

UN Human Rights Council adopts Genocide Prevention Resolution authored by Armenia



On March 31 the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council adopted by consensus the resolution on Prevention of Genocide.

This Resolution has been traditionally authored and initiated by Armenia. While assessing the current risks and challenges, the resolution outlines the necessary joint efforts by the UN member states to prevent the scourge of genocide, including through recognition, reparation, truth, bringing perpetrators to justice and accountability.

The Resolution enjoys wide support, which has been demonstrated through wide co-sponsorship by States from all five UN regional groups.

In its current iteration the Resolution addresses issues such as

conflict risk analysis and conflict prevention efforts, as well as the misuse of new technologies, in particular social media platforms, as well as the dangers of misinformation spread through them.

The Resolution reaffirms the need for universal ratification of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

The Resolution proposes to convene an Intersessional meeting within the framework of the UN to mark the 75th anniversary of the Convention. The meeting will also discuss the role of social media platforms and their instrumentalization by those seeking to spread hate leading to real-world discrimination and violence.

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Putin, Pashinyan Hold More Phone Talks

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan spoke by phone for the second consecutive day on April 1, discussing the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

The Kremlin reported that they continued “the exchange of opinions on maintaining stability in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.” It said they both stressed the need for “strict observance” of Armenian-Azerbaijani agreements brokered by Moscow during and after the 2020 war over Karabakh.

A statement on the phone call released by the Armenian government said the two men talked about “ongoing steps to ensure security and stability in Nagorno-Karabakh” and the “tense situation” there resulting from last week’s Azerbaijani incursion into the disputed territory.



Russia accused Azerbaijan of violating the ceasefire regime after Azerbaijani forces seized a village in eastern Karabakh and surrounding territory on March 24.

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They reportedly withdrew from the village on Monday but continue to occupy nearby hills.

Putin discussed the situation in that area with Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in separate phone calls reported on Thursday. Pashinyan told him that the Azerbaijani side may be planning “new provocations.”

Putin phoned the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders the day after the announcement of fresh face-to-face talks between them that will be hosted by the European Union’s top official, Charles Michel, in Brussels on April 6.

Armenian Deputy FM holds meetings with a number of high-ranking EU officials

From March 31 to April 1, in Brussels, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Paruyr Hovhannisian had meetings with European Union high-ranking officials, including Acting Director-General of the DG NEAR Maciej Popowski, Member of the European Parliament Isabel Santos, Deputy Managing Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia Luc Devigne, Head of the Cabinet of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the European Commission Pedro Serrano, Chief Policy Advisors to the President of the European Council Simon Mordue and Magdalena Grono.

During the meetings the interlocutors highly appreciated the effective partnership between Armenia and the European Union, touched upon the implementation of the

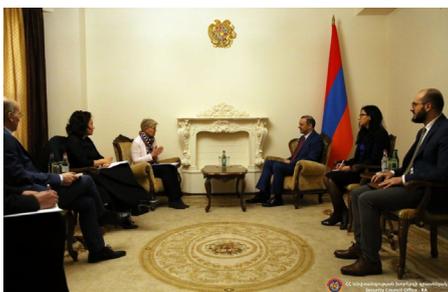
Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, discussed the prospects of the EU Eastern Partnership overall format, further process of implementation of the EaP Economic and Investment Plan and its deriving flagship initiatives, highlighted the importance of the parliamentary cooperation, as well as pointed out the remarkable achievements in the context of the Armenia-EU legal cooperation during the ongoing year.

A number of issues of mutual interest on the international and regional agenda, as well as the current situation around the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were also touched upon. In this regard, the importance of an intensification of the NK peace process under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship format was once again highlighted, and the Deputy Minis-



ter conveyed his words of gratitude to the President of the European Council Charles Michel for his continuous efforts to resolve the most important humanitarian issues and create an environment conducive to progress towards peace and reconciliation.

During the visit Deputy Minister Paruyr Hovhannisian also attended a roundtable discussion organized in the European Policy Centre, within the framework of which the sides exchanged views on the Armenia-EU relations and partnership prospects, the current situation around Nagorno Karabakh, as well as the impact of recent developments around Ukraine on Armenia and the EAEU region in general



On April 2, Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan met with a delegation of the Directorate General of Armaments of the French Armed Forces.

Armen Grigoryan presents Armenian army reforms to the delegation of French Directorate General of Armaments

The delegation was led by Lieutenant Colonel Marie-Agnes Picard-Chessel, Head of the Department for Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Central Asia, Caucasus, Turkey and Israel. At the request of the delegation, the Secretary of the Security Council presented the reforms being implemented in the military sphere.

The Secretary also detailed the strategic goals of the reforms, emphasizing that one of the goals of such large-scale reforms is the creation of a professional army. The interlocutors also discussed the perspectives of bilateral cooperation in the field of army reforms. In particular, they stressed the need for further cooperation in the field of military education.

Pashinyan, Aliyev to meet again in Brussels



European Council President Charles Michel will host fresh talks between the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Brussels on April 6, it was announced on March 30.

A spokesman for Michel gave no details of the agenda of his trilateral meeting with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and President Ilham Aliyev, saying only that it

is scheduled for April 6.

A senior European diplomat, who asked not to be identified, told RFE/RL that the three men will review recent developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone and continue discussions on achieving regional peace and stability. They will specifically focus on practical modalities of opening transport links between Armenia and Azerbaijan, said the diplomat.

Michel and French President Emmanuel Macron held a virtual meeting with Aliyev and Pashinyan on February 4. The video conference came about two months after Pashinyan's two face-to-face talks with Aliyev which were separately hosted by Macron and Michel in Brussels.

The fresh meeting of the Armenian and

Azerbaijani leaders was announced two days after Armenia offered to "immediately" start negotiations with Azerbaijan on a bilateral peace treaty sought by Baku. The offer in turn followed deadly fighting in Karabakh sparked by an Azerbaijani incursion into a local village and surrounding territory.

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday that Baku is prepared for such negotiations but expects the Armenian side to take unspecified "concrete steps" first. It said the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace deal must be based on five elements that were presented by it to Yerevan on March 10. Those include, among other things, a mutual commitment to recognize each other's territorial integrity.

Status of Nagorno Karabakh principled matter for Armenia – FM Mirzoyan

While the attention of the OSCE is mostly focused on military actions in Ukraine, we do hope the issue of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict will remain on the OSCE agenda, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at a joint press conference with visiting OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau.

"This is especially important today as the Azerbaijan is taking advantage of the geopolitical developments to continue its policy of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno Karabakh," he said.

"Vivid evidence of this is the March 24th invasion of Azerbaijani forces in the territory of Nagorno Karabakh, in the area of responsibility of the Russian peacekeepers. And this situation continues into today," Minister Mirzoyan added.

"This intrusion and the inciting of military actions were preceded by shooting in the direction of civilian settlements and infrastructure, Azerbaijan has disrupted the functioning of the only vital gas pipeline in Nagorno Karabakh and therefore the supply of gas under the severe weather conditions," the Armenian Foreign Minister stated.

He noted that the intrusion was a pre-

planned aggression, which fully ignores the commitments undertaken under the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020.

"In this situation a clear response from the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the international community is becoming imperative, and the unimpeded access of international humanitarian organizations in Nagorno Karabakh is urgent for preventing a humanitarian crisis," the Foreign Minister added.

"We note with satisfaction that the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairing countries have given a clear assessment of the latest escalation in Nagorno Karabakh, stating that it is a consequence of the movement of Azerbaijani forces," he noted.

He stressed that 1.5 years after the 44-day war Azerbaijan continues to violate the international humanitarian law, as well as the November 9 statement by holding the Armenian prisoners of war captive.

The Minister stressed that in all stages of the Karabakh conflict settlement Armenia has stood for an exceptionally peaceful resolution and continues to do so.

"As you know, Azerbaijan has transferred proposals to the Armenian side, and we have said the proposals are acceptable, noting at the same time that they do not



fully address the whole agenda of issues. We have completed this agenda with our proposals, adding that the issue of the rights of people of Artsakh and the status of Artsakh are of principled importance to us," Ararat Mirzoyan said.

"We expect that the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship will be able to organize peace talks in the near future with a view to signing a comprehensive peace treaty. We are consistent in this issue and committed to the trilateral statements of November 9, 2020, January 11 and November 26, 2021," Minister Mirzoyan said.

He reiterated the willingness of the Armenian side to take steps to strengthen stability on the borderline, and then start to the process of demarcation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Noting that negotiations are under way with Azerbaijan on the opening of regional communications. "We have made proposals in this regard and are expecting a response from Azerbaijan," he said.

Armenian Minister arrested in bribery Case

(RFE/RL) - Minister of Emergency Situations Andranik Piloyan was arrested on corruption charges late on March 30 two days after law-enforcement officers raided his ministry's headquarters in Yerevan.

Armenia's Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) said on March 31 that it also detained five other senior officials in an ongoing criminal investigation into "numerous cases" of bribery and other corrupt practices in the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

In a statement, the ACC said it charged Piloyan on three counts of large-scale bribery and asked a court to remand him in pre-trial custody.

In particular, the law-enforcement agency claimed that he received this year a hefty kickback in return for making decisions that benefited a private contractor. It did not elaborate.

The ACC said the minister was also



bribed by an unnamed person who was appointed to a senior position in the ministry's Rescue Service in January.

A total of eight individuals have been indicted in the corruption probe so far, the ACC statement said, adding that ten others currently have the status of suspects. The detainees include an adviser to Piloyan.

It was not clear whether the minister will confess to the accusations or protest his innocence in the court.

The ACC and the National Security Service (NSS) jointly searched some offices in the ministry building in Yerevan

on Monday. Piloyan went on a two-week vacation hours after the raid.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan commented on Piloyan's arrest during a weekly cabinet meeting on Thursday. He said it underscores his government's "zero tolerance of corruption."

Piloyan is a retired army general who participated in the 2020 war with Azerbaijan. During the six-week hostilities, he received Armenia's highest state award, the title of National Hero, for leading what Pashinyan called a successful Armenian counteroffensive southwest of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The award proved highly controversial seeing as Azerbaijani forces continued their advance in that area in the following days.

Pashinyan went on to appoint Piloyan as minister in November 2020 less than two weeks after a Russian-brokered ceasefire that stopped the devastating war.



Everything cannot return to normal in one day – Cavusoglu on Armenian-Turkish relations

Everything cannot return to normal in one day, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in an interview with *A Haber TV*, speaking about Armenian-Turkish relations.

"Relations with Armenia improve. In addition to positive messages, we appointed special representatives after the

elections [in Armenia]. They met face to face twice. They are constantly on the phone," the Foreign Minister said.

"We have taken steps to increase confidence. Flights have begun, some steps are being taken regarding trade," he added.

"There are also political contacts. Armenian Foreign Minister participated in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum. I wanted the three of us [Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan] to come together, but it was not possible in Antalya," the Turkish FM noted.

Cavusoglu once again said that Turkey holds consultations with Azerbaijan regarding the process of normalization with Armenia. The Turkish FM said that it is not possible to make any fundamental step without consulting with Azerbaijan. "The war is over, lessons must be drawn from it, and steps must be taken for the stability of South Caucasus. If Armenia has this same perception, both us and Azerbaijan will normalize relations with Armenia, borders will be opened, trade will start," Cavusoglu said.

Tribute to the memory of heroes of 2016 four-day war

Accompanied by Defense Minister Suren Papikyan, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan visited Yerablur Military Pantheon to pay tribute to the memory of the heroes who fell in the April 2016 four-day war and the Artsakh liberation war.

The Prime Minister laid flowers at the graves of the victims of the April war, Commander Vazgen Sargsyan and General Andranik Ozanyan.

Nikol Pashinyan laid a wreath at the memorial to the fallen freedom fighters.



UK calls for Nagorno Karabakh ceasefire to be observed – Minister

UK calls for ceasefire to be observed and supports a diplomatic solution to ensure stability and security, James Cleverly, Minister of State for Europe and North America, said in a Twitter post.

“In discussions with Ambassadors of Azerbaijan and Armenia this week I urged de-escalation of tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh. UK calls for ceasefire to be observed and supports a diplomatic solution to ensure stability and security for all in the region,” the Minister wrote.

During the meeting with James Cleverly on March 31, Armenia’s Ambassador to UK Varuzhan Nersesyan presented the latest developments in Artsakh, on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, in particular, the ongoing provocations of the Azerbaijani



jani armed forces against the civilian population of Artsakh, the incessant attempts to intimidate them, apply psychological pressure, ceasefire violations, which led to humanitarian crisis in Artsakh.

Ambassador Nersesyan stressed the necessity for urgent action by the UK and the international community to de-escalate the situation, as well as the need for a balanced

and targeted approach.

Reference was made to a number of areas of bilateral cooperation, which will contribute to the expansion of relations between the two countries.

The Ambassador also referred to the importance of the process of democratic reforms in Armenia, highly appreciating the support provided by the United Kingdom.

The parties referred to the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, noting that during this period serious work has been done to enrich the Armenian-British bilateral agenda.

All four SU-30SM jets at the base: EU, NATO defence attachés visit airbase in Armenia



On March 31, the defence attachés of the EU and NATO member states accredited in the Republic of Armenia visited the

airbase N of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Armenia.

The commander of the airbase, Air force Colonel Samvel Tavadyan presented the daily activities of the military unit to the foreign guests and answered the questions they were interested in.

Afterwards, the defence attachés visited the facilities in the military unit and were introduced to the aviation equipment.

The visiting personnel was most interested in SU 30SM aircrafts. Expressing gratitude for the reception, the defence attachés noted that during the visit they were once again convinced that all four SU-30SM aircrafts were in the home base, and the information spread in the Azerbaijani and Turkish press, claiming that the aircrafts were taking part in the hostilities in Ukraine, did not correspond to reality.

Valerie Boyer calls on France, EU and UNESCO to protect the Armenian population and heritage in Artsakh

French Senator Valerie Boyer has called on the French government, the European Union and UNESCO intervene to protect the population of Artsakh and the Armenian heritage.

“I was received several months ago by Father Hovhannes at the Monastery of Davivank. I wanted to meet him again in the Senate,” Mrs. Boyer said in a Twitter post.

“Accompanied by Monsignor Kamo Abrahamyan, they again wanted to alert me about the Azerbaijani threat,” the Senator added.

“While the international community is fully focused on the war in Ukraine, I again call on the Government, the European Union and UNESCO to intervene to protect the population and the Armenian

heritage,” she said.



Armenian Central Bank Sees Serious Fallout from Ukraine War



(RFE/RL) - Armenian economic growth will slow down considerably and inflation will remain high this year due to knock-on effects of Western sanctions imposed on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, according to the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA).

In a report released this week, the CBA said that the country's economy now faces "high uncertainty and significant risks." It predicted sizable drops in Armenian exports to Russia and multimillion-dollar remittances from Armenians working there.

Russia is Armenia's number one trading partner and export market, with bilateral trade totaling \$2.6 billion last year. The Russian ruble has depreciated sharply since the start of the assault on Ukraine on February 24.

The CBA report says that Russian-owned companies operating in Armenia will experience major "difficulties and disruptions" because of the crippling sanctions against Russia.

One such company, the Teghut mining giant, suspended operations on March 14. It employs 1,100 people and was Armenia's tenth largest corporate taxpayer in 2021.

The CBA already cut its economic growth forecast for 2022 from 5.3 percent to 1.6 percent in mid-March. A senior official from the International Monetary Fund forecast a virtually identical growth rate.

The CBA also raised its benchmark interest rate by 1.25 percentage points, citing increased inflationary pressures on the Armenian economy.

"A high inflationary environment is expected to persist in the months to come," reads the bank's latest report.

Food prices in the country went up by an average of almost 13 percent last year, reflecting a global trend. Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan warned on March 3 that fallout from the conflict in Ukraine will push them up further.

Armenia imports a large part of its wheat, cooking oil and other basic foodstuffs from Russia. Many of its citizens are already struggling to cope with the increased cost of living.

"What should pensioners do?" said one middle-aged woman in Yerevan. "Things are getting worse by the day."

Armenia, UAE governments to sign memorandum of understanding on use of labor force

The government of Armenia approved on March 31 the proposal to sign a memorandum of understanding with the United Arab Emirates about regulating the working activity of Armenian citizens in the UAE.

The signing of the memorandum will contribute to settling the working relations of Armenian citizens, who work or are ready to work in the United Arab Emirates, as well as protecting the rights and interests of working migrants.



In 2017 the UAE came up with an initiative to sign a memorandum of un-

derstanding about the use of labor force between the Armenian and the UAE governments. The Armenian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs completely amended and submitted a draft memorandum to the Foreign Ministry, including key provisions for the settlement of working relations.

During the visit of the UAE delegation to Armenia in August 2021, the provisions of the draft memorandum were discussed in details and were amended as a result of the talks.

Armenia's judiciary recognized the most independent among Eastern Partnership countries

The Eastern Partnership Index 2020-2021 has been published.

The Eastern Partnership Index 2021 charts the performance of the six Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia and Azerbaijan) and their progress towards sustainable democratic development and European integration.

The Index measures developments in

the areas of:

- Democracy and Good Governance
- Policy Convergence with the European Union
- Sustainable Development

Armenia is leading the region with regards to the independence of the judiciary – 0.71 score, following by Moldova (0.66), Georgia (0.57), Ukraine (0.56), Belarus

(0.50) and Azerbaijan (0.43).



ArmHighTech 2022: International exhibition of defense technologies opens in Yerevan

The 3rd ArmHighTech 2022 International Exhibition of Defense Technologies opened at the Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concert Complex on March 31.

President Vahagn Khachaturyan, National Assembly's Deputy Speaker Hakob Arshakyan, Acting Minister of High-Tech Industry David Sahakyan, Minister of Defense Suren Papikyan, other officials, ambassadors accredited to Armenia, guests

were present at the opening ceremony.

Addressing the President noted that this event has a special significance for him.

He voiced hope that the exhibition would create opportunities for new cooperation, joint programs, implementation of creative ideas.

"This platform will also contribute to the strengthening of our country's security systems and will stimulate the implementa-

tion of our ideas of peaceful coexistence in the region and establishment of long-term peace," said Vahagn Khachaturyan.

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament called on all compatriots to visit the exhibition with the children so that they make the right professional choice, taking into account that high technologies in Armenia are one of the important directions outlined by the Government.

Russia will present AK-15 and AK-203 assault rifles for the first time at a defense exhibition in Armenia



For the first time, Russia will present the AK-15 and AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles at the international defense exhibition ArmHighTech 2022 in Yerevan, informs the press service of Rosoboronexport, the state intermediary agency for Russia's exports/imports of defense-related and dual use products, technologies and services.

"Among the novelties of the Russian defense industry, modernized combat and military transport helicopters, the T-90MS tank, a universal armored engineering vehicle, combat vehicles based on the Boomerang universal wheeled platform, as well as AK-15 and AK Kalashnikov assault rifles will be shown," the press service said.

Rosoboronexport will also present models of aviation equipment, including weapons for the ground forces, air defense systems, small arms and protected vehicles for various purposes. The company will also show the means of radar combat against small-sized drones. In total, about 300 items of products are planned to be presented at the exhibition.

A large-scale demonstration of innovative developments and ready-made solutions in the field of modern weapons and military equipment is planned. In addition, in Yerevan, Rosoboronexport will present the broad possibilities of the Russian industry to modernize previously delivered products, including within the framework of joint activities.

The third International Exhibition of Armaments and Armored Technologies ArmHighTech 2022 will take place from March 31 to April 2 at the Sports and Concert Complex named after Karen Demirchyan in Yerevan.

Armenian deputy PM, Jordan's Minister of Investment discuss new cooperation opportunities

Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Hambarzum Matevosyan met with Jordan's Minister of Investment Khairy Amr during the visit in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the deputy PM's Office said in a news release.

The officials discussed the peculiarities of the investment climate of Armenia and Jordan, as well as the broad circle of promotion mechanisms.

The Minister of Investment of Jordan



said the Armenia-Jordan business forum 2020 in Yerevan created a great interest

among Jordanian investors. He highly appreciated the role of the Armenian community in Jordan's development.

Despite the COVID-19-related restrictions, the sides agreed to continue the active cooperation aimed at ensuring the desirable level of the partnership dynamics. Minister Khairy Amr informed about his plan to visit Armenia in the future together with the interested representatives of their business community.

‘We are ready for dialogue’ – Armenian Speaker of Parliament presents Azerbaijani provocations to CIS IPA delegates

During the session of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, Speaker of Parliament of Armenia Alen Simonyan drew the attention of the delegates to the current situation in Nagorno Karabakh, the recent Azerbaijani incursion into the area under the responsibility of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in Karabakh and highlighted the importance of the complete implementation of the trilateral statements.

In his remarks at the session, Alen Simonyan also congratulated the CIS delegates on the 30th anniversary of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly. He particularly touched upon the CIS inter-parliamentary cooperation both at inter-state and multinational formats after the signing of the Almaty declaration. He said the CIS contributed to the maintenance and strengthening of political, socio-economic and humanitarian ties, the further development of state-building of the countries in the post-Soviet space.

He assured that Armenia has always supported raising the role of the CIS IPA in international arena, strengthening the organization's partnership with international, regional organizations and partners. Talking about the role and opportunities of the parliamentary diplomacy, he highlighted it especially on matters relating to

peace and security.

Drawing the attention of the session participants to the current situation in Nagorno Karabakh, Alen Simonyan particularly presented the March 24 incursion of the Azerbaijani armed forces into the village of Parukh in Askeran region, which is under the responsibility zone of the Russian peacekeeping contingent, which, he said, is a gross violation of the 2020 November 9 trilateral statement. The Armenian Speaker of Parliament said the use of weapon and a UAV led to human losses and wounded.

“We expect that the Russian peacekeeping contingent in Nagorno Karabakh will take practical steps to settle the situation and prevent new losses and combat operations and will return the Azerbaijani troops back to their initial positions”, he said.

The Speaker called the situation in Nagorno Karabakh very tense. He said these actions could lead to a new escalation in the region amid the ongoing tense security situation in the world. Alen Simonyan said Armenia highly appreciates the Russian defense ministry's addressed statement, which, however, was countered by the Azerbaijani side. The Speaker told his colleagues that a number of post-war humanitarian problems still remain unre-

solved, particularly mentioning the issue of the Armenian prisoners of war, hostages, whose number is 38 according to the data confirmed by Azerbaijan.

The Speaker also emphasized the necessity of preserving the Armenian historical, cultural and spiritual heritage in the territories that have come under the Azerbaijani control after the war.

“The guarantee of the rights and freedoms of Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, the issue of the status of Nagorno Karabakh are fundamental and principle matters. We have repeatedly stated that this conflict is not a territorial issue, it's a matter of rights. In this context we attach importance to the complete implementation of the 2020 November 9 and the 2021 November 26 trilateral statements signed by the Prime Minister of Armenia, the Presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan. Like in the past, Armenia attaches importance to the normal relations with neighbor states. We are ready for dialogue that should lead to the establishment of lasting peace in the region, and for this reason by affirming the previously adopted stance, we propose Azerbaijan to start immediate negotiations on signing a peace treaty”, the Armenian Speaker of Parliament said in his speech.

EU hosts high-level Armenia-Azerbaijan meeting ahead of Pashinyan-Aliyev-Michel talks

The Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's Assistant Hikmet Hajiyev in Brussels on March 30, the European Union External Action Service said in a press release.

“The European Union hosted a meeting of high-level officials from Armenia and Azerbaijan in Brussels today to advance joint efforts to find solutions to a range of issues between both countries. In particular, discussions focused on preparations for the upcoming meeting between President Charles Michel of the European Council, President Ilham Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of the Republic of Armenia in Brussels on 6 April 2022.

The meeting between Secretary of the



Security Council of the Republic of Armenia, Armen Grigoryan, and Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Hikmet Hajiyev, was facilitated by EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Toivo Klaar.

During substantive discussions, which also included a separate bilateral conversation between Mr Hajiyev and Mr Grigo-

ryan, the participants reviewed the political and security situation and the full spectrum of issues between Armenia and Azerbaijan as a follow-up to the understandings reached during the meeting of leaders of both countries and President Michel, held in Brussels on 14 December 2021.

The participants agreed to meet again over the coming weeks in order to continue discussions, among others on issues raised during the leaders' meeting of 14 December 2021. Armenia and Azerbaijan will also address issues related to prospects for a peace agreement between them.

The European Union remains committed to continue its engagement towards sustainable peace and stability in the South Caucasus,” the European Union External Action Service said.



Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with the South Caucasus, MEP Marina Kaljurand has urged the immediate withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces back behind the line of contact in Nagorno Karabakh.

On Friday Mrs. Kaljurand held a video-conference meeting with the Co-Chair of the EU-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee Mr Javanshir Feyziyev.

She shared her concern about Azerbai-

MEP Marina Kaljurand urges immediate withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces

jan's unprovoked military intrusion into Nagorno- Karabakh last week, violating the ceasefire agreement of 9 November 2020.

"I urged the immediate withdrawal of forces back behind the line of contact, in line with calls from all three Minsk Group Co-Chair countries. I also recalled the European Parliament resolution of 10 March 2022 on the destruction of cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh and stressed the need for Azerbaijan to urgently allow the planned UNESCO independent technical mission to access the region and perform its work unhindered," Marina Kaljurand said in a statement following the meeting.

She also welcomed the announcement

of the meeting of the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the President of the European Council on 6 April in Brussels and expressed hope that the EU will be able to contribute to the achievement of sustainable peace in the region.

"I urged Azerbaijan to refrain from any unilateral actions that might undermine such efforts. Last but not least," she said.

"I raised my concerns and asked for additional information regarding the UK ruling on the seizure of a substantial amount of money, laundered through the so-called Azerbaijan laundromat scheme, from accounts of Mr Feyziyev's close family members," Marina Kaljurand added.

Armenian Security Council Secretary meets with Lithuanian Vice FM

Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan met with Lithuania's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mantas Adomenas during his visit to Lithuania.

Grigoryan and Adomenas discussed the regional security situation in the South Caucasus, according to a readout of the meeting released by the Security Council office.

Grigoryan presented the latest regional developments, as well as the Armenian side's approaches regarding the Arme-



nian-Azerbaijani relations, particularly the establishment of peace in the region, the

process of demarcation and delimitation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the unblocking of all economic connections.

Grigoryan and Adomenas attached importance to the course of the 2021 Armenian parliamentary election and the following democratic reforms. This all was highlighted in the context of developing bilateral relations.

Bilateral cooperation in fighting fake news was addressed. Grigoryan presented debunking evidence regarding fake news that are circulating about Armenia.

Cultural heritage in territory of Karaglukh and Parukh under danger – Artsakh Deputy Minister

Our cultural heritage in the territory of Karaglukh in Artsakh is under danger, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Artsakh Lernik Hovhannisyan said.

He said this territory is distinguished by rich historical-cultural values documenting the centuries-old history of Artsakh and the identity of the people of Artsakh.

"The territory needs further detailed research as just several months ago the State Service for Protection of Historical Environment SNCO carried out studies there and discovered more than 20 new cross-stones. This shows that Karaglukh probably has monuments that have not been discovered yet. Another painful blow is given to our cultural identity and historical-cultural heritage, the historical land-

scape is being disrupted, which is one of the evidences of our people's identity", the deputy minister said. "The policy of ethnocide by Azerbaijan has not changed. The impunity of Azerbaijani authorities leads to new crimes, which is taking place before our eyes every day under the silence of the international community. The rich historical-cultural heritage of Artsakh needs protection", he added.

The Parukh-Karaglukh site is very important from the perspective of the historical-cultural heritage of Artsakh. Karaglukh is located 10 km north-west from the town of Askeran, near a rock called Shikakar. The Shikakar fortress of the village is an important historical site and played a significant role in the defense of Artsakh.

By the 2011 decision of the govern-



ment of Artsakh, the historical-cultural monuments of Parukh were included into the state list of immovable historical and cultural monuments of Askeran region. Accordingly, there are more than 20 monuments, including 2 churches, the famous Shikakar-Karaglukh castle, cultural monuments, cemeteries, cross-stones, in the territory.

Armenia as a new destination for foreign investments: Deputy PM's interview to Investment Monitor

The primary goal of Armenia's economic policy is to build a knowledge-based, export-oriented and inclusive economy with an equally enabling environment for local and foreign companies, Deputy Prime Minister Hambarzum Matevosyan said in an [interview](#) to Investment Monitor, talking about the country's tech prowess and tourism ambitions.

"The role the technology sector plays in diversifying and, more importantly, upgrading Armenia's economy is significant. The ICT sector currently comprises about 4% of Armenia's GDP and has been playing a decisive role in forming the nation's middle class", he said.

He stated that Armenia's IT prowess has enabled the upgrading of the ICT industry into new sub-sectors, such as data science, artificial intelligence and engineering, among others, "which is key in the process of determining our niche in the global tech market".

"Often referred to as the '[Silicon Valley of the Caucasus](#)', we hope to live up to this reputation. However, instead of playing catch-up in the global race, we are focusing on building a solid technological ecosystem, where new ventures can emerge and grow in a sustainable manner", the deputy PM said. For this purpose, he noted, the Armenian government adopted a comprehensive approach towards the development of ICT sector – from preparing future talents to sustain Armenia's labour effectiveness in the long term to offering incentives and targeted support to tech companies.

"Thanks to specialized university programs, government assistance and competitive labour costs, Yerevan has been able to attract multiple renowned IT companies that currently operate in Armenia. To name a few, Adobe, EPAM, Oracle, SADA, Siemens, Synopsis, Teamviewer and VMware have hired hundreds of local specialists for their global operations. Similarly,



home-grown companies are also fueling Armenia's economic growth. Two Armenian-founded companies – Picsart and Service Titan – have already become unicorns and at least ten companies are in the process of achieving unicorn status in the next year or two, and this is something we are proud of", he noted.

The deputy PM emphasized that Armenia has the necessary tools to succeed internationally and remain competitive in terms of attracting foreign investment. Talking about the human capital and skills, he reminded that Armenia is ranked 33rd among 137 countries in the quality of its mathematics and science education. "There are free educational programmes throughout Armenia that teach youngsters programming, graphic design, 3D modelling and much more", he said.

Asked what actions are being taken to attract more investment into Armenia's technology and tourism sectors, the deputy PM said Armenia utilizes the available business platforms to ramp up investments into these sectors.

As for the COVID-19-related challenges, Hambarzum Matevosyan said "like most countries, Armenia [suffered badly from] the worldwide lockdown that unquestionably affected the tourism industry". "The silver lining, however, was the revival of domestic tourism. Locals began visiting the places they had never been before. It was this dynamic that kept the industry afloat. Armenia also maintained

a balanced approach regarding the travel restrictions and stayed relatively open to the world", he said.

"According to official statistics, the number of tourists who visited Armenia in 2021 increased by more than 130% year on year, when compared with 2020. Although it will take time for international arrivals to return to pre-pandemic levels, most tourism professionals see better prospects for 2022. We expect large waves of tourists in

the upcoming months as global restrictions become laxer. Additionally, works are ongoing to improve Armenia's broader connectivity to make travel for tourists more seamless. We have noticed that travelers are looking for new and niche destinations these days. For many visitors, Armenia is a hidden gem with a wide range of activities", deputy PM Matevosyan emphasized.

According to him, wine, culinary, luxury and extreme tourism have all picked up steam in recent years. Medical tourism is also gaining momentum due to the quality and affordability of Armenia's healthcare sector, he added. "What visitors really appreciate about Armenia is the combination of rich cultural sites, diverse nature, hospitality, and safety. For the record, there are 25,000 monuments from different eras and three UNESCO World Heritage Sites", he said.

Asked what initiatives the government is undertaking to boost the investment flows, the deputy PM said: "The primary goal of Armenia's economic policy is to build a knowledge-based, export-oriented and inclusive economy with an equally enabling environment for local and foreign companies. To this end, our everyday efforts are concentrated on making business regulations and the provision of public services more efficient, as well as providing foreign investors with necessary investment protection guarantees".

Russia-Ukraine War: This is What Happens When Compromise is Not Achieved



BY HARUT SASSOUNIAN

What is happening right now in Ukraine is the worst possible scenario for both sides, in fact all sides.

First of all, this is an enormous tragedy for the people of Ukraine who have fallen victim to the Russian invasion which should have been avoided at all costs. No one can justify the destruction of a country and the killing of innocent people. We should support peace, common sense and safety of all human beings.

Let us ignore the unrelenting propaganda, misinformation disinformation, and hypocrisy which have inundated the media before and during the war. No need to play politics or partisanship with people's lives.

Let us now move from emotional statements to the real world which can only be ignored at our own peril. Since the beginning of the world, the powerful has always imposed his will on the weak. There is no escape from this. It has always been this way and will continue to be this way. All those who believe in truth and justice are sadly mistaken. They live in a make-believe world.

Russia, as a powerful country, felt that it was being threatened by Western powers encroaching on its sphere of influence and wanted to protect its national interests. Whether we agree or disagree with the Russian view is immaterial. This is how the Russians perceive the situation. And when you are a powerful country,

right or wrong, you try to impose your will on others, one way or another. The

precedent for this situation is the Russian invasion of the Republic of Georgia in 2008 when the latter flirted with the idea of joining NATO. Russia occupies large parts of Georgia to this day.

Those in the West who have been making sanctimonious statements about big bad Russia attacking an innocent country are conveniently forgetting how the western countries themselves behaved for decades, even centuries. The imperial powers of the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, and Italy went around the world conquering dozens of smaller, poorer and weaker countries, subjugated them, plundered their natural resources, killed and wounded hundreds of thousands of natives, until they rose up and tossed the aggressors out.

The United States, the self-declared paragon of democracy and human rights, has attacked and occupied several countries in the past imposing its will around the world. The U.S. government has overthrown many leaders who have refused to toe its line and submit to America's wishes. There are dozens of such examples, the latest of which is Iraq. Who can forget the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, when the Soviet Union deployed nuclear missiles in Cuba, just 90 miles away from the United States? The two countries came to the brink of nuclear war on that occasion. There is also the long-standing U.S. policy of the Monroe Doctrine which states that any intervention in the political affairs of the Americas by foreign powers is considered a hostile act against the United States. How is this different from Putin's interpretation of Russia's sphere of influence in Eastern Europe, including Ukraine? Finally, Pres. Biden's actions against Russia are partially prompted by his intent to raise his record low rating of 37%. The latest Washington Post/ABC News poll showed that only 33% of Americans approve Biden's handling of the Russia-Ukraine crisis, while 47% disapprove.

It would have been preferable to engage in direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. As it is often said, "war is diplomacy by other means." The more outside

powers such as the United States, France and the United Kingdom meddled in this dispute, the worst it got, since each of these countries, pretending to defend Ukraine, were, in fact, pursuing their own interests. The crux of the issue is the disagreement between Russia and the West about an alleged pledge made by the West after the collapse of the Soviet Union that NATO will not expand to Eastern Europe, threatening Russia's security. Nevertheless, NATO did expand to several Eastern European countries, which Russia viewed as a hostile act.

Russia decided to impose its will on Ukraine, fearing that if it did not act promptly, Ukraine would join NATO, after which it would be impossible to neutralize the perceived danger, due to the NATO policy of "attack on one member country is deemed an attack on all."

There should have been a compromise found on both sides to avoid war. Most people thought that there would be no war and that Russia was amassing troops on Ukraine's border to pressure it to reach a compromise solution. Regrettably, the Russian attempt to influence Ukraine ended in a full scale invasion destroying large parts of the country's infrastructure and causing untold casualties. It could be that Ukraine refused to compromise relying on Western assurances that it would come to its aid militarily and economically, if it resisted Russian demands not to join NATO. In addition to providing military hardware and economic assistance, Western countries tried to block Russia's actions by issuing a series of draconian sanctions, which failed to alter its decision. The hopeful news is that Russian and Ukrainian delegations held their first direct talks on Monday and agreed to meet again.

Turning to the effects on Armenia of the war and sanctions on Russia, Armenia is caught in the middle of its alliance with and reliance on Russia and its standing with the rest of the world. As they say, when two elephants jostle, the ant gets stomped on, regardless of which elephant wins.

The biggest

➡ page 12

Facts: Anthropologist debunks Azerbaijani fake news on finding “mass graves of Khojalu victims” in Parukh

A geneticist and anthropologist debunked the Azerbaijani claims on having discovered “mass graves” of “Khojalu victims” in the village of Parukh.

The Head of Ethnogenomics Laboratory at the Institute of Molecular Biology Levon Yepiskoposyan says the images and videos released by Azerbaijan as substantiations of their claims is to say the least “unprofessional”.

Speaking to ARMENPRESS, Yepiskoposyan presented evidence which shows that the Azerbaijani claims are total fake news, and the fact that they’ve immediately deleted the images from the internet shows their unprofessionalism.

“Several grave fields had been found in

that region. Would Armenians bury Azerbaijanis in those grave fields? This is ruled out,” Yepiskoposyan said.

Moreover, the skulls seen in the images clearly show them to be long shaped skulls with a flat back – typical to Armenians living in the eastern region: meaning the images showed remains of Armenians.

Yepiskoposyan also spoke about the names released by the Azerbaijanis. “They also presented the names and surnames, dates of birth of the missing, and all are born in 1970. If we look at the skulls, none has teeth, but the teeth of young men don’t fall out in just 30 years,” he said.

The geneticist also focused on the fact that the bones which were displayed were



cleaned from tissues, whereas this process takes very long time.

Yepiskoposyan said he witnessed a case like that around 10 years ago, when in north-eastern Azerbaijan mass graves were found in a pit and the Azerbaijanis again began to falsely accuse Armenians.

page 11 ➡ problem that Armenia has is the absence of a competent leader who would be able to come up with a skillful solution to extricate itself from this extremely complicated situation. Since the start of the war, Armenia’s Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has not made an official declaration. Nevertheless, on three separate occasions, Armenia has taken sides and made statements regarding this conflict.

The most problematic action Armenia took was last Friday when the Council of Europe voted to suspend Russia’s membership in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Committee of Ministers. Armenia was the only country that voted with Russia against the measure. Forty-two countries voted yes. Turkey shrewdly abstained and Azerbaijan did not vote at all. Western countries will not look too kindly at Armenia’s support for Russia. Likewise, Russia will not look too kindly at Azerbaijan’s and Turkey’s votes. The war in Ukraine is sure to limit Turkey’s ability to walk on a tightrope between NATO and Russia. Azerbaijan’s similar tightrope walk will also be curtailed by not voting with Russia in the Council of Europe, thus undermining the declaration of “allied cooperation” signed on Feb. 22 by Russia and Azerbaijan.

Secondly, when Armenia’s Foreign

Ministry spokesman, Vahan Hunanyan, was asked if Armenia will join Russia in recognizing the “independence” of the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Lugansk, he replied: “There is no such issue on [Armenia’s] agenda.” Putin will not be pleased with that answer. He has many ways to pressure Pashinyan to toe the Russian line in this crisis.

Finally, speaking at a meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Kazakhstan on February 25, Pashinyan suggested that prompt measures be taken “to minimize or circumvent” the anti-Russia sanctions approved by the West following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The anti-Russia sanctions are sure to have a major impact on Armenia’s frail economy as Russia is Armenia’s largest trading partner. As they say, when Russia sneezes, Armenia catches a cold. The \$861 million remitted in 2021 by Armenian workers in Russia to their families in Armenia will be sharply curtailed due to the collapsing ruble and increased unemployment.

There is also a long-standing controversy between Armenia and Ukraine. Both sides accuse each other of betraying their trust and siding with their enemies. In 2014, Armenia, along with nine other countries, voted with Russia against a UN General Assembly resolution which

declared the pro-Russian Crimean referendum invalid. Armenians respond by recalling that Ukraine voted in the General Assembly in 2008, for a resolution demanding the withdrawal of “Armenian forces” from Nagorno Karabagh. President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine announced during the 2020 Artsakh war: “We support Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity and sovereignty just as Azerbaijan always supports our territorial integrity and sovereignty.” Furthermore, Ukraine sold lethal weapons to Azerbaijan prior to the 2020 war.

One should not forget that there are around 500,000 Armenians who live in Ukraine. When other countries shut down their embassies in Ukraine and withdrew their nationals, the Armenian Embassy continued functioning and Armenian nationals remained in Ukraine risking their lives.

With each passing day, more innocent civilians are being killed in Ukraine, more sanctions are being imposed on Russia and more ominous threats are being issued. Common sense should prevail before the world reaches a doomsday scenario.

The only solution is reaching a compromise through peaceful negotiations. Eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth will leave everyone blind and toothless.



The Biden Administration called for just \$24 million in U.S. assistance to Armenia in the White House Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget proposal released today – \$21 million less than what Congress allocated and the President approved for FY 2022 just weeks ago, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

“We are disappointed that President Biden’s annual budget – released in the

US President Biden proposes to cut aid for Armenia by \$21 million – ANCA

wake of a government watchdog report documenting over \$164,000,000 in U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan – flat-lines U.S. aid to Armenia at just over \$24 million and fails to include any specific dollar amount for U.S. assistance to Artsakh,” said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. “We look to our Congressional allies, coalition partners, and community activists to work through the foreign aid appropriations process to dramatically boost U.S. aid numbers for both Artsakh and Armenia.”

Similar to his budget request for FY2022, the President’s FY2023 budget

includes \$23,405,000 in foreign aid and \$600,000 in military assistance to Armenia. A separate line item in the budget calls for \$6,050,000 in International Narcotics and Law Enforcement spending in Armenia. Following broad-based Congressional outreach by the ANCA and the Armenian American community last year, the final FY2022 aid package for Armenia was increased to \$45 million and included an additional \$2 million in U.S. demining assistance for those affected by the 2020 Azerbaijan and Turkey-led attacks on Armenia and Artsakh.

We expect clear political steps from the international community, Artsakh’s Foreign Ministry

The Foreign Ministry of Artsakh issued a statement on the occasion of the 6th year of the Azerbaijani aggression, the April War. The statement runs as follows,

“Six years ago, on the night of April 2, 2016, the Azerbaijani armed forces, violating the May 12, 1994 Agreement on full cessation of fire and hostilities and February 6, 1995 Agreement on strengthening the ceasefire, launched treacherous aggression against the Republic of Artsakh.

For four days, the Azerbaijani armed forces had attempted assaults along the entire length of the Line of Contact, employing heavy weaponry, artillery and aircraft. However, after suffering heavy losses in manpower and equipment and failing to achieve its goals, the Azerbaijani side, through the mediation of the Russian Federation, was forced to cease the hostilities. But, the shelling of the border settlements of Artsakh continued until late April.

The Azerbaijani aggression was accom-

panied by numerous war crimes, including torture, premeditated murders and mockery of the bodies of the deceased, committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces against both the military personnel and the civilian population of the Republic of Artsakh.

The April 2016 aggression became a touchstone, among other things, to test the reaction of the international community to the violation of the UN Charter and international obligations by Azerbaijan. The fact that these illegal actions did not entail any serious political and legal consequences for Baku only strengthened the confidence of the Azerbaijani authorities in the permissiveness and the prevalence of force over international law.

Both the April 2016 war and the subsequent 44-day aggression of Azerbaijan in 2020, despite their local nature, became a real test for the entire system of international relations. Impunity for unleashing aggressive wars has led to the undermining



of such fundamental principles of international law as non-use of force, peaceful settlement of disputes, conscientious fulfillment of international obligations, etc.

Taking into account that the Azerbaijani authorities refuse to negotiate for a peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijan-Karabagh conflict, continue to violate their obligations and do not halt the aggressive actions, we expect the international community to take concrete political steps to guarantee the realization by the people of Artsakh of their collective human rights and freedoms, without any restrictions”.

“Emotional” – Moscow comments on Russian lawmaker’s suggestion to bomb Azeri oil infrastructure over Karabakh violations

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov urges to refrain from making emotional statements on Nagorno Karabakh as Russia is making efforts to resolve the situation, RIA Novosti reported.

Peskov made the comments regarding Russian State Duma Deputy Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee Mikhail Delyagin’s statement suggesting that Rus-

sia should deliver nuclear strikes at Azerbaijani oil infrastructures after Azerbaijan breached the Nagorno Karabakh peace-keeping area.

“This statement doesn’t anyhow reflect the official position of Russia,” Peskov said, adding that Delyagin made a “statement on personal emotional level.”

“Certainly, we’d call for restraining

those emotions and refraining from such statements, moreover against our partners. Azerbaijan is among our partner countries, especially in conditions when Russia is making vigorous efforts for the preservation of peace in Karabakh and implementation of respective obligations by all parties,” Peskov said, according to RIA Novosti.



Armenia is participating for the first time in Artozymia International Exhibition of Bakery and Confectionery which will be held in the Thessaloniki International Exhibition Centre from the 2nd to the 4th of April, 2022.

The Exhibition takes place alongside the Detrop Boutique Show, which hosts the major food and beverage companies in Greece. Both shows with their original thematic features highlight the modern trends of food and beverage sectors.

A wide range of Armenian products will be presented at the show, including the leg-

Armenia participating in Artozymia International Exhibition of Bakery and Confectionery in Thessaloniki

endary brandy ArArAt, the world famous ZULAL, ARMENIA WINE, KARAS, ARAME wines, legendary ZORAH – one of the best 10 wines of the world, according to Bloomberg, the multi-award winning KILIKIA beer, JERMUK and BJNI mineral waters as well as NOYAN Premium juices and sweets. For the first time wine labels ARMAS and OSHIN will be presented to the Greek consumers.

Armenia's participation is organized by the Hellenic-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as part of an annual series of events dedicated to the 30th anniversary of establishment of the Chamber back in 1992. The event is held under the



auspices of the Embassy of Armenia to the Hellenic Republic

Chamber's staff will be available at the booth to provide important information about doing business with Armenia.

USC Institute of Armenian Studies traveling throughout Southern California to invite people to record their life stories

With a mobile studio in a retrofitted food truck, USC Institute of Armenian Studies is traveling throughout Southern California to encourage and invite people to record their life stories, *Asbarez* reports.

[#MyArmenianStory](#) is a crowd-sourced oral history project that has thus far gathered nearly 100 interviews from around the world. The purpose of the project is to record, gather, and document individual stories and reconstitute them as part of the national story. The method is simple: enlist anyone who is willing to interview and/or be interviewed to discover and record family stories and more. Everyone's story is relevant, and together, they all make up the Armenian Story.

The Armenian experience of the 20th and 21st centuries is ingrained in the memories of the generations who lived it – California Armenians who lived in Boyle Heights, Hollywood and Pasadena, Soviet citizens who lived to see Armenian independence, and those caught in the Lebanese Civil War or the Iranian Revolution, refugees from Syria and Iraq, and so many others. These are Armenian stories that have individual value to families, but collectively, are essential history sources for

scholars and creatives.

The Los Angeles County and the cities of Los Angeles, Glendale, and Pasadena celebrate Armenian heritage during the month of April and this is an opportunity to partner with city and community organizations to commemorate and remember in a way that is meaningful and lasting.

The mobile studio, housed in a bright taco truck in University of Southern California colors, can be found throughout Southern California. Individuals wanting to interview and be interviewed will be seated inside the truck, given guidelines and questions, and their conversation will be recorded.

For those interested in just being interviewed or would like to volunteer to do the interviewing, the Institute staff is ready to make a match. The testimony will be made available to the participants. And, anyone can receive detailed information and instructions on how to conduct interviews at home with loved ones, in person or remotely.

The ambition is to collect as many stories as possible for future reference as a primary source for scholars and artists interested in the global Armenian experience.



The recordings will be archived at USC Digital Libraries, and in other regional and global collections, thus accessible to researchers around the world.

While the mobile [#MyArmenianStory](#) Mobile Studio will travel for one month, the project as a whole will continue. Armenians around the world are encouraged to participate in this important initiative by interviewing and sharing their stories with the Institute. Questionnaires, guidelines and all needed information is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian, as well as Eastern and Western Armenian.

Established in 2005, the USC Institute of Armenian Studies supports multidisciplinary scholarship to re-define, explore and study the complex issues that make up the contemporary Armenian experience—from post-genocide to the developing Republic of Armenia to the evolving diaspora. The institute encourages research, publications and public service, and promotes links among the global academic and Armenian communities.

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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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