

Artsakh's capital city under intense missile attack from Azerbaijan



The Azerbaijani armed forces are again striking Stepanakert, the capital city of Artsakh. The strikes are so intense that sometimes the activated air raid sirens can't be heard.

Most Stepanakert residents have stayed in bomb shelters since the outbreak of the war on September 27. Artsakh officials said that the city was hit by Polonez and Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems used by the Azerbaijani army

Arayik Harutyunyan, the Artsakh president, accused Azerbaijan of deliberately targeting the Armenian- civilian population. In a Facebook post, Harutyunyan said that in response to that Artsakh Defense army has decided to strike “major military facilities located in Azerbaijan’s large cities.”

“I call on Azerbaijani civilians to quickly leave those cities to avoid possible losses,” he wrote.

A spokesman for Harutyunyan claimed afterwards that Artsakh forces have destroyed a military airfield in Gyanja, Azerbaijan’s second largest city located a few dozen kilometers from the Armenian-Azerbaijani “line of contact” around Artsakh.

The Artsakh Defense army said, for its part, that it is “dealing powerful blows to very important military facilities located deep inside Azerbaijan.”

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Aggressive joint actions of Azerbaijan and Turkey undermine regional security and peace – Armenian MFA



The aggressive joint actions of Azerbaijan and Turkey and the use of foreign terrorist fighters have been undermining regional security and peace, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The Ministry welcomed the fact that the

Minsk Group Co-Chairs at the level of their leaders reacted to the use of force in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone by way of strong condemnation.

“Armenia has been consistently rejecting and condemning the threat or use of force

by Azerbaijan and the direct involvement of Turkey in the hostilities against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh,” the Ministry said.

“The aggressive joint actions of Azerbaijan and Turkey and the use of foreign terrorist fighters have been undermining regional security and peace, significantly raising the risks of a full-fledged war. This aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh must immediately cease,” it added.

The Foreign Ministry said Armenia remains committed to the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. “While this aggression against Nagorno Karabakh will continue to receive our strong and resolute response, we stand ready to engage with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries to re-establish a ceasefire regime based on the 1994-1995 agreements.”

Russia urges to prevent the involvement of Syrian mercenaries in the Karabakh conflict

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement, commenting on reports on the presence of Syrian mercenaries in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone.

“According to incoming information, militants of illegal armed groups, in particular from Syria, Libya, are being transferred to the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in order to directly participate in hostilities,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.



“We are deeply concerned about these processes, which lead not only to an even greater escalation of tension in the conflict zone, but also create long-term threats to the security of all countries in the region,” it added.

The Foreign Ministry called on the leaderships of the states concerned to take effective measures to prevent the involvement of foreign terrorists and mercenaries in the conflict and ensure their immediate withdrawal from the region.

Legendary commander Karen Jalavyan named Hero of Artsakh

Legendary commander Karen Jalavyan has been bestowed the highest title of the Hero of Artsakh.

Artsakh’s President Arayik Harutyunyan says he made the decision taking into account Karen Jalavyan’s personal feats and



those of the units he led, as well as the strong contribution he made to the defense of the Homeland.

The President announced the news by sending a special radio message to the soldiers in different parts of the frontline.

Armenian PM says Turkey taking new genocidal path

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan accused Turkey of “once again advancing on a genocidal path” and said Ankara’s military was directly leading an offensive by Azerbaijani forces against Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh).

“The situation is much more serious (than previous clashes in 2016). It would be more appropriate to compare it with what happened in 1915, when more than 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered during the first genocide of the 20th century,” Pashinyan told *Le Figaro* newspaper in an interview published late on Thursday.

“The Turkish state, which continues to deny the past, is once again venturing down a genocidal path,” he said.

Pashinyan said Turkey had sent thousands



of Syrian mercenaries to the region and Turkish military officers were directly involved in leading the Azerbaijani offensive.

“The world must be aware of what is going on here,” he said.

“Turkey’s wish is to strengthen its role and influence in the South Caucasus. It’s pursuing the dream of building an empire imitating the Sultanate and it is embarking on a path that could set the region ablaze,” the Prime Minister stated.

“Russia, France and Iran have already acknowledged the involvement of the Turkish army in the large-scale offensive launched against Artsakh on September 27. Senior Turkish officials have publicly confirmed their support for Azerbaijan, in political and diplomatic terms, but also on the battlefield,” Pashinyan stated.

“They are using drones and Turkish F-16s to bomb civilian areas in Nagorno-Karabakh. The international community, especially the American public, should be aware that US-made F-16s are currently being used to kill Armenians in this conflict. There is evidence that Turkish military commanders are directly involved in directing the offensive. Ankara provided Baku with military vehicles, weapons, and advisers,” the Armenian PM stated.

Turkey has crossed the red line: Macron accuses Erdogan of sending ‘jihadists’ to Azerbaijan



French President Emmanuel Macron on October 2 demanded that Turkey explain what he said was the arrival of jihadist fighters in Azerbaijan – and urged NATO to face up to its ally’s actions, the AFP reports.

“A red line has been crossed, which is unacceptable,” Macron said. “I urge all NATO partners to face up to the behavior of a NATO member.”

“France’s response is to ask Turkey for an explanation on this point,” he said.

Macron was speaking after a summit in Brussels at which EU leaders agreed to threaten Turkey with sanctions over its gas drilling in Cypriot waters.

But the French leader was also infuriated by events in disputed Nagorno-Karabakh, where there has been heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces.

He alleged that intelligence reports had established that 300 Syrian fighters drawn from “jihadist groups” from the Syrian city of Aleppo had passed through the Turkish city of Gaziantep en route for Azerbaijan.

“These fighters are known, tracked and identified,” he alleged, adding that he would call Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan “in the coming days.”

Macron this week condemned what he called Turkey’s “reckless and dangerous” statements backing Azerbaijan.

Artsakh forces strike Ganja airbase

The Artsakh Defense Army has struck Azerbaijan's Ganja airbase, the Armenian Unified Infocenter informs.

Military planes flying from the airport have carried out aggression not only in Artsakh but also in Armenia.

Our forces have taken out the Ganja airbase. As a reminder: that airfield served as a base for Azeri air attacks into not only Artsakh but Armenia as well.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia officially declares that no fire is being opened in the direction of Azerbaijan from the ter-



ritory of Armenia.

Earlier on October 4 Artsakh President Arayik Harutyunyan said "the Azerbaijani terrorist army continues to target the civil-

ian population of Stepanakert, using Polonez and Smerch multiple rocket launchers."

"From now on, military facilities permanently located in major cities of Azerbaijan become the targets of the Defense Army," The President stated.

He called on the people of Azerbaijan to leave these cities as soon as possible to avoid possible losses.

"All military responsibility lies with the military-political leadership of Azerbaijan," Harutyunyan said.

The Aliyev family will answer for everything, Artsakh President says

The Aliyev family will answer for everything, Artsakh's President Arayik Harutyunyan said in an address on October 4.

He called on everyone to fight against the Azerbaijani authorities, but not the people of Artsakh.

"I want all Armenians to understand that the people of Azerbaijan are a hostage in the hands of its dictatorial leadership and Turkey, because people are suffering due to their false geopolitical



aspirations and their grip on power," President Harutyunyan said.

"They are suffering because the peaceful

population is going to feel the problems and consequences of all this. The Azerbaijani people will be the victim of its own leadership and Turkey," Harutyunyan added.

"Therefore, we must struggle united across the world against the authorities in Azerbaijan," he said, urging to struggle in a civilized way in this stage.

"Aliyev's family will answer for everything," he stated.

Azerbaijani UAV hit in the airspace of Armenia's Kotayk Province



The Armenian Air Defense Forces downed an Azerbaijani unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in the air space of the Kotayk Province, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Defense Shushan Stepanyan informs.

Earlier, the Defense Ministry said air defense is working on the territory of Armenia, and there is no reason for panic.

Turkey's presence in NATO must be questioned: Francois Hollande attends pro-Armenian rally in Alfortville



François Hollande, the former President of France, responded to the invitation of the mayor of Alfortville Luc Carvounas to participative in a rally condemning the Turkish-Azerbaijani offensive against

Artsakh, *Le Parisien* reports.

"A step has been taken with the bombing of civilian populations," François Hollande stated. We end up with a war to conquer a territory. Turkey's presence in NATO must be questioned," Hollande stated.

"Does Erdogan still have his place in NATO?" Luc Carvounas said, in turn. "No!" answered the angry crowd.

"I welcome the initiative of the mayor of Alfortville to organize this rally for peace in Nagorno Karabakh. This war has been killing soldiers and many civilians for eight

days. France, with Russia and the US must impose a ceasefire and the resumption of dialogue," Hollande said in a Twitter post.

Nearly 700 people took part in a rally of support to Armenia in "the most Armenian city in France" this Sunday."

The wish of all the demonstrators was obviously to call on France to get more involved in the conflict to help the Armenians.

In 2017, a friendship charter was signed Alfortville and the town of Berdzor located in Artsakh.

Armenia Demands Turkey's 'Removal from South Caucasus'

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has demanded the withdrawal of Turkish military personnel and Middle Eastern "terrorists" from Azerbaijan, saying that is essential for stopping fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone.

"Turkey's military personnel and the Turkish armed forces are directly engaged in the hostilities," he told the Canadian daily *Globe and Mail* in an interview published late on Friday. "Turkey's NATO allies must explain why these F-16 jets are shelling towns and villages in Nagorno-Karabakh and killing civilian populations."

Pashinyan also stood by Armenian claims that Ankara recruited Turkish-backed Islamist fighters in Syria and sent them to fight in Karabakh on the Azerbaijani side.

"A ceasefire can be established only if Turkey is removed from the South Caucasus," he added.

Ankara maintains that Turkish warplanes, attack drones and military are not involved in the hostilities that broke out on September 27. It also denies deploying Syrian mercenaries in Azerbaijan. Baku denies that too.

France has also alleged such deployment, with President Emmanuel Macron saying that at least 300 "Syrian fighters from jihadist groups" were flown from Turkey to Azerbaijan ahead of the flare-up of violence in Karabakh. "I urge all NATO partners to face up to the behavior of a NATO member," Macron said on Friday.

Russia has also accused, albeit implicitly, Ankara of sending "terrorists and mercenaries" to the conflict zone. It has de-

manded their "immediate withdrawal from the region."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reacted cautiously to Macron's claims backed up by Western media reports. "I hope it's not the case," Pompeo told reporters on Friday.

"We saw Syrian fighters taken from the battlefields in Syria to Libya," he said. "That created more instability, more turbulence, more conflict, more fighting, less peace. I think it would do the same thing in the conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh as well. So, I hope that reporting proves inaccurate."

Commenting on Turkish involvement in the Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute, Pompeo said Washington disapproves of "third parties bringing ammunitions, weapon systems, even just advisors and allies" to the conflict zone.

The United States, Russia and France have long been leading international efforts to broker an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace deal in their capacity as co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group. The presidents of the three mediating powers called for an "immediate cessation of hostilities" in a joint statement on Thursday. They also urged Armenia and Azerbaijan to "commit without delay to resuming substantive negotiations."

Yerevan welcomed the statement, saying it is willing to engage in peace talks mediated by the Minsk Group co-chairs.

By contrast, Baku effectively rejected the mediators' appeal. "In order to stop the violence Armenia must withdraw its troops

from Nagorno-Karabakh," said a senior aide to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan likewise said the mediators should instead "demand that the Armenians pull their troops out of Azerbaijan." He condemned their long-running peace efforts as a gross failure.

In an interview with Al Jazeera aired on Saturday, Aliyev said the U.S., Russia and France should "continue working together on settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict" provided that they "remain neutral." In an apparent reference to France, he said statements made by some of the co-chair countries in recent days indicate a pro-Armenian bias.

Incidentally, Macron spoke with Aliyev and Pashinyan separately on the phone late on Friday. The French president said in a statement that he proposed a new method to restart talks within the Minsk Group format. He did not elaborate.

Pashinyan too was interviewed by Al Jazeera on Saturday. He told the international TV network that renewed peace talks with Baku are conditional on an end to what he described as Azerbaijan's "aggression" against Karabakh.

"I can say with confidence that the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh will not retreat in the face of the aggression," the Armenian premier said as large-scale hostilities continued along the Armenian-Azerbaijani "line of contact" around Karabakh. He further made clear that Armenia will remain the "guarantor" of the disputed territory's independence.

We eye only victory at the end of this struggle: Armenian PM addresses the nation



the heavy fighting on the front lines. For a week now, the Artsakh Defense Army, our volunteer detachments have been fighting to the death on the sacred land of Artsakh. At the moment we already have a lot of casualties among military and civilians, a large number of military equipment is out of order, but the enemy

telephone conversations last night with the commanders of the Defense Regions of the Artsakh Defense Army, the commanders of divisions, even a number of privates, officers and non-commissioned officers on the front lines.

I told them that I love everyone, I am proud of them and I bow to them. I told them that the Armenian nation, which has tasted the incomparable taste of victory thanks to its martyrs and living heroes, no longer agrees with any other destiny.

We eye victory, only victory, exclusively victory at the end of this struggle. Today, hours ago, the Artsakh Defense Army carried out active counter-offensive operations and achieved significant success, defeating several special units of the enemy.

No matter how abundant the flow of mercenaries, our enemy cannot compete with the Armenian will to live and win, and we must work together to break the backbone of the attacking enemy so that it never again, never direct its criminal hands towards us, never turns its bloody gaze on our homeland.

Dear people,

Proud citizens of the Republic of Armenia,

Proud citizens of the Republic of Artsakh, Proud Armenians of the Diaspora,

This is a new Sardarapat, and each of us must dedicate himself to one goal, and the name of that goal is victory. The name of that goal is victory.

And each of us must be ready to be at the forefront of that victory at any moment. And we will win. And we will definitely win. And do not doubt that we will definitely win.

And so,

Long live Freedom!

Long live the Republic of Armenia!

Long live the Republic of Artsakh!

And long live our children who will live in a Free and Happy Armenia!

Glory to the fallen heroes.

Glory to the victorious Armenian army.

Glory to the victorious Armenian people.

Dear people,

Proud citizens of the Republic of Armenia,

Proud citizens of the Republic of Artsakh, Proud Armenians in the Diaspora,

For almost a week now, the Armenian people in Artsakh and Armenia have been resisting the Azerbaijani-Turkish terrorist attack. The scale of the attack is unprecedented, the enemy is attacking on a scale that, according to military experts, in the 21st century has not often happened anywhere in the world, in any of the conflict zones.

Hundreds of tanks and infantry fighting vehicles, thousands of shells and missiles, dozens of planes, hundreds of drones and tens of thousands of troops have been attacking the positions of the Artsakh Defense Army along the entire line of contact for a week now.

Our analysis of the previous day showed that about 150 to 200 soldiers of the enemy are attacking one combat position of the Artsakh Defense Army. Moreover, such attacks are repeated several times a day, accompanied by the support of missiles and traditional artillery, armored vehicles, aircraft, drones. According to our military, in addition to the Azerbaijani army units, Syrian mercenaries and terrorists, special units of the Turkish army are involved in the attacks.

According to our information, about 150 high-ranking servicemen of the Turkish army are in the command posts of different units of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and lead the military operations.

This description itself should testify to

has not been able to solve any strategic problem.

The resilience with which our soldiers, officers, generals and freedom fighters withstood this heinous attack is unbelievable. Our soldiers and volunteers spare nothing and show incredible examples of heroism. Today on the battlefield there are hundreds of destroyed armored vehicles of the enemy, dozens of planes and helicopters, hundreds of drones, the enemy's loss in manpower exceeds several thousand.

At the moment, the heavy fighting continues in different parts of the front line, in some places the troops of the Defense Army are in a rather difficult situation, in some places they confidently keep the situation under control.

Dear compatriots, brothers and sisters,

We live in perhaps the most crucial phase of our millennial history. Azerbaijani-Turkish bands are not only pursuing a military or military-political issue. They have not come only for Karabakh or the Karabakh issue. They have not come just to conquer territories, villages or cities. Their goal is the Armenians, their goal is to continue their policy of the Armenian Genocide, and they have set a goal to continue the Armenian Genocide today.

But today, I want to say that now the Armenian, the citizen of the Republic of Armenia, the citizen of the Republic of Artsakh, is no longer the wanderer of Der Zor. Today, more than ever, we are imbued with an indestructible determination to defend our identity, our homeland, our rights.

I am convinced of that after having had

France's Macron proposes new talks on Nagorno-Karabakh



French President Emmanuel Macron said in a statement he had spoken on the phone successively with the prime minister of Armenia and the president of Azerbaijan about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and had proposed a new method to restart

talks within the Minsk group, *Reuters* reports.

Macron said work would start from Friday evening, as he upped his efforts to broker mediation in his role as co-chair of the OSCE Minsk group.

He also reiterated his call for a ceasefire.

Earlier on October 2 Nikol Pashinyan and Emmanuel Macron discussed the

situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the latest developments in hostilities.

The Prime Minister thanked France for its principled and constructive position as to the inadmissibility of launching mili-

tary action. The parties decried the fact of involving foreign terrorist militants in the ongoing hostilities.

The President of France stressed the need for immediate cessation of hostilities and resumption of the peace process in accordance with the October 1 statement issued by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

Prime Minister Pashinyan considered unacceptable the infiltration of Turkey-backed terrorists into the region. He emphasized that regional security could not be restored without ousting those destabilizing forces. In the context of reinstatement of peace, Nikol Pashinyan highlighted the importance of close cooperation between the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and their countries.

Greeks, Serbs and others sending Snickers bars with messages to Armenian soldiers



There is a custom emerging on the frontlines of Artsakh that may first appear to be unusual, but very heart warming, which must be boosting the morale of Armenian soldiers on the front lines fighting against the Turkish-sponsored Azerbaijani invasion attempt, the Greek City Times writes.

Soldiers are asking for Snickers because it is a form of childhood currency where you would use the chocolate bars to make bets instead of using real money.

Armenian soldiers are asking for Snickers so they can use it as currency to make bets with each other whether their strikes against Azerbaijani soldiers and Syrian ter-

rorists were successful or not.

However, girls around Armenia are now sending Snicker bars and writing notes on them to send to front line Armenian soldiers.

Seeing this on social media, Greeks and many other people around the world, including Serbians, Russians, South Americans and others, were moved by this and started sending Snickers bars with messages attached to Armenian soldiers on the frontlines.

With coordination from Narine, a local to Yerevan, people from around the world send their messages to her so they can be attached to Snickers bars to be given to Armenian soldiers.

Athenian women wrote to the Armenian soldiers, who are yet to receive the messages and chocolate bars, "we admire you for your courage," "stay strong Armenian hero," and one even giving her Twitter

handle to whichever soldier will receive her message.

Athenian men sent messages as well, including "don't forget [you] have the Greeks support," "stray strong, stray proud, stay



alive!" and "strength and honor brothers."

"One man from Serbia also wrote that "there won't be another genocide [...] the Serbs are with you, brothers!"

Messages have also come from across the world, including Russia, England and Sweden.

Recognition of the Republic of Artsakh the shortest way to restoring peace and stability – MFA

Reports on the involvement by Azerbaijan of foreign fighters and mercenaries affiliated with various terrorist and extremist organizations in the aggression against the Republic of Artsakh are receiving documentary evidence, the Artsakh Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

According to numerous reports, including from various independent sources, Turkey has recruited several thousand foreign fighters and mercenaries in Middle East countries and through its territory has been transferring them to Azerbaijan for direct participation in hostilities against the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia. Some of them have already taken part in the battles against the Artsakh Defense Army and suffered losses. “The methods used by Azerbaijan and Turkey that are inherent to rogue countries, pose a serious security threat not only to the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia, but also to all countries of the region and the international order as a whole. We recall that during the war of 1991-1994, Azerbaijan also resorted to the help of foreign fighters and mercenaries. However, this did not help Azerbaijan to avoid a mil-



itary defeat,” the Ministry said.

“Involvement of foreign fighters and mercenaries in the conflict zone was the main factor that contributed to the transformation of Azerbaijan in the mid and late 1990s into a transit country for smuggling of drugs to Russia and Europe, as well as a transit point for terrorists, where the organization and financing of their terrorist activities was carried out. In order to avoid a repetition of such a scenario, the international community must take decisive steps right now,” it added.

In this regard, the Ministry noted that the use, recruitment, financing, protection and training of foreign fighters and mercenaries is prohibited by numerous international

legal norms, which are binding, including for Azerbaijan and Turkey. Moreover, realizing the importance of collective fight against the activities of foreign fighters and mercenaries, the international community obliges states to prevent and suppress such practices.

“Neglecting the elementary rules of international

co-existence, deliberately and systematically violating their own commitments, pursuing a criminal line in their foreign policy, Azerbaijan and Turkey not only openly oppose themselves to the world community, but also directly threaten its security,” the Foreign Ministry stated.

“We emphasize that in the current situation, when the calls of the international community for peace are not only rejected, but also subjected to harsh criticism from the political leadership of both Turkey and Azerbaijan, the shortest path to restoring peace and stability in the region is the international recognition of the Republic of Artsakh,” the Ministry stated.

Iran will not allow terrorist groups to turn its northern borders into a threat to national security – MFA

Iran will not allow terrorist groups to turn the areas adjacent to the northern borders of the country into a threat to their national security, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has said.

The comments come after reports emerged on the transfer of PKK fighters, as well as PJAK and Wahhabi terrorists to the Caucasus.

“The transfer of clashes to the Caucasus will bring a much larger catastrophe than the Karabakh conflict,” the Spokesperson



stated.

Evidence grew this week that Turkey has recruited Syrian mercenaries to fight against Armenia.

The mounting evidence was supported by

numerous Syrians who spoke to Reuters, The Guardian and the BBC.

The BBC published an interview with a Syrian, who revealed that he had been recruited by one of the commanders of the pro-Turkish Syrian National Army and was now in Azerbaijan.

He was offered to protect military facilities for \$2,000 a month, and was not expected to participate in hostilities. They entered Azerbaijan through the territory of Turkey.

Canada probes alleged use of its tech in Armenian-Azerbaijani clashes – Trudeau

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said “it actually happened,” Trudeau told a news conference on October 2 an investigation has been launched into the alleged use of Canadian military technologies in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, *AFP* reports.

Local media reported that Canadian imaging and targeting systems on unmanned drones are being used by Azerbaijan in clashes with Armenia.

Arms-control advocates have documented the sale of the Wescam gear to Turkey, a close ally of Azerbaijan.

“In regards to the Canadian military equipment that may have been used in this situation, the minister of foreign affairs (Francois-Philippe Champagne) has launched an investigation into what ex-



ference.

“It is extremely important that the terms of Canada’s expectations of non-violation of human rights is always respected and we will have more to say as more becomes clear.”

Ottawa announced in October 2019 a

freeze on the issuing of export permits for military shipments to Turkey, after its incursions against Kurds in northern Syria.

But it was lifted in May.

A government official said if it is now determined that the military technologies have been misused, Ottawa will cancel export permits for related shipments.

Ankara is backing its long-time ally Baku in the fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Trudeau said his government is “extremely concerned about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh,” calling for a “de-escalation of hostilities.”

“There is no question, there is not a military solution to this conflict,” he said. “It can only be resolved through proper dialogue and engagement.”

Syrian recruit describes role of foreign fighters in Nagorno-Karabakh – The Guardian

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Armenia recalls envoy from Israel

Armenia said on October 1 that it is recalling its ambassador to Israel in protest against continuing supplies of Israeli weapons to Azerbaijan.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Anna Naghdalyan, said Israel did not halt the supplies even after the September 27 outbreak of large-scale hostilities around Nagorno-Karabakh that have prompted serious concern from the international community.

“The Israeli side is continuing arms supplies to Azerbaijan and this is unacceptable to us,” Naghdalyan told journalists. “Based on the current situation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided to recall Armenia’s ambassador to Israel for consultations.”

The move came just two weeks after the Armenian Embassy in Tel Aviv was inaugurated by Ambassador Armen Smbatyan



in the presence of a senior official from the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The Armenian government had decided to open the mission in September 2019 in hopes of improving Armenia’s relations with Israel.

Those relations have long been frosty, reflecting differing geopolitical priorities of the two states. Also, Yerevan has for years expressed concern over billions of dollars’ worth of advanced weapons, including sophisticated drones and missiles, which Israeli defense companies have sold, with the Israeli government’s blessing, to Azer-

baijan over the past decade.

The Armenian military says that Azerbaijani forces are heavily using Israeli-made attack drones in the ongoing military operations in Karabakh.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has released purported footage of attacks on Karabakh Armenian frontline positions carried out with such weapons. Karabakh authorities say they have also struck civilian infrastructure in Stepanakert and other Karabakh towns and villages.

Reports from Israel have said that in the past last few days Azerbaijani transport planes carried out several flights between Baku and a remote Israeli airfield. Observers have speculated that they delivered more Israeli weapons to Azerbaijan.

At least over 100 Armenian soldiers and 11 civilians have died during five days of heavy fighting on the Karabakh frontlines.

Canada needs to pick a side as Nagorno-Karabakh tensions rise, Armenian PM says

Armenia and Azerbaijan are on the brink of all-out war over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. But it’s Turkey that Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan sees as his country’s real enemy in the conflict.

In an exclusive interview with *The Globe and Mail*, Mr. Pashinyan said his country is on a “civilizational front line” – and that countries such as Canada that are allied to Turkey, via NATO, need to decide which side they are on.

Mr. Pashinyan said Turkey had encouraged what looks to be a full-scale attempt by Azerbaijan to recapture Nagorno-Karabakh. He said Turkey had sent Syrian mercenaries to aid the Azerbaijani side – a statement supported by Russia and France – and that the Turkish air force had also attacked Armenian positions.

“Turkey’s military personnel and the



Turkish armed forces are directly engaged in the hostilities,” Mr. Pashinyan said by telephone from the Armenian capital of Yerevan. “Turkey’s NATO allies must explain why these F-16 jets are shelling towns and villages in Nagorno-Karabakh and killing civilian populations.”

Mr. Pashinyan also called for Western countries to reconsider weapons sales to Turkey.

He said Turkey’s role in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan should

be viewed in the context of Turkey’s involvement in conflicts in Syria and Libya – where Ankara has backed factions in those countries’ lengthy civil wars – as well as Turkey’s “aggressive” stand toward Greece and Cyprus over maritime borders in the Mediterranean Sea.

“Terrorists imported from the Middle East are fighting on the side of Azerbaijan, under Turkey’s sponsorship. How could anyone propose now to leave the population of Nagorno-Karabakh unprotected, facing terrorists and extremists?” the Prime Minister said. “A ceasefire can be established only if Turkey is removed from the South Caucasus.”

Mr. Pashinyan cast Mr. Erdogan as a leader with dreams of restoring the Ottoman Empire. “A hundred years have passed and Turkey has returned to the South Caucasus, in order to continue the Armenian genocide here.”

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: Civilians bearing brunt of surge in violence



As the recent escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict worsens, civilians are bearing the brunt of the surge in violence, the *International Committee of the Red Cross* said on October 2.

Civilian deaths and injuries, including of children, have been reported on both sides of the line of contact, and in Armenia. “Since the escalation started, the ICRC has provided emergency medical supplies to hospitals and body bags to the forensic bureau in Nagorno-Karabakh. We are currently trying to assess health-related and other humanitarian needs, including the situation of those who have left their homes. Our ability to move in the field is limited because of the intensity of fighting and the volatility of the situation,” said Bertrand Lamon, ICRC’s head of mission in Nagorno-Karabakh.

“We are already seeing the terrible impact this escalation is having on civilians. The ICRC is ready to assist where needed, when conditions allow it, including supporting the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society’s local branches as they work in the

community,” said Gerardo Moloeznik, the head of ICRC’s sub-delegation in, Barda, Azerbaijan.

The ICRC has received reports of people trying to move themselves and their families to safety. Many other families, including babies and young children, are spending days and nights sheltering in the unheated basements of their buildings, in an effort to escape the violence.

There are also reports of hundreds of homes and civilian infrastructure such as schools and hospitals destroyed by heavy artillery. Where buildings have been damaged, people are exposed to the dangers of unexploded ordnances.

This new upheaval comes at the onset of winter, with children just weeks into their school term and when people are already trying to protect themselves and their families from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

“People have been in touch with the ICRC who are terrified for themselves and their families and at a loss as to where to go or what to do to stay safe. They are caught in

the crossfire and deeply fearful for their safety and future. We are committed to helping all those who are feeling the impact of this escalation in violence. We call on the sides to protect civilians and the key infrastructure and services they need to survive, and abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law,” said Martin Schüepp, ICRC’s Eurasia regional director in Geneva.

The ICRC is extremely worried that the current turmoil and displacement may lead to a surge of COVID-19 cases due to people taking refuge in shelters for hours or being accommodated in communal buildings or places with inadequate sanitation.

Additionally, this escalation will take a toll on the mental health of the population, who have already lived with the impact of this conflict for almost 30 years and are now anxious about their health and future due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ICRC has been present in the region since 1992 carrying out humanitarian work in connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Through the delegations in Baku and Yerevan and the mission in Nagorno-Karabakh, the ICRC supports communities living along the line of contact and international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The ICRC also works to clarify the fate of missing persons and help their families, visits detainees and acts as a neutral intermediary to facilitate transfer and repatriation of released persons or the return of the bodies of deceased soldiers.

We collaborate closely with the Armenian Red Cross and the Azerbaijani Red Crescent, coordinating activities aimed at assisting people affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict across the region.

Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem calls on President Rivlin to stop delivery of Israeli weapons to Azerbaijan

Armenian Patriarch to Jerusalem, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian has sent a letter to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, urging him to stop the supply of Israeli weapons to Azerbaijan.

Th letter reads:

His Excellency Mr. Reuven Rivlin
President of State of Israel
Jerusalem

Your Excellency,

Since September 27, 2020, the Azerbaijani army has been attacking the peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave in the Caucasus region. A heavy and destructive war is being waged along the entire border line between Azerbaijani and Armenian forces. Due to Azerbaijani aggressive activities, there have been reported hundreds of deaths and



wounded civilians and soldiers.

Mr. President, it is sad and painful to be informed by the Israeli news media that the war planes being used by Azerbaijan are being supplied by Israel. The weapons, drones and artilleries sent from Israel are being used against peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh causing deaths and injuries. Such an effort implies that Israel, who needs more peace, is siding with

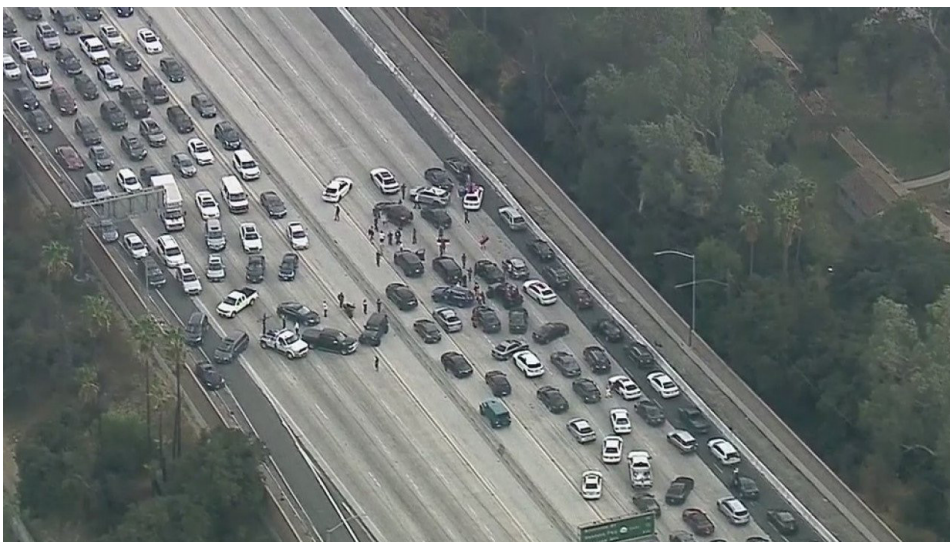
Azerbaijan to revive its war and animosity against Armenians, instead of playing a peace-seeking role.

By this letter we appeal to Your Excellency, to interfere with your government to stop supplying weapons to Azerbaijan. You are a person with a peace-loving character, and someone who knows well the sufferings of your people through Holocaust and pogroms, therefore, we rely on

your conscience and judgment to do your best to stop Israel supporting an aggressor enemy, Azerbaijan, to harm the peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia.

We always pray for your health, wishing a prosperous career, and we are hopeful that with your mediation our request will have a positive result.

Protesters block 170 Freeway in North Hollywood to bring attention to Karabakh Conflict



Protesters in support of Armenia temporarily blocked both sides of the 170 Freeway in North Hollywood on Sunday evening to bring attention to the ongoing hostilities in Nagorno Karabakh, *Fox 11* re-

ports.

The demonstrators draped themselves with Armenian flags and occupied freeway lanes, prompting traffic to come to a standstill.

This is the second day of consecutive protests in L.A. County organized by Armenian human rights groups.

On Saturday, protesters gathered on the 101 Freeway to draw attention to support Armenia in its conflict with Azerbaijan.

Dozens of people also attended another protest in Glendale in support of Armenia to speak out against a “second genocide” at the hands of Azerbaijan.

Mayor Eric Garcetti said on Sunday that he stands with the people of Armenia.

“L.A. is proud to be home to the largest Armenian diaspora. We stand with the people of Armenia. I urge our leaders in Washington to conduct the sustained and rigorous diplomacy necessary to bring peace to the Artsakh region. Turkey must disengage,” Garcetti tweeted.

Armenia's Patriotic Leading Telecom Operator: AMD 0/min in Fighting Artsakh and "Z" tariff plan to be provided free of charge to its citizens



Viva-MTS sets 0 AMD/minute tariff for its subscribers in Artsakh for calls to Viva-MTS as well as to Artsakh mobile and fixed networks (incoming and outgoing); the tariff for SMSs to the above-mentioned mobile networks will also be AMD 0.

Viva-MTS would also like to inform that the tariff per 1 minute and SMS from the Company's network to Artsakh networks will be AMD 0, too.

Additional notice will be given on the expiry date of the mentioned tariffs.

The possibility of application of the mentioned tariffs is conditioned by the announcement of free services of communication in Artsakh effective till 1 January 2021.

AND...

Viva-MTS informs that starting from October 2, 2020 the citizens of Artsakh who are in the territory of the Repub-

lic of Armenia can use Viva-MTS "Z" tariff plan free of charge for one month.

Within the tariff plan, the subscriber gets:

- Ability to use ZOOM, SKYPE, VIBER, WHATSAPP, MESSENGER, ZANGI, TELEGRAM applications (when using the mentioned applications while the packages provided by the tariff plan are active, the megabytes of

the main Internet-package are not consumed. Zoom, Skype: till 31.10.2020, inclusively);

- 3 GB internet;
- 200 minutes (within the network, to RA networks, Artsakh networks, USA, Canada, MTS Russia, "Vodafone

Ukraine" [until 31.12.2020, inclusive]); - 10 000 on-net minutes (200 minutes after consuming the package), as well as the ability to send 200 SMS to the RA mobile networks.

Each person with an Artsakh passport can get only one SIM card to activate the "Z" tariff plan.

To subscribe to the tariff plan, visit Viva-MTS service center.

*But the life is going on,
and...*

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Unlimited "Twitter" is available to "X" tariff plan pre-paid and post-paid subscribers, "Y" tariff plan pre-paid and post-paid subscribers, and "Z" tariff plan subscribers.

The service is currently available and is automatically activated for subscribers with the active package of the above-mentioned tariff plans.

The offer is valid till 31 October 2020, inclusively.



Armenia's Independence Celebrated in Three Baltic States: A Huge Job Done by the Armenian Embassy

Continued from #1301 28 September 2020

Presenting the historical significance of the Declaration of Independence of Armenia, the Ambassador described it as one of the most significant political documents of current history. Presenting the changes that took place in Armenia after the independence, Ambassador Mkrtchyan noted .”The democratic route, democracy in general in our country and abroad, is something that is maintained and developed through daily struggle and daily work.”

“In 2018, after the Velvet Revolution, the path of reforms in our country is irreversible, and the struggle for democracy is inevitable. Armenia continues to develop despite the existential threats posed to it by two neighboring countries from the east and west.”



considered it a great achievement to hold such a high-quality cultural event in one of the most important historical places of Estonia in the conditions of the epidemic, expressing hope that in the coming months

ing it.

The Brussels-based “Akhtamar” quartet played at the event, performing the works of Joseph Haydn, Claude Debussy and Komitas. The musical part was followed by a reception. A concert and reception dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of Armenia and the Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia was held at the historic Rundale Palace in Latvia.



The ambassador underlined the importance of the achievements in the Armenian-Estonian relations at the current stage and referred to the contacts that took place between the Armenian and Estonian political leaderships in last year. T. Mkrtchyan

there would be an opportunity to implement other planned initiatives.

Concluding his speech, Ambassador Mkrtchyan thanked the Armenian-Estonian Society, personified by its leader Razmik Ivanyan, for always standing by the Embassy and support-



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