

## U.S. to promote Peace for ‘People of Karabakh’



UN - U.S. President Joe Biden addresses the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. Headquarters in New York City, September 21, 2022.

President Joe Biden has pledged continued U.S. efforts to facilitate an Armenian-Azerbaijani settlement which he said should benefit “the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.”

Congratulating Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Armenia’s independence anniversary marked on September 21, Biden also reaffirmed U.S. support for “the Armenian people’s democratic aspiration, sovereignty, and security.”

“The United States stands with Armenia as you continue working to combat corruption, develop accountable institutions, strengthen rule of law, and advance respect for human rights,” read

his congratulatory message publicized by Pashinyan’s office on September 22.

Joe Biden also said: “Recent hostilities [on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border] underscore the need to redouble our diplomacy so Armenia can look to a prosperous and peaceful future, which includes normalization of relations with neighbors.”

“We remain committed to working with you and other parties to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict, including for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh,” added the U.S. president.

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## At a meeting with EU's Michel, Armenian PM emphasizes the need for clear and addressed assessment of Azerbaijani actions



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a meeting with the President of the European Council Charles Michel in New York.

The Prime Minister referred to the large-scale aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against the sovereign territory of Armenia, as a result of which the sovereign territories of the Republic of Armenia were occupied.

PM Pashinyan emphasized the need for clear and addressed assessments of the international community, including the European Union, regarding the Azerbaijani aggression and the need for immediate withdrawal of the Azerbaijani units from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia.

The Head of the Government also referred to the cases of gross violation of international humanitarian law by Azerbaijan and the facts of targeting the civilian population and infrastructure.

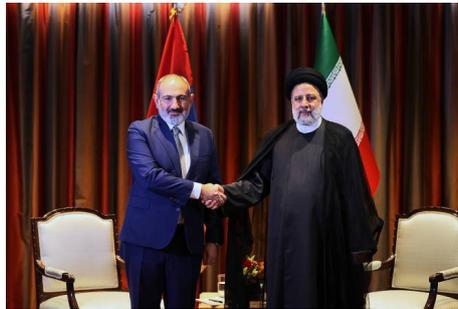
Charles Michel expressed concern regarding the maintenance of tension on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and emphasized the importance of the settlement of regional problems through peaceful negotiations. The President of the European Council reaffirmed his willingness to promote dialogue and peace.

## Iran's connection with Armenia must not be jeopardized – President Raisi reiterates inadmissibility of border changes

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi within the framework of the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York City, the Prime Minister's Office said.

PM Pashinyan spoke in detail about Azerbaijan's large-scale aggression against the sovereign territory of Armenia and its aftermath, underscoring the importance of the international community's, including Iran's adequate reaction in direction of condemning the Azerbaijani actions and withdrawal of Azerbaijani military units from sovereign territory of Armenia.

PM Pashinyan expressed content regarding Iran's clear assessments and high-



lighted close bilateral partnership in the current situation.

President Raisi said that Iran is closely following the developments and added that

all conflicts in the region must be resolved exclusively peacefully. President Raisi said that Iran's position over territorial integrity of countries and the inadmissibility of changes of borders in the region is clear and that Iran's connection with Armenia must not be jeopardized.

President Raisi said Iran is ready to support the establishment of peace in the region, adding that the issue of Armenia's security is important for Iran.

PM Pashinyan and President Raisi exchanged views on further development and expansion of cooperation between Armenia and Iran in various areas. Other issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

## Government of Spain makes decision to open permanent representation in Armenia

On September 23, Speaker of Parliament of Armenia Alen Simonyan received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Armenia Marcos Gómez Martínez, the Parliament's press service said.

The Speaker congratulated Martínez on the occasion of being appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of Armenia, wishing him further successes. Congratulating the Ambassador on the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Spain, Alen Simonyan noted that the Armenian-Spanish cooperation is based not only on the centuries-old ties of the two peoples, but also on the fundamental values of democracy, protection of human

rights and rule of law.

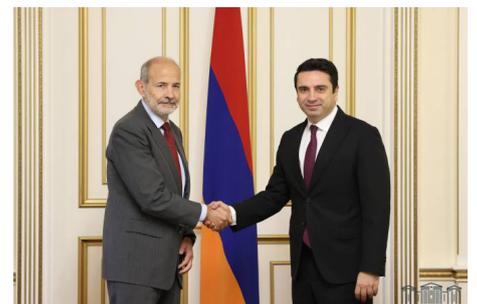
At the meeting the interlocutors affirmed the importance of the definition of activation of bilateral interaction and new perspective directions of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Speaker Simonyan expressed satisfaction with the decision of the Government of Spain to open a permanent representation in Armenia.

The sides touched upon the military aggression carried out by Azerbaijan on September 13 and the fragile ceasefire. The Speaker called on all international colleagues, including Spain, to strictly and directly condemn the Azerbaijani military aggression, the gross violations of the principle of prohibition of the threat and use

of force against the territorial integrity enshrined by the UN Charter.

Thanking the Speaker of Parliament of Armenia for reception, the Ambassador of Spain underlined that the living and dynamic democracy of Armenia is a good example, which will be laid down in the core of the further projects.



## Condemnation of Azerbaijani actions important, Pashinyan tells Blinken

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in New York within the framework of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Prime Minister referred to the large-scale aggression launched by Azerbaijan against the sovereign territory of Armenia, attaching importance to the clear positions and evaluations of the USA regarding what happened.

The Prime Minister highly appreciated Mr. Blinken's personal efforts to support the negotiation process and dialogue. Nikol Pashinyan also emphasized the importance of the international community's condemnation of Azerbaijani actions, the



withdrawal of Azerbaijani units from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, the return of Armenian prisoners of war who are still kept in Azerbaijan, and an adequate response to other humanitarian issues.

Antony Blinken emphasized the willingness of the US to continue its efforts aimed at the negotiation and peace process, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and long-term settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, including for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. The US Secretary of State emphasized the trilateral meeting with the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in New York and expressed hope that the dialogue will continue in the near future.

At the meeting, the sides also exchanged thoughts on the continuous development of Armenian-U.S. relations and other issues of mutual interest.

## “Show me the map you are ready to recognize” – PM Pashinyan addresses Aliyev in UN General Assembly speech



There is no tangible progress in the border delimitation and demarcation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, opening of regional connections and the future peace treaty because Azerbaijan is using all those topics for territorial claims against Armenia, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in his [speech](#) at the 77th session of the UN General Assembly.

“For example – one of the most important subjects of peace treaty is bilateral recognition of territorial integrity between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We have already declared that we are ready to do so, but Azerbaijan hasn't done it so far. On the contrary, Azerbaijan has been publicly voicing that the entire South and East of Armenia and even the capital city of Yerevan, is an Azerbaijani land. On the other

hand, Azerbaijan is keeping under occupation tangible territories of Armenia, and as I said the risk of new aggression by Azerbaijan remains very high.

In this regard I'm posing an official and public question to the Azerbaijani president. Could you show the map of Armenia, that you recognize or are ready to recognize as the Republic of Armenia? Why I'm asking this. Because it can come out that from the point of view of official Azerbaijan only half of Armenia and even less - is the Republic of Armenia. If Azerbaijan would recognize territorial integrity of Armenia, not theoretically, but concretely, I mean the integrity of our internationally recognized territory of 29.800 square kilometers, it would mean that we can sign peace treaty by mutually recognizing each other's territorial integrity. Otherwise, we would have a phantom peace treaty and after that Azerbaijan will use border delimitation process for new territorial claims and occupation.

As you may know bilateral commission of border delimitation and border security was formed in May and two meetings of

the commission have taken place. Before the formation of the commission, last year Azerbaijan occupied more than 40 square kilometer territories of Armenia. And then, one of the excuses of Azerbaijan about the reasons they have done this - was that Armenia, according to them, refuses to form border delimitation commission. Of course, we didn't refuse to do that but only insisted that simultaneously a mechanism of border security should be established.

In the end, according to our international partners' request, who argued that the border commission work itself will be a reliable factor for border security, we agreed to start the work. And now that border delimitation and security commission has been formed and is working, Azerbaijan initiated a new phase of aggression. And some of those international partners are silent. But what is now the explanation for aggression of Azerbaijan. You know, if someone has excess of aggressiveness the reason always will be there. As it is said in a movie it is always possible to find a reason. For example, why they killed prince Hamlet. Who killed,

## PM Pashinyan meets with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in New York within the framework of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Prime Minister referred to the large-scale aggression undertaken by Azerbaijan against the sovereign territory of Armenia on September 13, emphasizing that 36 settlements were targeted by the Azerbaijani armed forces, as a result of which the Armenian side also suffered casualties and wounded among civilians. Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the importance of the international community's condemnation of the Azerbaijani actions and the immediate withdrawal of the Azerbaijani units from the sovereign territory of the Republic of

Armenia.

The Secretary General of NATO noted that he is extremely concerned about the events that took place on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. Jens Stoltenberg emphasized the need for the settlement of regional problems through negotiations and making consistent efforts in that direction, including with the support of international partners.

At the meeting, the sides exchanged views on various issues of mutual interest.

## Armenian, Canadian Foreign Ministries hold first political consultations

On September 21, the first political consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Armenia and Canada were held in Ottawa. The Armenian side was represented by Paruyr Hovhannisyan, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia and the Canadian side by Deputy Foreign Minister Sandra McCardell.

The interlocutors discussed issues on the implementation of the report by the special envoy Stéphane Dion on supporting democracy in Armenia. Both sides highlighted the importance of Canada's decision to establish the Embassy in Armenia for the further development and expansion of Armenian-Canadian friendly relations. The cooperation within international orga-

nizations was also discussed.

Regional security problems and urgent issues of the international agenda were touched upon. In this context, Paruyr Hovhannisyan briefed upon Azerbaijan's recent aggression against the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia and its consequences, the efforts of partner countries towards achieving and maintaining ceasefire, as well as the current situation around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Within the framework of the visit, the Deputy Foreign Minister also had meetings with Deputy Foreign Minister of Canada Cindy Termorshuizen, Deputy Minister of International Trade David Morrison,



Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Senate of Canada Peter Beam, Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Minister Rob Oliphant and Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Foreign and Defense Policy Jordan Zed.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs also met with the members of the Canada-Armenia Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group. Paruyr Hovhannisyan delivered a lecture on Armenia's foreign policy at Carleton University in Ottawa.

## Mechanisms for UN's increased involvement in establishing stability in the South Caucasus discussed



On September 23, in New York, Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a meeting with United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo.

Ararat Mirzoyan presented the situation resulting from the large-scale aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia. Minister Mirzoyan considered the numerous violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces as inadmissible, stressing that they should receive adequate assessments.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia highlighted the need for targeted and clear condemnation of the aggressor by the international community, noting that non-tar-

geted responses provide fertile ground for new Azerbaijani aggressions. In this context, the Armenian side emphasized the targeted assessments delivered during the urgent session of the UN Security Council.

Views were exchanged on possible mechanisms for increasing the involvement of the United Nations for establishing stability in the South Caucasus.

Ararat Mirzoyan and Rosemary DiCarlo also discussed issues related to the agenda of Armenia-UN cooperation and democratic reforms in Armenia.

## US Embassy urges return of Azerbaijani troops to their initial positions, calls for immediate release of Armenian POWs



The US Embassy in Armenia is calling on Azerbaijan to return its troops to their initial positions, the embassy said in response to a query from [lurer.am](http://lurer.am).

Asked to assess Azerbaijan's actions towards the sovereign territory of Armenia, the US Embassy said: "There can be no military solution to the conflict, and the use of force is not acceptable. We mourn the loss of life, including reports of multi-

ple civilian deaths inside Armenia. We are glad that our continued engagement at high levels with Azerbaijan and Armenia has helped the sides reach a ceasefire, and we continue to engage on and encourage the work needed to reach a lasting peace."

Commenting on the illegal positioning of the Azerbaijani armed forces in the sovereign territory of Armenia, the US Embassy stated: "We call on Azerbaijan to return troops to their initial positions. We urge that the cessation of hostilities and disengagement of military forces be maintained, and work to resolve all outstanding issues between Armenia and Azerbaijan through peaceful negotiations continued. The United States is prepared to do whatever it can to support these efforts."

As for Azerbaijan's targeting of civilian settlements and infrastructure in the terri-

tory of Armenia, the Embassy noted: "We have observed first-hand damage to civilian infrastructure inside Armenia and have seen reports of Armenian civilian casualties, both of which are deeply concerning and underscore the need to prevent further hostilities and the importance of diplomatic engagement."

"We have seen reports of capture of Armenian servicemembers and reports of torture. The immediate, unconditional return of those captured in last week's attacks, as well as the return of all other detainees, is an important step to achieving a lasting peace. The United States condemns torture wherever and whenever it occurs and strongly urges governments to abide by their international obligations and end impunity for these crimes," the US Embassy stated.

## Deputy Mayor of Yerevan condemns use of force by police against parents of fallen soldiers in Yerablur Pantheon

Newly-appointed Deputy Mayor of Yerevan Tigran Avinyan has condemned the use of force by the police against the parents of fallen servicemen in Yerablur Military Pantheon on September 21.

"I hope the persons who are guilty will be punished. What had happened is condemnable. Investigation is underway, and it will reveal", he told reporters at a briefing.

As for the issue of shelters connected with the current situation on the border, Tigran Avinyan said that this matter is cru-

cial. "Intensive work is being done with the district heads to assess the condition of shelters and inform the residents where their shelter is in the building and what it needs to be equipped with", he said.

The Deputy Mayor of Yerevan said that he will do everything to solve the problems in Yerevan so that it residents live in the city they have dreamed of.

"I will have a discussion with the representatives of the fields I coordinate. I will first of all focus on district administration

where there is an important coordination and control work to do", he said, adding that the city needs new, technological solutions.



Former Presidents Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Robert Kocharyan and Serzh Sargsyan met on September 22 to discuss

## Catholicos Karegin II meets with former Presidents of Armenia and Republic of Artsakh

grave security challenges facing Armenia.

The meeting was hosted by Catholicos Garegin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, at his headquarters in Echmiadzin. Two former presidents of Nagorno-Karabakh, Bako Sahakyan and Arkadi Ghukasyan, also attended it.

In a statement, the church's Mother See

said that the participants of the meeting discussed "the situation in Armenia."

"It was decided to continue meetings," the statement said without giving details.

None of the ex-presidents or their offices made public statements immediately after their rare trilateral encounter.

## Armenian banks block Russian cards after new U.S. sanctions

(RFE/RL)- Some of Armenia's commercial banks have stopped processing payments via Russia's Mir cards following additional U.S. sanctions imposed on Russia earlier this month.

The Mir cards issued by the Russian central bank's National Card Payment System (NSPK) became an alternative for Russian travellers in March after Visa and MasterCard shut off their Russian networks over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The U.S. Treasury Department announced sanctions against NSPK Chief Executive Vladimir Komlev on September 15. The Financial Times daily reported that Washington is pressuring Turkey as well as the countries of the South Caucasus, Central Asia and the Persian Gulf to block the Russian payment system on their territory.

Two Turkish banks suspended use of



Mir a few days later. Uzbekistan's national UZCARD system followed suit on September 23.

It emerged that at least several of the two dozen banks operating in Armenia have also halted use of the Russian cards. None of them agreed to comment on their decision.

The development will first and foremost affect Russian tourists visiting Armenia as well as many of the thousands of Russians who have relocated to the coun-

try since the start of the war in Ukraine on February 24.

The Central Bank of Armenia (CBA) insisted, meanwhile, that it has not issued any orders or guidance to local banks regarding Mir.

"Armenia's commercial banks manage their risks, including those related to sanctions, on their own," the CBA said in a statement to RFE/RL's Armenian Service.

Central Bank data shows that Mir accounted for 17.4 percent of \$4.3 billion worth of card transactions processed in Armenia in the first half of this year.

Russian-Armenian trade soared by 42 percent, to \$1.6 billion, during the same period despite the Western economic sanctions against Moscow. Russia thus reinforced its status as Armenia's leading trading partner.

## Rosenergoatom plans to build data processing center in Armenia



Rosenergoatom, the Russian nuclear power station operations subsidiary of Atomenergoprom, is running talks for building a data processing center in Armenia, Sergey Migalin, Rosenergoatom deputy general director, said during the Kazan Digital Week international forum.

"Now we are discussing actively the possible location and concept what we

want to build and operate within Armenia's IT infrastructure", he said.

He also said that the company plans to build another data processing center near the city of Mersin in Turkey, where Rosatom is constructing a nuclear power plant. Migalin added that they are also interested in other regions, particularly Uzbekistan.

## UNDP ready to expand assistance to Armenian regions affected from Azeri attacks

Deputy Prime Minister Hambarzum Matevosyan held a meeting with Natia Natsvlishvili, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative to Armenia.

Matevosyan highly appreciated the UNDP-supported ongoing targeted support and capacity development programs aimed at the implementation of Armenia's democratic reforms and socio-economic development.



The ongoing and planned reforms in

regions of Armenia.

the civil service area were especially highlighted, including in context of broad reforms of public administration.

Deputy PM Matevosyan presented the aftermath of Azerbaijan's large-scale aggression against sovereign territory of Armenia and the Azeri military's intentional targeting of peaceful population and civilian infrastructure in Armenia. Natsvlishvili expressed concern over the situation and reiterated readiness to expand assistance for affected

## City of Ijevan, Armenia, will receive EU funding to implement its Cultural Development Strategy



The city of Ijevan has won the EU-4Culture project competition and will receive a grant of up to 300,000 euros from the European Union to implement the city's Cultural Development Strategy. The official awards ceremony took place in the office of the Mayor of Ijevan community Arthur Chagharyan with the Team leader of the EU4Culture project Anatoli Beifert, the National Coordinator and the representatives of the Ijevan team.

In the previous stage of the project, the cities of Ijevan, Sevan and Charentsavan

received an EU grant of 30,000 euros to promote the cultural development of these cities and prepare cultural development strategies. Following the evaluation of the final document, the town of Ijevan will receive 300,000 euros of funding to implement the developed strategy.

The main approaches to the cultural strategy of the city of Ijevan are decentralized cultural development and focus on Ijevan settlements, as well as the development of creative and proactive thinking among community residents. The strategy

aims to build a solid and cooperative cultural field in the extended community of Ijevan by promoting the development of the cultural economy and the preservation of cultural heritage.

In addition, the EU4Culture program will continue cooperating with the three cities above, supporting capacity building and training programs.

*“Considering local priorities and existing potential, the cities will develop a sustainable ecosystem for the cultural and creative industries. Supported by EU4Culture, the cities will learn how to use the full potential of a city for global outreach and international cultural cooperation as well as how to make a city a frontrunner for Cultural Leadership and Creative Transformation,”* said **Dr Anatoli Beifert**, Team Leader of the EU4Culture project. EU4Culture is funded by the European Union to support culture and the creative sector with a special focus on non-capital cities and towns in the Eastern Partnership Countries. The project is implemented by Goethe Institut (lead), Czech Centres, Danish Cultural Institute and Institut Français de Géorgie.

## Fly Arna: Armenian national airline receives its second Airbus A320 aircraft

Fly Arna, Armenia's national airline and a joint venture company between the Armenian National Interests Fund (ANIF) and Air Arabia Group, has received its second Airbus A320 aircraft.

This new aircraft will immediately join the fleet to serve Fly Arna's growing network of destinations, including the newest routes connecting Yerevan to Sochi and Moscow starting from September 23, 2022.

“The arrival of our second aircraft is an encouraging and exciting news for us, which comes in line with our expansion

plans. As a national airline, the comfort of our passengers is the center of our focus. We are continuously working on providing our passengers more convenient air travel options, connecting Yerevan to Moscow 14 times a week and to Sochi 3 times a week, while offering value-added products such as our inflight streaming services “Sky-Time” that caters to our passengers' taste as well as “SkyCafe” which offers Armenian products,” Fly Arna's spokesperson Gayane Antonyan said.

Fly Arna launched its operations in



June 2022 and has since launched four new routes – direct flight to Hurgada and Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt as well as Sochi and Moscow in Russia.

page 3 ➔ how, when and why – it doesn't matter. The reality is that Azerbaijan is trying and will continue to use delimitation process for territorial claims against Armenia.

Another such a topic is the opening of regional transport communication links. Azerbaijan is trying to represent Armenia as a destructive side in this discussion. The reality is, that Armenia is ready to open its roads for Azerbaijan in the framework of our national legislation. Moreover, recently the draft decision of government was published, that supposes to open three check points in the border with Azerbaijan for implementation of the article 9 of the trilateral statement from November 9, 2020. According to that draft, citizens and goods of Azerbaijan would be eligible to use the existing roads of Armenia to commute from main Azerbaijan to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. The Armenian government had political will to unilaterally accept that decision. But Azerbaijani officials tell us, that they



don't want to have those routes. What do they want? They want a new route to be constructed. It is also acceptable for Armenia, but according to the 9th article of the trilateral statement from November 9, 2020, a new route can be constructed with the consent of the sides. Armenia is ready to construct such a route which would operate according to the legislation and within sovereign control of the Republic of Armenia.

So what is the point of Azerbaijani claims? Azerbaijan is hinting that Armenia has to provide an extraterritorial corridor and according to them the 9th article of the trilateral statement from November 9, 2020

is supposed to do that. The trilateral statement is a public document and in the 9th article there is nothing about corridor, extra-territoriality etc. So what is the purpose of Azerbaijan? To create a new crisis as a pretext for a new aggression against Armenia and for a new territorial claim.

We have shared packages of proposals with Azerbaijan on the topic of opening communications, and if Azerbaijan accepts that those routes must operate according to national legislations, we can decide on this very quickly.

By the way, the trilateral statements from November 9, 2020 and January 11, 2021 imply that not only Armenia should provide roads to Azerbaijan, but Azerbaijan should provide roads to Armenia too. And we haven't received anything so far either.

As for the corridor wording, it is very important to note that in the trilateral statement from November 9, only one corridor is mentioned, and it is the Lachin corridor for Nagorno-Karabakh," Pashinyan said in his speech.

## PM Pashinyan calls for international monitoring mission at Armenia-Azerbaijan border

Addressing the 77th session of the UN General Assembly, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that international observation mission to the Armenia-Azerbaijan bordering areas would be an important factor for regional stability.

"The Armenian democracy is struggling in an atmosphere, when Azerbaijan is using force every day, to impose its plans unilaterally, to bring to the end the Armenian statehood, independence and democracy.

But I'm here to announce that we are determined to defend our democracy, in-

dependence, sovereignty and territorial integrity by all means. I want to underscore that diplomatic solutions are an absolute priority for us and the full engagement and support of international community is crucial. In this regard I would like to mention, that the international observation mission to the Armenia-Azerbaijan bordering areas would be an important factor for regional stability.

Undeniably, in the interests of regional stability and in accordance with norms and principles of international law Azerbaijani military forces must be withdrawn from

the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to stress again: we are determined to build peace in our region, but we need the full support of international community, which will stand by the sovereign and democratic country and people subjected to aggression against the norms and principles of international law.

I believe in the potential of establishing long-term stability, security and peace and Armenia is committed to continuing diplomatic efforts to this end," Pashinyan said.

## Intentional destruction of cultural heritage sites by Azerbaijan is challenge to whole mankind – FM Mirzoyan



On September 22, Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan participated in the Ministerial meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum in New York and delivered remarks, which read as follows:

“Excellences,  
Dear friends,

It is a great honor to attend this Ministerial Meeting of the Ancient Civilizations Forum, which aims to put the potential of our ancestral cultures for the advocacy of cultural diversity and peace.

I would like to thank the Republic of Iraq for conveying this meeting.

Armenia considers this Forum as a

platform for cultural dialogue and cooperation that can play a significant role in meeting the challenges that today’s globalized world is facing. We are committed to actively supporting and contributing to joint efforts on strengthening intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding and acceptance.

We are convinced that optimized multicultural collaboration,

knowledge exchange, and policies focused on fostering culturally inclusive dynamics, innovation, solidarity and sustainability can consolidate unflinching tolerance, respect for difference and peace.

Dear Friends,

As we speak, Armenian cultural heritage is being destroyed by Azerbaijan in the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh that came under their control after the 2020 war. By pursuing its policy of destruction and eradication of the Armenian culture in the region both in peacetime and during the recent war, Azerbaijan wants to deny the very essence of this heritage. It is more

than urgent for the international community to act and provide firm responses to prevent these barbaric acts that jeopardize peace efforts and the establishment of stability and security in the region. The intentional destruction of cultural heritage sites by Azerbaijan is a challenge not only to Armenia but to the whole of mankind, and it must be strongly condemned and dealt with. In this regard, we highly value UNESCO’s proposition to dispatch an independent expert mission to Nagorno-Karabakh, which so far has been and is still being blocked by Azerbaijan.

Dear colleagues,

Armenia has repeatedly expressed its readiness to collaborate with international partners to achieve fair implementation of measures aiming to protect cultural heritage and invest in global efforts to enhance intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity.

We hope that our joint efforts and dedication will allow us to pursue our commitments and further strengthen our ties and collaboration.

I thank you,” FM Mirzoyan said.

## MP Chris Law calls on UK government to condemn “brutal and barbaric” Azeri attack on Armenia, hold urgent debates

United Kingdom Member of Parliament Chris Law is calling on the UK parliament to hold urgent debates on the illegal attacks by Azerbaijan on Armenia, and urges the UK Government to condemn the atrocities committed by Azerbaijan.

“Verified videos by Human Rights Watch graphically illustrate the brutality and barbarism of Azerbaijan’s recent attack on Armenia, showing an elderly Armenian civilian decapitated with a knife and his head mounted on the carcass of a pig, and the mutilated corpse of a female Armenian soldier with her eyes gouged out and replaced by stones. It should be noted that Azerbaijan is also backed heavily by NATO member Turkey, with one Turkish political leader stating last week: ‘I remind you once again that the Turkish nation has

the power to erase Armenia from history and geography’. So can we have an urgent debate on Government time on the illegal attacks by Azerbaijan on the democracy of Armenia, and a statement from UK Government condemning all those supporting these horrific actions and hate speech,” MP Law said in remarks in the British parliament.

MP Chris Law then tweeted: “I have been saddened to see the unprovoked and unjustified attacks on Armenia by Azerbaijan, with horrifying reports and images

now being uncovered by human rights organizations. The UK Government must give an urgent statement condemning these attacks and support efforts from around the world to end this aggression and violence from Azerbaijan.”



## Azerbaijan's aggressive policy aimed at disrupting peace efforts – Armenian Deputy PM



The aggressive policy pursued by Azerbaijan is aimed at disrupting the efforts to establish peace in the region, Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan said at the sitting of the CIS Economic Council in Moscow.

He informed that shortly after midnight on September 13, the armed forces of Azerbaijan attacked the eastern and south-eastern parts of the Republic of Armenia, which is a direct encroachment on the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia.

“The aggression was carried out with the use of artillery, mortars and drones. Not only the military positions of Armenia were shelled, but also civil infrastructures in the direction of Sotk, Vardenis, Jermuk, Goris, Kapan, Artanish and Ishkhanasar settlements of Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor

and Syunik marzes. There are evidences of Azerbaijanis torturing, mutilating, and illegally killing captured Armenian servicemen. The number of people killed and missing as a result of the aggression reaches 207, including civilians,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

He noted that 192 residential houses were partially or completely destroyed, hotels, schools, medical facilities and other civil facilities were damaged.

“We have regularly received and continue to receive information regarding military air transportation from Turkey to Azerbaijan. From September 5 to 9, the Air Forces of Turkey and Azerbaijan conducted joint exercises, the declared task of which was to destroy the conventional enemy's air and ground targets,” Mher Grigoryan said.

He noted that the false accusation of the Azerbaijan, claiming that Armenia is delaying any process, works or negotiations by Armenia are unacceptable, and emphasized that Armenia has fulfilled all provisions of the trilateral statements of November 9, 2020, January 11, and No-

vember 26, 2021.

“Azerbaijan's aggression towards the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, the violation of the internationally recognized borders also aims to undermine the work of the Commission on Border Demarcation and Security between Armenia and Azerbaijan,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

He stressed that “the claim that Azerbaijan has the right to occupy the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia only because there is no demarcated border is completely unfounded.”

“Considering the seriousness of the situation, the Republic of Armenia has decided to appeal to the CSTO and the UN Security Council. We expect that effective measures will be taken by CSTO first,” Grigoryan added.

“We demand that Azerbaijan immediately take all necessary measures and actions aimed at the establishment of a complete ceasefire, the return of their armed forces to their starting positions and the immediate release of Armenian prisoners of war,” the Deputy Prime Minister said.

## Prime Minister Pashinyan meets with UN Secretary General António Guterres



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a meeting with UN Secretary General António Guterres in New York.

the Prime Minister referred to the large-

scale aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against the sovereign territory of Armenia and its consequences. The Head of the Government attached importance to the discussions held in the UN Security Council based on Armenia's application and the expression of clear and targeted positions by the UN Security Council members regarding Azerbaijani aggression.

Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the importance of the international community's adequate response about the need for immediate withdrawal of Azerbaijani units from the sovereign territory of the Repub-

lic of Armenia and the need for consistent and continuous attention to prevent new aggressions by Azerbaijan. The Head of the Government also referred to gross violations of international humanitarian law by Azerbaijan and the facts of targeting the civilian population and infrastructure.

António Guterres expressed concerns regarding the maintenance of tension on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and emphasized the importance of settling regional problems through peaceful negotiations.

## Armenian lawmakers present Azeri aggression to Belgian counterparts at friendship group meeting

Lawmakers from the Armenia-Belgium Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Armenian Parliament held a meeting with their counterparts from the Belgium-Armenia Friendship Group of the Belgian Parliament. The Belgian delegation was led by the Head of the Friendship Group Mark Demesmaeker, the parliament's press service said in a press release.

"I am grateful for your pro-Armenian activity. We appreciate your visit in this period: Armenia is going through quite difficult times. After the 44-day war most of you carried out pro-Armenian activity: remaining faithful to universal values of human rights you made statements and adopted resolutions," The Head of the Armenia-Belgium Friendship Group Armen Rustamyan said.

The meeting was held on September 22, where members of the Friendship Group Seyran Ohanyan, Artur Hovhannisyanyan, Artsvik Minasyan, Babken Tunyan, Tsovinar Vardanyan, Aleksey Sandikov, Shirak Torosyan, Tatdevos Avetisyan took part.

Armen Rustamyan informed his colleague that the Friendship Group Armenia-Belgium is one of the biggest Friendship Groups of Parliament, which has 24 members: the representatives of the parliamentary three factions are involved in it.

Mark Demesmaeker thanked his colleague for warm reception and giving an opportunity for the meeting in such format. He noted that the Armenian community of Belgium shows great support in the Armenian-Belgian cooperation. "We try to raise the issues presented by you and defend



them on all platforms. The problems of humanitarian aid are of key importance for us. We have been in Artsakh, we are rather well-informed, we are in control of situation," Mark Demesmaeker said.

The Head of Hayastan Faction Seyran Ohanyan welcomed the visit of the members of the Friendship Group in such complicated military-political situation for Armenia. He presented the provocations being continued by Azerbaijan, noting that banned weapons were used, the tortures and degradations towards people were combined with destroying the historical-cultural values. Seyran Ohanyan highlighted the condemnation of not only those actions, but also the use of relevant punitive measures.

The Secretary of the Civil Contract Faction Artur Hovhannisyanyan expressed his conviction that the delegation best understands the challenges facing Armenia and Artsakh. According to him, it is no secret that there is a dictatorial regime in the neighboring countries, Turkey and Azerbaijan, and the aggressive actions by Azerbaijan are not only due to territorial ambitions towards the Republic of Armenia, but also due to the fact that the growing pace of democracy in the Republic of

Armenia in recent years greatly worries the dictatorial regime. "We record that this is an attack not only on the internationally recognized borders and territories of the Republic of Armenia, but also on universal values, democracy. In this context, we expect the support of the EU countries, also in terms of the protection of democracy," Artur Hovhannisyanyan said, adding: "We see targeted assessments of the situation and condemning statements by a number of countries, in which it is clearly stated that the aggressor is Azerbaijan, and it is clearly recorded that the Azerbaijani troops are currently in the internationally recognized territories of the Republic of Armenia. We expect that apart from the addressed protocols, statements, condemnations, there will also be practical steps, and as a result of international pressure, we will be able to restore the territorial integrity of our country and get the aggressor out of the occupied territories."

Summarizing, Artur Hovhannisyanyan emphasized the importance of the Armenian-Belgian relations, expressing readiness to deepen the cooperation in all possible fields.

The members of the Friendship Group Armenia-Belgium noted in their speeches that the Armenian people are facing an existential threat, stressing that the genocidal policy continues, and international war crimes are being committed. The immediate return of prisoners of war, hostages and other persons being held in Azerbaijan, in accordance with international humanitarian law, was emphasized.

A number of other issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

## 12 schools in border communities of Gegharkunik province switched to remote learning following latest Azeri aggression

12 public schools in border communities of Armenia's Gegharkunik province have switched to remote learning due to the current situation created as a result of the latest Azerbaijani aggression.

Governor of Gegharkunik Karen Sargsyan told Armenpress that these schools are located in the settlements of Vardenis which have been targeted by the Azerbaijani forces, and the decision to

switch to remote learning was made for security purposes. The other educational institutions in the province operate offline.

"The total number of students involved in remote learning is 1245. I want to note that 7072 students of 36 educational institutions in Vardenis have been deprived of the right to education for a week as a result of the large-scale Azerbaijani aggression.

500 children were deprived of the right to attend kindergartens. Of course, the remote learning creates its difficulties connected with equipment opportunities. In order to solve this problem, we are working with different structures and do everything possible so that no child is left without the opportunity to study online", the Governor said.

## ‘We must be ready for greater flow of our compatriots living in Russia’—Armenia’s High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs

Along with the large flow of Russian citizens to Armenia since the launch of the military operations by Russia in Ukraine, we should be much more prepared for the greater flow of our compatriots living in Russia, something that we have not witnessed yet, High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs of Armenia Zareh Sinanyan said in an interview to ARMENPRESS, stating that at this period the number of Armenians who wish to move from Russia to Armenia is much greater compared to the previous years.

“Overall, in 2019-2022, more than 11,000 compatriots have applied to, visited or called our Office for returning to the homeland, 5000 of whom have applied in the 6 months of this year. We have provided response to all questions, as well as consulting, organizational, social and healthcare assistance. The applications mainly related to acquiring an Armenian citizenship or a residence status, registration (7000), educational (600), healthcare (600), job transfer (1000), social assistance (1000), property transfer (500) and other issues. Most of the applications were received from Russia, Lebanon, Syria, EU countries and the United States”, he said.



Mr. Sinanyan said that working groups have been set up at the efforts of his Office and the government to make manageable the flows to Armenia since the launch of the military operations in Ukraine and to ensure a maximum positive result. He stated that the main flow was from Russia, and most of the people arriving in Armenia from Russia are high-quality specialists.

“334 Ukrainian-Armenian families who returned to Armenia have applied for an assistance package, which our Office is conducting in partnership with the Armenian Missionary Association of America. I would like to note that 600 repatriated Armenians have applied to us for healthcare issues during the three years of the activity of our Office. They were mostly from Syria, Lebanon and Ukraine. All the applicants were provided with healthcare services, including complex surgeries and respective medical care”, he said.

The High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs said that the Ministry of Health, the

Izmirlyan medical center, the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Armenian General Benevolent Union have greatly assisted in this matter.

As for the quick adaptation of the repatriated Armenians, Zareh Sinanyan said that they helped 600 repatriated children to find a respective school and kindergarten in Yerevan and provinces. More than 25 Lebanese-Armenian children visited private kindergartens for free. 74 Syrian-Armenian students received a partial compensation for their tuition fees thanks to the cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner, the AGBU and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. They also assisted in preparing documents and easily overcoming the integration stage.

“We deal with almost all issues relating to the life of our repatriates so that they have no problem. We have provided more than 7000 consulting to our compatriots seeking to get an Armenian citizenship or a residence status. We have assisted in collecting, preparing their documents and passing the process as easy as possible. We have received applications on these issues from more than 20 countries.

I want to state that in 2019-2021, 27,000 foreign citizens have received citizenship of Armenia, around 5000 others have received a permanent or special residence status”, he said.

He also informed that the design of the building of the Center of Repatriation and Integration of the Office of the High Commissioner is ready and the construction will launch soon in downtown Yerevan. The Center is going to serve for all the needs of repatriation and will closely cooperate with its partners, like Repat Armenia foundation.



## Armenian Ombudsperson, EU Ambassador discuss possibility of helping people affected by Azerbaijani attacks



Human Rights Defender, Ms. Kristinne Grigoryan, received the head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin and representatives of the Delegation, the Office of the Ombudswoman said.

The Ambassador specifically thanked the Defender Ms. Grigoryan and the Human Rights Defender's Office for the

work done during these days.

Kristinne Grigoryan presented the ad hoc report published by the Human Rights Defender on September 16 and the facts from the closed part about the damages caused to the civilian population and civil infrastructures, the environment, and other crimes prohibited by international humanitarian law as a result of the Azerbaijani attack. Grigoryan briefed about the crimes committed by Azerbaijani servicemen against Armenian prisoners of war and dead military personnel.

The Defender also pointed out that the fact-finding activities continue after the publication of the ad hoc report. On September 17, the HRD working group visited Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Syunik: communities affected by the attacks of

Azerbaijani army. "The most important thing for us to do is to meet and talk to people affected by the Azerbaijani attack," the Defender said during the meeting.

The Ambassador expressed her gratitude to the HRD for the fact-finding work and the reports which were sent earlier. "It is very important to have well-founded data, so we can clearly state: yes, this is a fact, it's verified," said Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin.

The Defender emphasized the work carried out with international partners and expressed her gratitude to the Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin and the representatives of EU Delegation.

At the end of the meeting, parties discussed how they can cooperate to help people affected by Azerbaijani attacks.

## Armenia provided with international assistance for safeguarding folklore of Syunik province

In 2022 Armenia received a grant (74,855.00) USD by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund of UNESCO for the project of "Community-Based inventory, documenting and safeguarding folklore of the Syunik region", the ministry of education, science, culture and sport said.

Armenia requested an international assistance from the Fund for the aforementioned project.

The application has been prepared at the initiative of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of National Academy of Sciences of Armenia with the consulting support of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport.

This twenty-four-month project aims to inventory, document, safeguard and promote the oral heritage of the Syunik region

of Armenia. As a response to this lack of documentation and to the dwindling practice of and interest in local folklore, the project seeks to identify, collect and record the folktales, myths, legends, traditions, sayings and ritual songs of the region in order to ensure their transmission to future generations. The main objective of the project is to raise awareness of and promote Syunik folklore among local communities and to create favorable conditions for its transmission, with a focus on the roles of youth and elder community members.

Specifically, the project will include fieldwork to inventory folklore from eight communities and a series of capacity-building workshops to spread awareness about the importance of intangible cultural heritage and to promote community

members' participation in safeguarding and transmitting their intangible cultural heritage. Activities entail digitalizing the collected materials and compiling a new Syunik Intangible Cultural Heritage database. The activities will take into account the topographic and ethnographic features of the region as well as its geographical, linguistic, economic and lifestyle specificities.

On the sidelines of the project, Dr. Janet Blake, Global Facilitator for UNESCO's Capacity-building under the 2003 Convention, will visit Armenia on September 25 to provide consultancy to the team members and have meetings in Yerevan and Goris to ensure the straightforward and well-ordered implementation of the Project.

## Artsakh FM meets in U.S. Congress with a group of Congressmen, Senators and representatives of legislative wing



On September 20 and 21, the U.S. Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues or-

ganized meetings of Foreign Minister of the Republic of Artsakh David Babayan with a group of U.S. Congressmen, Senators and representatives of the legislative wing, the Artsakh Foreign Ministry said.

Issues related to the foreign policy, social-economic development of Artsakh and bilateral relations were discussed during the event.

Minister Babayan thanked the Caucus members for the warm reception and ex-

pressed hope that the close relations with the U.S. Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues would be continuous and efficient in the future as well.

Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Artsakh Lernik Hovhannisyan and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Artsakh to the USA and Canada Robert Avetisyan also participated in the meetings.

# Cafesjian Center for the Arts announces launch of “Spirit-Voice-Image” new educational program

The Cafesjian Center for the Arts (CCA) announces the launch of a new educational program, Spirit-Voice-Image, based on the exhibition, Nina Khemchyan: Echo, on display at CCA from September 23 until November 6, 2022.

“The focus of the educational program is Paris-based Armenian artist Nina Khemchyan’s sculptures, which she created inspired by Mesrop Mashtots’ sharakans.

The noise that surrounds us today is often presented as “music.” In reality, these are distorted chaotic sounds, while heavenly perfection can be perceived through silence, listening, and spiritual immersion. In music, silence is as essential as sound. If it is possible to hear sound with ordinary



senses, ears, then one mustn’t try to hear silence, but listen to it, penetrate its depths, be silent and ponder upon it.

With Spirit-Voice-Image educational program we try to contribute to the formation of musical culture basics and develop practice of listening to spiritual music.

The objective of the educational pro-

gram is to present Nina Khemchyan’s artworks and their connection with sharakans created by Mesrop Mashtots.

During the creative part of the program, participants will become acquainted with the content and melody of sharakans and try to express their impressions and feelings from spiritual music through drawing.

The program is designed for participants of ages 10+ and families.

Participation is free with prior registration.

For information and registration, please call (+374) 10 54-19-32/34,”

Cafesjian Center for the Arts said in a press release.

# Soldier’s Home Rehabilitation Center opens new department enabling full-cycle treatment

The Soldier’s Home Rehabilitation Center inaugurated a new department which will supplement the entire cycle of treatment from surgery to rehabilitation.

The department features 3 new operating rooms, an ICU department and 7 post-surgery rooms with 14 beds.

Yerevan State Medical University Rector Armen Muradyan said that this new department will enable patients to receive the full course of treatment at the Soldier’s Home, without the need of transferring to another



facility. A 24-hour patient monitoring equip-

ment is also available, and the department is adjusted for persons with disabilities.

The new surgical department will offer microsurgery, plastic surgery, orthopedic and trauma surgery, urological and other surgical services.

The renovation of the department was sponsored by Armenian Relief Society Western USA, the US-based Family Rescue Fund and Naz Bashkijian-Atikian, with participation of the Belgian government, One Armenia, Veterans of Armenia and Face of Angel.

# After Putin’s partial mobilization announcement, prices for Moscow-Yerevan tickets skyrocket, sold out

All tickets for direct flights from Moscow to Yerevan for the next few days are virtually sold out and prices have skyrocketed, aviasales.ru reports.

The average ticket price for a Moscow-Yerevan flight was 80,000 drams on September 20, but now the prices start from 800,000 drams.

Russian media reports suggest that the tickets were sold out right after President Putin declared partial mobilization.

Tickets are also sold out to other countries with which Russia has a visa-free regime.



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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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