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan will receive transport routes through the territory of Armenia. In a global sense, this is an opportunity to open new international trade routes, and I must say that we are



very interested in this and hope to see the issue solved soon with Russia’s support,” the Prime Minister said.

He noted progress in the work of the trilateral group, but added that it’s still necessary to discuss the judicial regulations.

“One thing is clear. The roads to be opened will be under the absolute sovereignty of the countries they pass through, and we hope that based on this principle we will be able to realize the project, which we call Armenian Crossroads. We

hope that roads connecting north to the south and the east to the west will pass through Armenia. I think this project is of great importance not only to Armenia, the countries of the region – Iran, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, but also to Russian Federation, for countries of the Far East,” PM Pashinyan said.

According to Pashinyan, Armenia also counts on Russia’s support in negotiations with Azerbaijan, including as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group. “An intensive conversation is going on with Azerbaijan over the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, and in this context, we also hope for the support of the Russian Federation, not only as a strategic ally of the Republic of Armenia. The Russian Federation is also a very close partner for Azerbaijan, and this opens up opportunities, I think,” Pashinyan said.

## Agenda of Armenian-American defense cooperation discussed at the Pentagon

Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan met with Colin Kahl, US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, at the Pentagon.

Armenia’s Ambassador to the US Lilit Makunts was present at the meeting.

During the meeting, the entire agenda of Armenian-American defense cooperation was discussed, agreements were reached on



deepening of cooperation in peacekeeping,

military education, military medicine and

other fields.

At the request of the American side, the Armenian Minister of Defense presented the military-political situation around Armenia, including the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

The parties emphasized efforts aimed at achieving long-term peace and stability in the region. International security issues of mutual interest were also discussed at the meeting.

## Armenian Opposition to Keep Boycotting Parliament



(RFE/RI) - Armenia's two main opposition groups said on September 9 that they will continue to boycott sessions of the National Assembly as part of their efforts to topple Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

The 35 members of the 107-seat parliament representing the Hayastan and Pativ Unem alliances began the boycott in April in advance of their daily demonstrations demanding Pashinyan's resignation. They failed to force him to step down before deciding in mid-June to scale back the protests sparked by Pashinyan's apparent readiness to make major concessions to Azerbaijan.

The opposition lawmakers continued the boycott through the summer despite

government threats to strip them of their parliament seats. Parliamentary leaders of the ruling Civil Contract party repeatedly accused them of illegal absenteeism.

Hayastan's parliamentary group said on Friday that it is the pro-government majority that has been "delegitimizing" and "disrupting the normal work of the National Assembly" by blocking debates on pressing issues facing Armenia.

"Under these circumstances, we will continue to use the internationally accepted tool of political boycott in the fight against the parliamentary majority acting illegally," it said in a statement.

"We are convinced that regime change is the necessary minimum condition for solving the problems facing our country, overcoming challenges, turning the page of defeat, and getting out of this humiliating state. Armenia cannot present itself to the world with a figure symbolizing defeat and infamy," added the bloc led by former President Robert Kocharyan.

Tigran Abrahamian, a senior lawmaker

representing Pativ Unem, said he and his colleagues also have no plans to return.

"Our decision regarding the boycott hasn't changed," Abrahamian told RFE/RI's Armenian Service.

The opposition blocs also announced that they will hold on September 12-13 a conference on "the real agenda of Armenia." The event is clearly timed to coincide with the start of the parliament's autumn session.

The Hayastan statement indicated that the opposition blocs will also continue to hold anti-government demonstrations.

At their most recent rally held in Yerevan on September 2, the blocs promised another change of tactics aimed at attracting a larger following.

Pashinyan and his political allies have dismissed the opposition demands for his resignation, saying the opposition has failed to attract popular support for regime change.

## US says return of five Armenian detainees a positive development for the peace process

The US says the return of five Armenian detainees is a positive development for the peace process.

"We welcome reports of Armenian detainees returned home, a positive development for Armenia and Azerbaijan peace process," Spokesperson for the US Depart-

ment of State Ned Price said in a Twitter post.

"We hope all remaining detainees return home soon and Azerbaijan and Armenia continue taking steps to build trust and resolve outstanding differences," he added.

Azerbaijan returned five Armenian



prisoners of war to the Armenian side on September 8.

## Queen Elizabeth dies aged 96



Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-reigning monarch in British history, has died at the age of 96.

"The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon," the Buckingham Palace said.

Prince Charles, 73, heir to the throne since the age of three, is now king.

The Queen's death brings to an end the longest reign in the history of the United Kingdom, and one of the longest reigns by any head of state.

Elizabeth II became Queen on the death of her father King George VI on 6 February 1952. She held her coronation at Westminster Abbey the following year.

Her reign of 70 years was seven years longer than that of Queen Victoria.

Leading the monarchy from the final years of the British Empire into the age

of social media, she became one of the world's most recognized and respected figures.

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom a condolence book will be opened at the British Embassy in Yerevan for members of the public on Friday 9 September from 14:00 - 16:00 & from Monday 12 - Friday 16 September, 14:00 - 16:00, the embassy said in a statement.

A digital condolence book is available at the Royal family's official website: <https://www.royal.uk/>

## September 7 declared Armenia-Kansas Partnership Day in honor of Defense Minister's visit



Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan met with Laura Kelly, Governor of the US State of Kansas. Expressing gratitude for the warm welcome, Suren Papikyan emphasized the

long-standing and high-level relations between the Republic of Armenia and the State of Kansas.

The Minister of Defense presented the prospects of cooperation in areas of mutual interest, in particular, the cooperation between the Kansas National Guard and the peacekeeping brigade of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the agreements reached during the earlier meeting with Major General David Weishaar.

Governor Kelly, in turn, thanked Suren Papikyan for visiting Kansas and reaffirmed her willingness to make maximum efforts to further deepen the cooperation formed over the years.

At the end of the meeting, Suren Papikyan invited Laura Kelly to visit Armenia. In honor of the visit of the Minister of Defense of Armenia, the Governor signed a proclamation declaring September 7 as Armenia-Kansas Partnership Day.

## Armenia's satellite fully operational and transmitting images

The first Armenian satellite is operational and has already sent images from space, Armenian Deputy Minister of High Tech-Industry Gevorg Mantashyan said at a press conference within the framework of Starmus VI festival, *Armenpress* reports.

The satellite was launched into orbit thanks to cooperation between the Armenian state Geocosmos company and the Spanish Satlantis.

"The satellite is working, there are photos, but we don't think there is a need to talk about it at the moment. We have reasons. We know that the satellite is working; we know that it is functioning. Those involved in the project will know this," Mantashyan said.



Asked whether Armenia plans to launch CubeSats, Mantashyan said the High-Tech Ministry's strategy is yet to be fully confirmed, but noted that the ministry's priorities are being clarified during STARMUS itself.

"Such projects require conditions, we must create such conditions for CubeSats," Mantashyan said.

Satlantis CEO Juan Tomas Hernani said, in turn, that there is a long-term action plan in place.

"The first step has already been made; the satellite was launched into space. We do the planned actions every week because space activities imply moving by a concrete timetable. After the first step we have long-term plans, the next step will be the creation of a factory of Armenian-made satellites. It is clear that these long-term and major programs should be combined with involvement of data and resources," Hernani said.

## Yerevan to host Global Armenian Summit in October



The Global Armenian Summit will be held in Yerevan October 28-31.

Organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the conference will serve as a new format and a dynamic

platform for discussing challenges and problems of universal importance for representatives of the diaspora and local partners.

The agenda of the summit will include topics such as national security, protection of Armenian interests, development of strategic spheres in the Homeland, repatriation, investment, preservation of Armenian culture, self-organization of the Diaspora, among other relevant matters for our nation.

The summit will host about 600 participants from more than 40 countries, as well as from Armenia and Artsakh, who will represent community structures, organiza-

tions, and scientific, professional, business, student and youth associations.

Within three days, the summit will hold 8 panel discussions, 17 simultaneous sessions, and 2 fireside chats. The speakers will include prominent Diaspora Armenians, experts, community leaders, scientists, as well as representatives of Armenian circles. The proposals, decisions and results generated during the summit will become the basis for the creation and promotion of the Pan-Armenian agenda. The Motherland and the Diaspora will identify priorities and ways of further joint work.

## Fly One Armenia plans expansion of fleet, destinations

Fly One Armenia airline transported 200,000 passengers to various destinations during its first year in the market.

“We believe that 200,000 is indeed a milestone for such a short period of time,” Fly One Armenia Chairman of

the Board Aram Ananyan said at a press conference. “Today we can say that our airline is transporting over 2000 passengers every day,” Ananyan said, adding that Fly One Armenia now has the largest flight destinations among all Armenian airlines.

The frequency of flights to Moscow will be increased soon. Fly One also offers



flights to Sochi and St. Petersburg. Soon new Russian destinations will be launched – to Yekaterinburg and Mineralnie Vody. Other current destinations include Georgia, France, Moldova, Turkey and others. The airline is also considering European destinations and details will be released next week.

its bar. This one year stood out with consistent work aimed at improving service quality and strengthening passenger trust,” Ananyan said.

As to several problems such as cancellations of certain flights and delays in refunds, Ananyan said their entire team worked to resolve the issues.

Fly One Armenia plans to expand its fleet as it currently operates three aircraft. Ananyan said they are making serious investments in developing human capital.

“Fly One Armenia is a rapidly developing company and will continue raising

## Armenia to participate in 86th Thessaloniki International Fair



The 86th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF), the largest exhibition event in Greece, will be held at the Thessaloniki International Exhibition Centre from the 10th to 18th of September 2022, the Hellenic-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry informs.

Armenia is participating for 8th consecutive time in the most influential busi-

ness event in Greece promoting Armenian products, tourism as well as investments in several fields of the Armenian economy focusing on agriculture, renewables, financial services and capital markets. TIF offers a great opportunity for Greece and Armenia to strengthen their historical ties of friendship, together with the incentive for further development of bilateral trade,

investment and economic relations.

A wide range of Armenian products will be presented at the Show including the legendary brandy ArArAt, the world famous ZULAL, ARMENIA WINE, KARAS, ARAME, ZORAH, the multi-award winning KILIKIA beer, JERMUK and BJNI mineral waters as well as NOYAN Premium juices. Capital markets will be presented by Armbrok, the leading brokerage firm of Armenia and its associates in Greece.

At the Show, Quality Wines Apikian will announce the official distribution agreement for Greece and Cyprus of GRAND CANDY – JOYCO, the largest food industry of Armenia.

Armenia’s participation is jointly organized by the Honorary Consulate of Armenia in Thessaloniki as well as the Hellenic-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Greece. The event is held under the auspices of the Embassy of Armenia to the Hellenic Republic.

## EBRD President to visit Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan

President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Odile Renaud-Basso will tour the Caucasus from 12 to 16 September, first visiting Azerbaijan, then Georgia, before concluding her trip in Armenia.

This is President Renaud-Basso's first in-person visit to the region since assuming office in late 2020. The visit was set to take place in 2021, but Covid-19 travel restrictions led to its postponement.

Prior to her departure, the EBRD President held virtual meetings with a diverse group of Azerbaijani, Georgian and Armenian civil-society representatives.

Ms Renaud-Basso said: "I am very much looking forward to visiting the Caucasus, where the Bank has achieved some remarkable results during its 30 years of operation.

"Despite its size, the region remains an important investment destination for us, one where we have already invested more than €10 billion.

"During my visit, I will reiterate our unwavering support for the Caucasus and its green transition agenda, but also the enhancement of transport connectivity, sustainable infrastructure and policy dialogue.

"I will also meet with our partner financial institutions to discuss further support



for the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises."

Mrs Renaud-Basso will first travel to Baku, where she will meet Azerbaijan's political leaders. She will also meet diplomats, leaders of the business community and the Bank's existing partners.

The EBRD President will sign an agreement on the Bank's second Green City project in Azerbaijan and inaugurate a joint project with AzPromo, the national investment promotion agency, aimed at boosting the country's telecommunications, media and technology (TMT) sector.

In Tbilisi, the EBRD President will hold high level meetings with Georgia's political leadership. She will also meet diplomats, regional heads of international financial institutions, heads of business associations and existing business partners from the private sector, including local

banks.

Mrs Renaud-Basso will further sign loan agreements with long-standing partners in the financial and healthcare sectors.

Her visit coincides with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of EBRD operations in the country. It has since invested €5 billion in 270 projects there.

The EBRD President will conclude her trip in Yerevan, where she will meet Armenia's political leadership. The visit will include meetings with representatives of the diplomatic community and international development partners. Ms Renaud-Basso will also visit the central bank and attend a roundtable discussion with the CEOs of local partner banks.

President Renaud-Basso will further visit the Centre for Creative Technologies (TUMO), where she will meet leaders of Armenia's hi-tech sector, and attend celebrations for the 15th anniversary of the EBRD-supported Investment Council of Armenia.

Since the start of its operations in the Caucasus in 1992, the EBRD has invested more than €10.64 billion in 652 projects in the region's financial, corporate, infrastructure and energy sectors, with majority of these investments in the private sector.

## USAID will support Armenian artisans to sell their products internationally

USAID will support Armenian artisans to sell their products internationally through the Artisan Empowerment Hub, a new project launched in private sector partnership with NOVICA.

The purpose of the Artisan Empowerment Hub project is to provide global sales opportunities for Armenian artisans, foster growth of local communities through economic development, and support traditional culture and arts. The budget for this project is \$2,866,578 over the duration of four years.

Many talented Armenian artisans struggle to sell their products due to limited market access, absence of product guidelines, high logistical costs, and lack of



export infrastructure. This project aims to resolve these issues through onboarding over 200 groups of about 1,000 artisans.

During its implementation, the project will positively impact thousands of artisans and generate more than \$1.35 million in revenue. After the completion of the project the revenue is expected to be over

\$500,000 annually.

As a result, the export market is expected to increase for artisan products. It will create a stable, predictable market demand not tied to tourist visitation, leading to more permanent employment opportunities, increased incomes, and improved livelihoods for Armenia's rural artisans.

To increase the number of artisans, build their capacity, and improve their quality, NOVICA will conduct online and offline workshops.

The products will be sold on NOVICA.com, UNICEF Market, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival Marketplace, the Kiva Store, and dozens of other NOVICA partner websites.

## IRI Armenia poll shows favorable views of Prime Minister Pashinyan



A new nationwide poll in Armenia by the International Republican Institute's (IRI) Center for Insights in Survey Research (CISR) shows that 53% of Armenians hold a favorable view of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. This represents an increase of eight percentage points from a poll released in May 2021.

34% of Armenians have a "highly favorable" and "somewhat favorable" opinion of Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan (28% in 2021), 23% of former president Robert Kocharyan (20% in

2021), 23% - former president Levon Ter-Petrosyan (11% in 2021), 19% - former president Serzh Sargsyan (10% in 2021), 12% - Ishkhan Saghatelian (9% in 2021) and 12% - Artur Vanetsyan (7% in 2021).

33% of respondents had "highly unfavorable" and "somewhat unfavorable" opinion of PM Pashinyan (33% in 2021), 37% of Alen Simonyan (40% in 2021), 61% - Robert Kocharyan (57% in 2021), 55% - Levon Ter-Petrosyan (64% in 2021), 63% - Serzh Sargsyan (69% in 2021), 60% - Ishkhan Saghatelian (47% in 2021) and 64% - Artur Vanetsyan (67% in 2021).

Asked which politician or public person they trust the most, the survey participants mentioned Nikol Pashinyan - 16%, Robert Kocharyan - 3%, none - 64%, other - 8%.

Asked what is their opinion on the normalization of Armenia-Turkey relations, 7% of the respondents mentioned "very

positive", 21% - somewhat positive, 11% - somewhat negative, 48% - very negative, 13% - refused to answer.

The survey was conducted on behalf of International Republican Institute's Center for Insights in Survey Research by CRRC-Armenia. Data was collected via computer assisted telephone interviews (CATI) throughout Armenia between June 10 and June 21, 2022, via automatized Random Digit Dialing (RDD) with stratification by mobile operators according to their market shares. While numbers were drawn at random, quotas were used for settlement based on the 2011 census of Armenia. For the second half of fieldwork, soft quotas for mobile operators were added. The sample consisted of 1,499 residents of Armenia with access to mobile phones, aged 18 and older.

## New impetus for development of science: Starmus Festival wraps up in Yerevan



Many of the participants say Starmus festival in Yerevan was the best in the history of the event, co-founder Garik Israelyan said during the closing ceremony at the Sports and Concert Complex after Karen Demirchyan.

"This was the first scientific conference in Armenia, and we did not know what the reaction could be. We are glad to see

the positive coverage by local and foreign media," he said.

He hailed the participation of the youth and thanked the government for the cooperation.

Addressing the closing ceremony, President Vahagn Khachaturyan said "this is one of the vivid proofs that science and art are closely related and their combination not only does not cause contradictions, but also becomes a necessity and creativity."

"Starmus will surely become a new incentive for our young creators and scientists, our educational and scientific institutions, universities and the scientific and cultural community in general, so that they

engage in their work with new energy and enthusiasm, it will become an incentive for the students of Yerevan State University to strive to see their names next to Nobel Prize laureate Emmanuelle Charpentier," the President said.

The Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister's Office Arayik Harutyunyan said "Starmus showed there is a huge demand for science in Armenia."

He called this festival an additional impetus to the development of science and education.

"Education and science do not exist without art anymore. And Starmus is the best combination of it," he said.

## Catholicos Aram I elected President of the World Council of Churches

His Holiness Catholicos Aram I has been elected president of the World Council of Churches, representing the Oriental Orthodox churches. The election was held by the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches which is taking place in Karlsruhe, Germany.



A well-knowing ecumenical leader, Catholicos Aram I has served as moderator of the Executive and Central Committees of the World Council of Churches for two terms 1991-1998 and 1998-2006. He is author of several books on theological and ecumenical topics.

## Human rights & Artsakh War discussed in the European Parliament



On Wednesday 7 September 2022, MEP Peter van Dalen (EPP Group, The Netherlands) hosted a conference with the title “Human Rights & the Artsakh War 2020” in the European Parliament (EP). The conference was co-organized by the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD).

The keynote speakers were the Human rights defender of the Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh Republic – Gegham Stepanyan and the legal representative of the Armenian prisoners of war (POWs) before ECHR – Siranush Sahakyan.

The conference was widely attended by Members of the European Parliament (MEP) from different political groups, EP advisers, politicians, diplomats, and representatives of civil society.

MEP Peter van Dalen reiterated his

commitment to the cause:

*“I stand with the Armenian people. The life of the Armenian inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh, and their cultural heritage is under threat. We should not accept a status quo but ensure the Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh have a future in their historic region.”*

In his opening remarks, the EAFJD President Kaspar

Karampetian welcomed the participants and thanked MEP van Dalen for hosting the conference:

*“The second Artsakh war in 2020 launched by Azerbaijan was another attempt to carry out an ethnic cleansing of the native Armenian population of Artsakh. The native Armenian people’s right to live freely and independently in their homeland is a fundamental human right. The European Parliament condemned the state-level policy of Armenophobia by Azerbaijan by an urgent resolution, which is another acknowledgement that the native Armenian people cannot live under Azerbaijani rule,”* added the EAFJD President.

The keynote speakers addressed the gross violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by Azerbaijan during the Nagorno

Karabakh/Artsakh war in 2020 and in its aftermath.

The Human rights defender of Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh, Gegham Stepanyan underlined:

*“Azerbaijan’s policy of ethnic cleansing, threats, use of force, psychological attacks are aimed aimed at disrupting normal life and cause uncertainty about the future among the Armenian population of Artsakh. This uncertainty is aggravated especially due to the fact that the status of Nagorno-Karabakh is not clearly addressed in current negotiations, including through the mediation by the European Union.”*

After giving an overview from the legal perspective, including the relevant judgements of international courts against Azerbaijan, Siranush Sahakyan, the legal representative of the Armenian POWs before ECHR elaborated:

*“Anti-Armenian xenophobia has become a defining feature of Azerbaijan, which manifests itself in forms of hate speech, maltreatment of prisoners of Armenian descent, glorification of ethnic violence against Armenians, ethnic cleansing, denial of history.”*

The interventions were followed by a question-and-answer session with the participants of the event, including Azerbaijanis.

## Armenian Deputy PM receives IRI’s Regional Program Director for Eurasia

Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Hambarzum Matevosyan received on September 9 Stephen Nix, Regional Program Director for Eurasia at the International Republican Institute (IRI), the Deputy PM’s Office said.

The Deputy PM highlighted the successful experience of cooperation between the Government of Armenia and the IRI aimed at improving public communication and implementing numerous projects and events in the field of study



of public opinion. He also emphasized the

importance of deepening the cooperation

in creating more comprehensive system of public awareness, particularly the introduction of institutional mechanisms of public awareness.

In his turn Stephen Nix thanked the deputy PM for the welcome and stated that they are ready to assist the government of Armenia in the successful implementation of ongoing democratic reforms.

A broad range of issues of bilateral interest were also discussed during the meeting.

## Azerbaijan resorts to systematic violence in blatant disregard to international law, Armenian envoy tells UN

Time and again, Armenia has alerted about the dangerously mounting level of racism and hateful rhetoric dominating the political discourse in Azerbaijan where state-led anti-Armenian policies – extensively reported and documented by international institutions – seek to dehumanize one particular nation, Armenia’s Permanent Representative to the UN Mher Margaryan said at the High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace.

He reminded that only last week, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination issued its latest [report on Azerbaijan](#), which finds, among other things, that there is incitement to racial hatred against persons of Armenian origin, including by public figures and governmental officials, and that school textbooks in Azerbaijan promote prejudice and incitement to racial hatred, particularly against ethnic Armenians.

“Such findings are consistent with Azerbaijan’s systemic policy of ethnic cleansing and genocidal disdain against the Armenian people, most recently proven by its launching of war in an attempt to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by force, in flagrant violation of the trilateral ceasefire agreements of 1994 and 1995. The very fact that a large-scale military aggression was unleashed amidst an unprecedented pandemic is a crime of global proportion in itself and should be evaluated and addressed as such,” Mr. Margaryan said.

“Despite Azerbaijan’s efforts to offer justifications for its military aggression in September-November 2020, it was in reality the product of an intentional decision to walk away from negotiations and to begin a war, exposing the lives of thousands of



people to imminent existential danger,’ he added.

“Emboldened by the results of the use of force Azerbaijani leadership resorts to systematic violence and military provocations in blatant disregard to the norms of the international law. Equally disturbing are the attempts to instrumentalize the issue of POWs and civilian captives, whose return Azerbaijan continues to deny, in violation of the Geneva Conventions, and in defiance of the Provisional Measures issued by the International Court of Justice as a matter of urgency on 7 December 2021,” the envoy emphasized.

He stressed that obstruction of safe and unhindered humanitarian access of the UN agencies, including UNESCO to Nagorno-Karabakh undermines efforts for comprehensive assessment and response to the humanitarian needs of the civilian population, while threatening the existence of millennia-old Armenian heritage of Artsakh.

“Arbitrary interpretations and distortions of the negotiation process by Azerbaijan and disrespect towards its legally binding obligations demonstrate lack of

good faith and the intent to forcefully impose unilateral solutions on Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh,” Mher Margaryan stated.

In this regard, he noted that neither the condescending tone, nor the self-righteous posture of the Azerbaijani officials or their representatives here at the United Nations are suggestive of anything other than arrogance and boastfulness which only demonstrates that for some, culture of threat, incitement and aggression continues to prevail over culture of peace.

“Ensuring security, fundamental human rights and dignified life of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in their ancestral homeland is key for achieving comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the conflict and sustaining peace in the region,” the Ambassador said.

“Armenia will continue to work towards justice, equality, and inclusion in line with our unwavering commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and to the values and goals of the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Culture of Peace,” he concluded.

## Azeri Consul General Departs from L.A., Leaving Behind a Trail of Deception

By *Harut Sassounian*

The Consul General of Azerbaijan, Namsimi Aghayev, departed from Los Angeles at the end of August to become his country's new Ambassador to Germany. Aghayev left behind a trail of deception. I hope the German government keeps a close watch on this questionable Azeri "diplomat."

Let us start with the most recent scandal. Last week, Aghayev proudly posted on Twitter and Facebook a certificate bearing the signatures of four out of five Los Angeles County Supervisors, expressing their appreciation for his service as the Consul General of Azerbaijan.

The first hint that something was amiss when it was noticed that the name of the fifth L.A. County Supervisor, Sheila Kuehl, was not on the certificate. Such documents are usually signed by all five Supervisors, which is diplomatic protocol. There must have been a particular reason why Supervisor Kuehl's signature was missing. When the Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region (ANCA-WR) asked Supervisor Kuehl's staff why her signature was not on the certificate, they said that they had asked the L.A. County Protocol's Office not to add her signature. It turns out that the other four Supervisors had also not given their permission to add their names to the certificate.

Shortly after Aghayev posted the certificate on Twitter and on his Facebook page, each of the four Supervisors—Holly Mitchell, Hilda Solis, Kathryn Barger, and Janice Hahn told the ANCA through separate Tweets that their signatures "were mistakenly added to the certificate without their authorization."

The four Supervisors attached to their Tweets the letter of apology issued by Lourdes Saab, Chief of Protocol of LA

County Supervisors. The letter was sent to all four Supervisors. Here is an excerpt from one such letter: "The County of Los Angeles Office of Protocol mistakenly added Supervisor Kathryn Barger's signature to a scroll presented to the Consul General of Azerbaijan last week and would like to publicly note this error."

After I contacted Brenda Duran, Deputy Executive Officer, Los Angeles County Executive Office, asking her to clarify the status of the certificate issued to Azerbaijan's Consul General by mistake, she replied in writing: "The County of Los Angeles' Office of the Protocol (Office) apologizes for any confusion. The Supervisors' signatures were applied in error. Accordingly, the Office is declaring that the unauthorized scroll is void and should be taken down from any social media or any other platforms. Because the County of Los Angeles is not bound by an unauthorized and erroneous action taken by an office in excess of that office's authority, no one should rely on the subject scroll as any kind of declaration by the County of Los Angeles."

Nevertheless, the certificate wrongly issued to Azerbaijan's Consul General is still posted on his Twitter and Facebook page, falsely claiming that he was honored by the L.A. County Supervisors. That certificate is null and void and publicizing such an erroneously issued certificate is dishonest. Instead of being embarrassed, Aghayev lashed back at the ANCA for bringing this mistaken certificate to the attention of the Supervisors.

No one should be surprised that this is not the first time that Azerbaijan's Consul General is involved in such a scandalous and dishonest behavior. There are four other examples. I wrote an article last October, revealing that Azerbaijan's Consul General publicized a proclamation issued

and later cancelled by the Mayor of San Diego. The Mayor apologized, rescinded his proclamation the following day and pledged not to issue proclamations on Azerbaijan in the future. Similarly, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh issued on February 2021 and later cancelled a proclamation to commemorate the so-called "Khojali Day." The Mayor rescinded his proclamation two weeks later and apologized to the Armenian community.

The same scenario was repeated in Portland, Maine. Mayor Kathleen Snyder initially issued a proclamation on February 17, 2021 to commemorate "Khojali Remembrance Day." However, on April 1, 2021, the Mayor wrote: "I have decided to rescind the Mayoral Proclamation.... I once again apologize for the pain and harm that the issuance of this proclamation has caused."

Finally, the City of Torrance, California, issued a proclamation on October 15, 2021 to celebrate "Azerbaijan Day." Later that day, Torrance Mayor Patrick Furey stated that the City "issued a proclamation in error. On past occasions, the City has proclaimed Azerbaijan National Day in the City of Torrance on the effective date. In light of recent events in the associated region, the City has respectfully requested that the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles remove the proclamation from all media."

Nevertheless, the rescinded proclamations of San Diego and Torrance remain on Consul General Aghayev's Facebook page.

Amazingly, such an incompetent and dishonest Consul General is elevated to become Ambassador to Germany, instead of being fired. Given Aghayev's repeated undiplomatic behavior in Los Angeles, Pres. Aliyev could not have made a worse choice in promoting him to the rank of Ambassador.

## World Council of Churches 11th Assembly appeals to UN, EU and Azerbaijan for immediate release of Armenian POWs

The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches is appealing to the United Nations, the European Union and the authorities of Azerbaijan for the immediate release of all Armenian civilian hostages and POWs in accordance with international law.

The WCC 11th Assembly released a minute entitled "Consequences of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war," in

which it reiterated its condemnation of the use of chemical weapons and cluster munitions, the targeting of civilians, hospitals and public infrastructure, and all other war crimes, beheadings, torture and other atrocities witnessed during the conflict.

"Following six weeks of intense fighting for Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh, in late 2020, the WCC executive committee adopted a statement praying for wisdom, unity and calm, and grieving "with all those who have suffered terrible losses not only in the renewed fighting since 27 September, but throughout the long history of the struggle for self-determination in the region, entrenching antagonism more deeply with each precious life lost." The WCC condemned the use of chemical weapons and cluster munitions, the targeting of civilians, hospitals and public infrastructure, and all other war crimes, be-



headings, torture and other atrocities witnessed during the conflict. The WCC also appealed for respect for the holy sites and cultural heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh, in light of numerous reports of the desecration of such sites.

Almost two years after the end of the armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, hundreds of ethnic Armenians are still illegally held by Azerbaijan, in violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. While the world's attention is fixed on the conflict in Ukraine, Azerbaijani forces are reported to have launched new assaults on indigenous Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as on the sovereign borders of the Republic of Armenia, with further loss of innocent lives and more prisoners taken.

Moreover, accountability for war crimes and other violations of international

humanitarian and human rights law - repeatedly reported by Human Rights Watch, BBC, the Guardian and many other international media outlets - has not been achieved or pursued.

The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC), meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany,

*Appeals to the United Nations, the European Union and the authorities of Azerbaijan for*

the immediate release of all Armenian civilian hostages and POWs in accordance with international law.

*Reiterates concern for holy sites and Armenian cultural heritage in the region, and urges UNESCO and all members of the international community to take all possible and appropriate measures to protect these sites.*

*Calls for the start of meaningful dialogue for a just and peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.*

*Requests the WCC and all member churches to remain engaged in Christian solidarity with the churches and people of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in their search for a just and sustainable peace", reads the minute.*

## Armenia's ArmBioTechnology develops dietary supplement preventing Type 2 diabetes



The ArmBioTechnology Research-Industrial Center has developed and official registered the bioactive food supplement called Narargin which is used for preventing dysbacteriosis and Type 2 diabetes, the National Academy of Sciences said.

The supplement is also advised for

maintaining or restoring gut flora and also reduces cholesterol levels in blood.

Narargin was developed based on the consortium of the lactic acid bacteria *Lactobacillus acidophilus* MDC 9602 (Ep. 317/402) and *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* BTK 20-12 MDC 9631.

## Tatarian Elementary: Fresno district celebrates first school named after Armenian



A garland of bright red, blue and orange balloons — the colors of the Armenian flag — started popping one by one in the rising heat Wednesday morning outside of Fresno Unified’s H. Roger Tatarian Elementary, *The Fresno Bee* reports.

He was the first Armenian-American to serve as the namesake for a Fresno Unified school after the FUSD board’s vote in October 2021. The celebration emphasized the importance of the name for Fresno’s Armenian community, with several odes to Armenian culture: including food, music and multiple performances from the Armenian Dance Group of Fresno.

Speakers said Tatarian set an example for students, educators and journalists throughout Fresno and beyond. Tatarian, a celebrated journalist educated in FUSD

schools and at Fresno State, traveled the world as a World War II correspondent and eventually the editor-in-chief of United Press International.

After 34 years there, Tatarian returned to his alma mater Fresno State to join the journalism faculty.

The school’s administration is currently in talks with Fresno State leaders, including Jim Boren, executive director of Fresno State’s Institute for Media and Public Trust, about a partnership to teach journalism skills to Tatarian students.



## Armenian Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The Armenian Church celebrates on September 11 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the last of the five major feasts of the Armenian Apostolic Church. It is the most important feast among the feasts dedicated to the Holy Cross, as it is dedicated to the history of the return of the Holy Cross from imprisonment, its elevation and glorification. In the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on Sunday during the period between September 11-

17. This year that date is September 17, and the Monday following the Feast is a Memorial Day.

In 610 A. D, the Persian King Khosrov with a large army attacks the Byzantine Empire. Enthusiastic about the initial victory, in 614 A. D. the Persian army enters Jerusalem. Many people are killed and many are imprisoned. Pontiff Zakaria, the Patriarch of Jerusalem is imprisoned, too. However, the Persians are not satisfied and enter the Church of Holy Sepulcher and take the Holy Cross kept in the Church. The Holy Cross had been found and installed in the Church for the Christians to worship by Hephthineh, the mother of the King Costandianos, in the beginning of the 4th century.

In 628 A. D., the Byzantine army led by the King Herakles fight against

the Persians to return the Holy Cross. The Armenian army regiment, led by Mzhez Gnounie, supported the Persian army. With the Lord’s help the Byzantine army wins the battle. The Holy Cross is solemnly brought to the Armenian town Karin, from where it is carried to Constantinople, and then – to Jerusalem. On the way the Holy Cross was raised for the people to see and worship.

For Christians the Cross is God’s power and strength and pride of all prides, on which Christ’s innocent blood was shed. By means of the Cross Jesus proved His love towards mankind, and the Cross became for us the symbol of hope, love and saving.

Source: *Qahana.am*

## History Museum of Armenia reopens permanent exhibition titled ‘Tracing the Prehistoric Man: Stone Age’

The History Museum of Armenia reopened its permanent exhibition entitled “Tracing the Prehistoric Man: Stone Age”.

“September 9 is the date of the foundation of the Museum. On September 9, 1915, the parliament of the First Republic of Armenia decided to create an anthropological and ethnological museum”, Director of the Museum Davit Poghosyan said.

The exhibition includes high-value Stone Age exhibits from the collection of the History Museum, which were found

in various ancient sites of Armenia. The leather shoe, found during the excavations in Areni-1 cave in 2008, has a special place in the exhibition.

Researcher at the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia Boris Gasparyan says that what has been found as a result of excavations in Armenia, particularly in Areni, changes the global understanding of the society’s development.

“The excavations of recent years show

that the Armenian highlands and Armenia are the second cradle of man outside Africa. We are now exhibiting quite valuable exhibits”, he said.

This is just a part of the main exhibition and the other Ages will also be displayed in the near future.

The next stage will be dedicated to the Bronze Age, and quite a big collection will be displayed.

## “Armenia Rocks” – Brian May shares impressions

Armenia Rocks, British musician and astrophysicist Brian May said as he shared impressions from the Starmus VI festival in Yerevan.

“It was highly emotional – risky – joyous – indescribable. And so quickly, after all the months of preparation, the discussions, the rehearsals, and deliberations, so quickly we were in the middle of it, and so quickly – too quickly – it was done, and we were bowing with that amazing sound of a happy audience in our ears. And again, in the quiet of the night, that feeling of

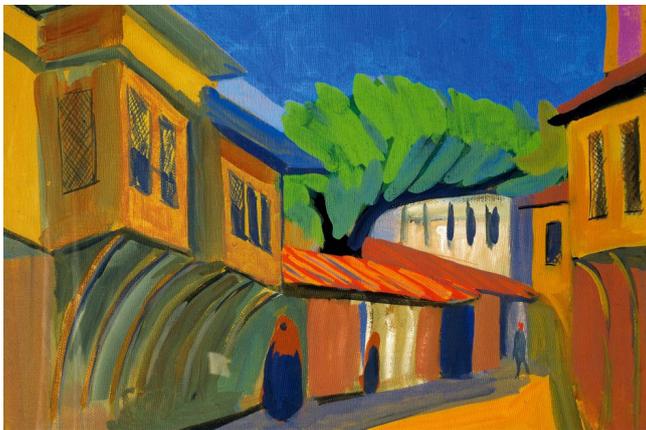


release, and relief that it all passed well, never entirely according to plan, of course, but thankfully very well, and there were no

obvious train wrecks – nothing that I need to apologies for ... well, not much!!!” May wrote.

“I can’t even put into words what that reception from you lovely Armenians for me personally meant to me – so much love – as if I were a returning long-lost child, or husband, or grandfather ... thanks so much. I felt completely at home. And I hope I will be spared to return some day – perhaps in yet another different situation. Armenia Rocks!!!” the Musician said.

## “Identity and Art”: Martiros Saryan’s virtual exhibition on the Google Arts and Culture platform



The Yerevan Biennial Art Foundation, with the support of Martiros Saryan

House Museum, is launching a virtual exhibition presenting the artists’ works on the Google Arts and Culture platform.

Google Arts & Culture is one of the most popular digital platforms in the world, representing the most prestigious international cultural institutions, museums and galleries. It

has more than 80 countries represented.

“Identity and Art” is a virtual exhibi-

tion that presents Martiros Saryan’s journey to the East. The exhibition focuses on the journey of the artist, while also presenting the historical context and political situations and the omens of the First World War and leading to the Genocide and the formation of the First Republic.

The exhibition mixes Saryan’s notes and letters with historical descriptions and observations, transporting the reader to the historical period in which the artist created.

The core of the entire exhibition is Saryan and the great role he played in the visual formulation of his newly formed state.

## I feel as young as the 36-year-old astronaut who walked on the Moon – Charles Duke

STARMUS VI is a wonderful place to meet renowned individuals and have good time, former astronaut and the youngest person to have walked on the Moon (Apollo 16 mission) Charles Duke said at a news conference. Duke was 36 years old when he walked on the Moon.

He said that this is his second visit to Armenia.

“Garik Israelian brought us to Armenia seven years ago. We’d spent about a week here, we were fascinated by the culture and history of the country,” Duke said.

Duke said the STARMUS festival is a

great place to exchange ideas and views. “Not everyone’s opinions match during lectures because this is the beauty of discussions, to listen and in case of disagreeing talk about it,” he said.

The 86-year old former astronaut, who is now one of the 4 living moonwalkers, then delivered a lecture about the Apollo programs. “Today I feel as young as the astronaut

who walked on the moon at the age of 36,” Duke said.



# ARMENIA

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## Armenian Identity Card

The goal of the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) non-profit organization is to unify Armenians worldwide in a common platform so that through contacts, queries and referenda they can express their views and positions regarding issues of general interest to Armenians around the world and issues of particular interest to Armenian communities in various countries.

Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) also makes it possible to establish business networks, the cardholder can participate in various charitable projects, and can obtain discounts from Armenian and non-Armenian businesses all over the world. Armenians should feel themselves to be full-fledged "citizens" of a reborn Armenia and the Armenian Identity Card is the «passport» for all Armenians.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

network is an effective environment where Armenians can implement various projects and pan-Armenian programs. At the heart of HyeID is the creation of an Armenian database which will become the reliable and objective basis to realize the potential of all Armenians around the world. Based on that database, it will be possible to implement various permanent and temporary initiatives through the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) organization.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.

Ensure the security and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

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