

Russian FM Hosts Fresh Armenian-Azeri Talks



Russia - Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov meets his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts in Moscow, July 25, 2023.

Azerbaijan’s illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor and Nagorno Karabakh complicates the negotiation process, Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan stated on July 25 at the trilateral meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, which took place in Moscow.

Mirzoyan emphasized that the meetings and negotiations are quite intense. On some issues there are concrete results, on some issues perspectives are visible where the parties can reach a mutual agreement, but there are also problematic issues on which the positions of the two sides are very far from each other.

“We are constructive and conduct negotiations on all platforms and in all directions. Alas, the situation in the world, in particular, Azerbaijan’s illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor and Nagorno-Karabakh complicates the negotiation process,” the Armenian FM said.

He emphasized that there is now a serious humanitarian

crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the situation is close to a real humanitarian disaster. “The situation is getting more serious hour by hour. Neither food nor medicine enters Nagorno-Karabakh, the supply of gas and electricity is stopped, and if we do not manage to find a solution and Azerbaijan does not stop the blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh, the humanitarian disaster will have a negative impact on the overall negotiation process. However, I repeat that the Armenian side is constructive. We will continue the negotiations,” the Armenian FM concluded.

Sergey Lavrov emphasized that Russia is interested in peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

“Our efforts are aimed at stabilizing the situation both on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, as well as solving humanitarian problems, unblocking economic and transport links, developing communication between people, civil societies, experts-political scientists,” he said.

Read on page 2

Sergey Lavrov assesses the results of the Moscow meeting of Armenian, Azerbaijani, Russian FMs productive

p. 2

Aghdam should not be seen as an alternative to the re-opening of the Lachin corridor, said Josep Borrell

p. 4

Foreign ambassadors visit entrance to Lachin Corridor as relief convoy remains blocked by Azerbaijan for 2nd day

p.3

Armenia values Iran’s principled stance on territorial integrity – FM

p. 5

Sergey Lavrov assesses the results of the Moscow meeting of Armenian, Azerbaijani, Russian FM's productive

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov made a comment on the results of trilateral talks with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan.

Citing the official website of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the comment reads as follows,

“Today we held productive talks with our colleagues: the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan J.A.Bayramov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia A.S.Mirzoyan.

First, two rounds of bilateral Russian-Azerbaijani and Russian-Armenian negotiations were organized. We discussed the state of our bilateral relations and outlined further steps to implement the agreements reached at the highest levels. Then the three of us met to discuss the regional agenda, primarily with regard to the situation in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

We presented to our interlocutors the assessments of the Russian side, taking into account the reports made by the Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh, the steps that it is highly desirable to take promptly, without delay in the interests of providing the population of Karabakh with food, medicine, basic necessities, and ensuring uninterrupted electricity and gas supply. This is in the interests of ordinary people, Armenians, residents of the region.

Russia, as a key mediator in the peace process since the signing of the trilateral declaration of the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia on November 9, 2020, is interested in resolving the crisis as soon as possible in full accordance with the tripartite statements that the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia adopted in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

We spoke about another important provision of these agreements. I mean ensuring unhindered movement, unblocking

transport and economic communications throughout the region.

Particular attention was paid to the issues of delimitation, which are closely related to the entire set of issues under discussion, and the issues of the early conclusion of a peace treaty between Baku and Yerevan.

We hope that the signing of that treaty will be the culmination of the large-scale negotiation process, which will bring to end the efforts of Armenians and Azerbaijanis initiated during their tripartite meetings with President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

The path is not easy. There are many complex and important issues to be resolved. The most sensitive of them was and remains the issue of guaranteeing the rights and security of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh in the context of ensuring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan in full accordance with the 1991 Declaration signed by the leaders of the former Soviet republics in Alma-Ata. Its effectiveness has been confirmed today by both the Azerbaijani and Armenian leadership. The work on the peace treaty is being built in accordance with this.

The Armenian side understands the need to convince the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh to meet as soon as possible with Azerbaijani representatives to agree on the rights arising from the relevant legislation and from international obligations (in this case, of Azerbaijan), including numerous conventions on ensuring the rights of national minorities.

The Azerbaijani side is ready to provide the same guarantees on a reciprocal basis with respect to persons living on its territory. Armenians are ready to do the same with respect to the application of all conventions to citizens residing in the Republic of Armenia.

The issues are not easy. I hope that today's discussions will help give a positive impetus to the negotiation process in



these and other areas. The closest result at this stage is the achievement of an agreement in a trilateral working group headed by three deputy prime ministers who are engaged in agreeing on specific issues of unblocking transport communications in the region. In this context, prospects will also open up for the implementation of promising projects in the transport sector, which already have not only a regional, but also a wider character.

We agreed to try to resume the dialogue along the second “track” between representatives of civil society and political experts. We also hope (we proposed this today) to start a trilateral dialogue through parliamentarians.

We hope that the negotiation process will continue. We understand the interest of both the Armenian and Azerbaijani sides to rely on mediators not only in the person of the Russian Federation, but also others. We welcome the desire of those who are sincerely interested in helping Baku and Yerevan find agreements, who, like us, are working in this direction. But there should be no attempts to artificially impose certain agreements not based on the interests of the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples, but for the sake of beautiful headlines in the media, for the sake of geopolitical and domestic political considerations.

Our colleagues thanked us for this initiative. We will continue vigorous work on preparing further meetings, and there are plans to hold another summit of the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia this year.”

Foreign ambassadors visit entrance to Lachin Corridor as relief convoy remains blocked by Azerbaijan for 2nd day

Representatives of the diplomatic corps in Armenia visited on July 28 the village of Kornidzor in the Syunik Province where a humanitarian convoy carrying emergency food and medical aid to Nagorno-Karabakh remains blocked by Azerbaijan at the entrance of Lachin Corridor.

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Vahan Kostanyan is accompanying the foreign ambassadors.

The members of the diplomatic corps took stock of the situation on the ground.

Governor of Syunik Robert Ghukasyan briefed the ambassadors on the situation.

On July 25, the Government of Armenia said that it will try to send over 360 tons of flour, cooking oil, sugar, and other food-stuffs and medication to Nagorno-Karabakh to mitigate the humanitarian crisis resulting from the blockade of Lachin Corridor. Armenia requested the Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh to escort the aid. Armenia has also requested Azerbaijan to not obstruct the convoy.

On Thursday, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said Azerbaijan would only corroborate Armenia's fears that Baku seeks to commit genocide in Nagorno-Karabakh if the convoy gets blocked.

Lachin Corridor, the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and



the rest of the world, has been blocked by Azerbaijan since late 2022. The Azerbaijani blockade constitutes a gross violation of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire agreement, which established that the 5km-wide Lachin Corridor shall be under the control of Russian peacekeepers. Furthermore, on February 22, 2023 the United Nations' highest court – the International Court of Justice (ICJ) - ordered Azerbaijan to “take all steps at its disposal” to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.

Azerbaijan has been ignoring the order ever since. Moreover, Azerbaijan then illegally installed a checkpoint on Lachin Corridor. The blockade has led to shortages of essential products such as food and medication. Azerbaijan has also cut off gas and power supply into Nagorno-Karabakh, with officials warning that Baku seeks to commit ethnic cleansing against Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. Hospitals have suspended normal operations and the Red Cross has been facilitating the medical evacuations of patients.

Armenians in Yerevan and Stepanakert hold rally demanding to lift the blockade of Artsakh



With the national anthem of the Republic of Artsakh, a popular rally was launched on July 25 in Stepanakert Renaissance Square and parallel in Yerevan's Freedom Squares with the demand to lift

the blockade of Artsakh and respect the right of its people to self-determination.

The correspondent of ARMENPRESS reports, Bishop Ter Vrtanes Abrahamyan, Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church addressed the participants of the rally from Yerevan's Freedom Square. “Today's reality comes to remind us once again that the Artsakh movement is not over and is still going on. It should become for us like daily bread, it should become a way of life, a mission, an idea and a struggle. During the Artsakh movement, thousands of Armenians became heroes and immortalized. We must

make no mistakes under their spiritual look, but by becoming a united fist with the whole nation, we should bring that movement to its good end, a free, independent Artsakh,” said the Bishop, conveying to the people of Artsakh the fatherly love and prayers of His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians.

Artsakh Republic President Arayik Harutyunyan, National Assembly Speaker Artur Tovmasyan, State Minister Gurgen Nersisyan, and other officials are also participating in the rally in Stepanakert's Renaissance Square.

Aghdam should not be seen as an alternative to the reopening of the Lachin corridor, said Josep Borrell

The European Union has called on the Azerbaijani authorities to reopen the Lachin Corridor.

In a statement, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Josep Borrell said “to supply goods via the city of Aghdam should not be seen as an alternative to the reopening of the Lachin corridor”.

“The European Union is deeply concerned about the serious humanitarian situation affecting the local population in the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. The movement through the Lachin corridor remains obstructed for more than seven months, despite Orders

by the International Court of Justice to reopen it.

Medical supplies and essential goods are in short supply or have already run out, with dire consequences for the local population. It is incumbent on the Azerbaijani authorities to guarantee safety and freedom of movement along the Lachin corridor imminently and not to permit the crisis to escalate further.

We took note of the expressed readiness of the Azerbaijani authorities to also supply goods via the city of Aghdam. This should not be seen as an alternative to the reopening of the Lachin corridor. The EU also notes that ICRC activities in the region

have been heavily impacted and calls for their full resumption, including medical evacuations and humanitarian supplies. The EU stresses that humanitarian access must not be politicized by any actors.

The European Union, and in particular President of the European Council Charles Michel, has been heavily engaged in supporting the normalisation process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as in promoting a dialogue between Baku and Stepanakert/Khankendi. This also requires the genuine commitment of all sides to negotiated outcomes and a future built on common interests and mutual trust”.

France calls on Azerbaijan to restore free movement through the Lachin Corridor

France calls on Azerbaijan to fulfill its international obligations, in particular, to fulfill the February 22 decision of the International Court of Justice and to ensure free movement through the Lachin Corridor, this was emphasized in the statement issued by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs regarding the blocking of the Lachin corridor.

“France expresses its regret on the occasion of Azerbaijan’s persistent blocking of the Lachin Corridor, which contradicts the obligations undertaken under the ceasefire agreement and harms the negotiation process,” the statement said.

France expresses its full support for the July 26 statement of the High

Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy regarding the humanitarian situation affecting the population of Nagorno Karabakh.

“France calls on Azerbaijan to fulfill its international obligations, in particular, to apply the provisional measures mentioned in the decision of the International Court of February 22, which are mandatory. France calls for the restoration of the free movement of cargo, people and goods in both directions through the Lachin Corridor and the continuous supply of gas and electricity to the population,” the Ministry’s statement said.

The statement also recalls the message of the Minister of Europe and Foreign

Affairs during his visit to Armenia and Azerbaijan at the end of April: France, together with the EU, remains fully committed to the establishment of a stable and just peace in the region.

On July 26, 361 tons of humanitarian aid was sent from Armenia to Nagorno Karabakh in 19 trucks. On July 26, the humanitarian aid reached Kornidzor, the entrance to Lachin Corridor. Armenia requested that the representatives of the Russian peacekeeping troops stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh accept the cargo and transport it to Nagorno-Karabakh, where a humanitarian crisis has been established as a result of the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor for 8 months.

The EU mission in RA monitors the humanitarian cargo going to Artsakh

The EU observation mission stationed in Armenia monitors the progress of humanitarian cargo going from Armenia to Artsakh.

“Today, Head of EUMA Markus Ritter together with our monitors closely follows the ongoing movement on the road leading to the entrance of the Lachin corridor from

the Armenian side to get first-hand and verified information on current developments”,-said on Twitter post.

The Government of Armenia has approved sending humanitarian aid to blockaded Artsakh. Today, 19 trucks loaded with humanitarian aid will deliver 400

tons of humanitarian aid to Kornidzor, from where it is planned to transfer the humanitarian aid to the people of Artsakh, who have been under siege for 227 days, through Russian peacekeepers.

Trucks with humanitarian aid for Artsakh reach Kornidzor.

Armenia values Iran's principled stance on territorial integrity – FM

The Republic of Armenia and the Armenian people attach great importance to the rich historical relations with the neighbouring and friendly Islamic Republic of Iran, and we are confident that high-level visits and contacts are aimed at strengthening our ties in the long term, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian in Tehran.

“For us, Iran has always been and will remain a special partner, including in overcoming challenges in the current difficult conditions,” he said.

The Foreign Minister noted that based on mutual respect and understanding, the continuous and uninterrupted bilateral friendly relations are developing dynamically, “we are enriching the agenda of the partnership between the two countries through joint efforts and outline new prospects for cooperation.”

“Attaching great importance to the benchmark outlined by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran on increasing the volume of bilateral trade turnover up to \$3 billion, we stressed the consistency of joint economic programs and the importance of their completion,” FM Mirzoyan said after talks with his Iranian counterpart.

He stressed that cooperation in the fields of trade, energy, transport and road infrastructure plays a special role on our agenda, and emphasised that the implementation of the programs of international transport routes ‘North-South Road Corridor’ and ‘Persian Gulf-Black Sea’ is of great importance.

“Trilateral formats with the participation of Armenia and Iran also serve as an interesting platform for cooperation: we were glad to host the first Armenia-Iran-India consultations in Yerevan this year. We attach great importance to this trilateral cooperation and are confident that it has significant potential for multifaceted cooperation,” the Foreign Minister noted.

Among the substantive achievements of bilateral cooperation he pointed to the



opening of the Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran in Kapan last year, the logical continuation of which is the works on the establishment of the Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia in Tabriz.

“The strong Armenian-Iranian ties are proven by the constant attention and care at the high state level towards the historical and cultural heritage and monuments of our two countries. I am pleased to note that a few days ago, our diplomats made a pilgrimage to St. Thaddeus Apostle Monastery, which is situated in Iran and is included on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list,” FM Mirzoyan stated.

He noted that Armenia attaches importance to the close, friendly ties established between the Parliaments of Armenia and Iran.

Referring to regional security and stability issues, Ararat Mirzoyan said: “We particularly emphasised the need to establish peace, security and stability in the South Caucasus. I briefed my counterpart on the negotiation process of the normalisation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.”

“As we have repeatedly stated, in the context of normalisation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, we attach key importance to reestablishment of clear borderline based on the Alma-Ata Declaration, to ensuring guarantees of delimitation and border security, as well as establishing a stable international mechanism of discussions between Stepanakert and Baku for addressing issues of the rights and security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh,” he noted.

However, the Foreign Minister stressed, instead of a dialogue with the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan today pursues a policy of ethnic cleansing, a clear manifestation of which is the

seven-month-long illegal blockade of the Lachin corridor, the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with the outer world.

He reminded that since June 15, the supply of food and medicine to Nagorno-Karabakh has completely halted, and the transfer of patients with serious health problems to Armenia is being hindered.

“Today we bear witness to the very scenario about which we warned seven months ago: there is already a significant and tangible humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh. And this is happening in gross violation of international humanitarian norms, contrary to the provisions enshrined in the Trilateral statement of November 9, 2020, numerous appeals and resolutions of the international community and bodies, the legally binding Order of the International Court of Justice of February 22, which, by the way, was confirmed on July 6,” Mirzoyan stated.

He emphasised that Armenia expects practical efforts from those interested in real peace in the South Caucasus and from the responsible actors to prevent a new humanitarian catastrophe unfolding before their own eyes in the 21st century.

“The Republic of Armenia is much interested in unblocking the regional economic and transport infrastructure, based on sovereignty and national jurisdiction of the countries, as well as on the principles of equality and reciprocity. In this context, the inviolability of our state border with the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be questioned, and here the clear and repeatedly expressed positions of the Armenian and Iranian sides are identical. In this regard, as we have noted many times, we highly appreciate the principled and clear position of neighbouring and friendly Iran regarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia towards respective infrastructures,” he added.

The Foreign Minister emphasised the readiness and political will of the top leadership of Armenia to develop and deepen relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the spirit of mutual respect and mutually beneficial partnership.

Armenia Reports Surge in Tax Revenue from Re-Exporters



(RFE/RL) - Taxes paid by Armenian companies importing cars, mobile phones and other consumer electronics increased drastically in the first half of this year, a further sign that they are taking advantage of Western economic sanctions against Russia.

They are believed to be among local firms that have been re-exporting Western-manufactured goods to Russia since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. Such trade operations explain why Armenia's overall exports to Russia tripled last year and January-May 2023, translating into double-digit economic growth in the South Caucasus country.

According to the State Revenue Committee (SRC), the largest network of mobile phone shops in Armenia paid 15.8 billion drams (\$40 million) in taxes in the first half of 2023, or nearly as much as it did in the whole of 2022. As a result, the company running the network, Mobile Center, became the country's sixth largest

corporate taxpayer. Its tax contributions totaled only 4.4 billion drams in 2021.

Vesta, a major electronics chain, is seventh in the first-half tax rankings released by the SRC this week. The tax and customs services collected 15.7 billion drams from it, or twice as much as in 2022.

Suren Parsyan, an economic analyst, said on Thursday that their extra revenue was generated not only by re-exports but also Russian consumers buying such goods during trips to Armenia.

Armenian firms importing Western cars posted similarly sharp gains in their revenue. Avangard Motors, the local dealer of Germany's Mercedes-Benz, paid 3.7 billion drams in first-half taxes, up from just 900 million drams in 2021. The tax contributions of the Toyota Yerevan car dealership likewise rose from 2.3 billion drams in 2021 to about 5 billion drams (\$13 million) in January-June 2023.

Both Mercedes-Benz and Toyota stopped directly supplying their cars to Russia following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The SRC recorded last year a nearly six-fold increase in the number of mostly second-hand cars imported to Armenia. Its customs division struggled to cope with the rapid growth which has continued this year.

The Armenian government has faced in recent months strong pressure from the United States and the European Union to curb the re-export of hi-tech goods and components which the Western powers say could be used by the Russian defense industry. The government announced in late May that Armenian exporters will now need government permission to deliver microchips, transformers, video cameras, antennas and other electronic equipment to Russia.

James O'Brien, the sanctions coordinator at the U.S. State Department, visited Yerevan late last month to discuss the issue with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and other Armenian officials.

Pashinyan said in May that despite its "strategic" relations with Russia, Armenia "cannot afford to be placed under Western sanctions." "Therefore, in our relations with Russia we will act on a scale that allows us to avoid Western sanctions," he said.

So far Washington has blacklisted only on one functioning Armenian company for allegedly helping Russia evade the sanctions. The Yerevan-based company, Medisar, imported chemicals and laboratory equipment from the U.S. as well as the EU.

Armenian government and the IMF are ready to continue effective cooperation

Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Khachatryan received the permanent representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Armenia, Mehdi Raisi, on the occasion of the completion of his mission in Armenia, Umang Rawat, who will replace him.

As ARMENPRESS was informed from the office of the Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Khachatryan, at the beginning of the



meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister thanked Mehdi Raisi for his active and effective activities in Armenia, as well as congratulated Umang Rawat on his appointment, expressing confidence that the partnership between the IMF and the Government of Armenia and effective interaction will continue in the future.

Umang Rawat thanked for the warm welcome and expressed readiness to continue effective cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Armenia highlights energy cooperation with UAE



Minister of Territorial Administration

and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan has held a meeting with the new Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Armenia Nariman Al Mulla.

Ambassador Nariman Al Mulla commended the current level of Armenia-UAE relations and spoke about the need to deepen the ties.

Issues related to existing cooperation

in various areas were discussed. The areas of energy, renewable energy, waste processing and construction were particularly explored, the ministry said in a readout.

Minister Sanosyan attached importance to the existing cooperation especially in energy.

New directions of partnership were outlined.

The number of tourists visiting Armenia expected to exceed 2 million by yearend – Minister

During the Gastro Business Expo & Forum, Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan presented the achievements in the fields of catering and tourism this year.

In one year, the number of employees in public catering field has increased by about 20%, and about 30,000 people are now involved in the sector.



Minister said.

While the number of people who visited Armenia during the first 6 months of 2022 was less than 600,000, in the current year that figure exceeded 1 million. It is predicted that this number will exceed 2 million by the end of the year.

Minister Kerobyan said the government is making large investments in the direction of the development of tourist

Significant growth has been recorded in the field of tourism this year as well, the infrastructures.

Fresh list of top 1000 corporate taxpayers out now

The State Revenue Committee has released the [list](#) of the top corporate taxpayers of Armenia in January-June 2023.

The Zangezur Copper Molybdenum Combine is still the top taxpayer in the country, followed by Gazprom Armenia

and Grand Tobacco.

The top 10 also includes Ameriabank, Ardshinbank, Mobile Center Art, Pretty Way, CPS Energy Group, International Masis Tabak and JTI Armenia.

The top 1000 corporate taxpayers paid a total of over 874 billion 522 million drams in taxes in the reporting period (668,2 billion to the tax service and 206,2 billion to the customs service).

Armenia to host 2024 World Conference on Information Technologies

The 2024 World Conference on Information Technologies (WCIT), will be held in Yerevan, Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister Arayik Harutyunyan informs. Armenia last hosted the event in October 2019. More than 2500 people from 70

countries attend the Congress.

The World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) is one of the largest & most prestigious ICT events in the world. It features discussions related to the evolution of the Digital Age.



In an AFP interview, Armenian PM talks about red lines

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan gave an interview to Agence France-Presse, which is presented below.

Agence France-Presse Irakli Metreveli – Mr. Prime Minister, do you believe in lasting peace with Azerbaijan?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – If I didn't believe, there would be no point in taking part in the negotiations at all, but believing does not mean that the result is guaranteed, because, understandably, it depends not only on me, naturally, it depends also on the positions of the President of Azerbaijan, let alone that we are not generally negotiating in a vacuum. There is an international situation, there is a geopolitical situation, there is a humanitarian situation, there are various human factors, which may emerge at any point and time. Everything influences the process, but of course, the greatest impact on the process have the direct negotiators, I mean, the President of Azerbaijan and myself.

Agence France-Presse Irakli Metreveli – What can you personally do in negotiations with President Aliyev in order to guarantee the dignity of the Armenians living in Karabakh, what keys do you have to determine the outcome of negotiations?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – You know, generally the conditions are very important. If we just step aside from the substance of the negotiations, because for an impartial observer of what's happening in the negotiations room, one might think that in principle, everything is fine, that there is really nothing extraordinary happening, but then, after that, we need to come back and observe the actions and statements that are being made. The most important thing, which in my opinion impedes the progress of the talks, is Azerbaijan's continued aggressive rhetoric, hate speech towards Armenians and anything that is Armenian, hate actions, and of course, the policy of revenge in relation

to Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh and obviously, the policy of ethnic cleansing.

Look at the situation that we now have in Nagorno Karabakh. We have a humanitarian crisis there. When we say humanitarian crisis, for many people it may seem like a political term or a headline for news, but let's delve into its substance. It means, for instance, absence of essential goods, there is no vegetable oil in Nagorno Karabakh, no sugar, there are no hygiene supplies, there is no butter, there aren't several types of foodstuff. The people of Nagorno Karabakh are hard working people of course, and in this agricultural season some products are produced, but because of the absence of fuel, the delivery of the goods to the potential consumers is almost impossible. In Karabakh, there is a certain stock of grain, but because of the absence of fuel, it cannot be delivered to the flour mills, if in any way it is possible to deliver it to the flour mills, then it cannot be delivered to the bread bakeries because of absence of fuel, and if somehow it reaches the bakeries, it is impossible to bake the bread at industrial volumes because of the absence of electricity and fuel, but if it is somehow possible to bake it, then it is impossible to deliver it to the shops, and if somehow it is possible to deliver to the shops, people have transport limitations for reaching the shop to buy the bread, and if somehow they reach the shop to buy the bread, they do not have the required financial means to purchase the bread because they are deprived of employment.

If all these layers, all these difficulties are placed upon one individual, all that burden becomes obvious and understandable. Under these circumstances, it is clear that in the Republic of Armenia and also of course in Nagorno Karabakh, pessimism is growing day by day, which, however, does not change our policy in any way, because we are convinced that the method of resolving issues through negotiations

has no alternative. And on the other hand, if issues are not resolved through negotiations, in the public these negotiations may be perceived as just waste of time, or creating the impression in the media that something is being done. These are all risks that can directly or indirectly affect the process.

Agence France-Presse Irakli Metreveli – What are your red lines in this process?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – We have said this a number of times: Armenia's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and the rights and security of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh. By the way, there is an important point to be made: rights and security on this level are terms, for people they are just terms. It's very important that the terms be reflected in a way that people will be able to use, apply them, to have the rights and the security that would enable them to live, to self-realize in their environment, in their family, to develop within that environment.

It's also very important to record that our position is that the issue of rights and security of the people of Nagorno Karabakh should be addressed in a dialogue, talks and discussions with the participation of the people of Nagorno Karabakh. We call that Baku-Stepanakert dialogue, but given the disproportion of strength between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan, we think that if we leave Stepanakert and Baku face to face, Baku will have the opportunity of either turning that agenda into oblivion, or have a monologue and not a dialogue. And that's why our perception is that that dialogue should take place in the context of an international mechanism, where the international community will be the witness. Armenia's role here is difficult because Armenia's interest in this process is perceived and interpreted by Azerbaijan as so-called encroachment or aspiration upon Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. Because of that perception talks in this format have not turned

out to be constructive, and page 8 — this has been demonstrated by the whole history of negotiations.

Agence France-Presse Irakli Metreveli – Armenia is seeking certain international mechanisms that will guarantee the security and rights of the Armenian population of Karabakh. What kind of international mechanisms do you imagine?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – You know, these are working-level issues that depend not only on our perceptions. That's why I wouldn't like to limit the future conversations by outlining any particular vision, or that would make limitations for us in those conversations. Our main issue is that for that conversation, that dialogue to take place and to be genuine, to have an actual conversation, because it is through conversation that its is possible to overcome the lack of confidence, hate, and even tensions, or even to better understand one another.

be to ensure the free expression of the people's will, to have a free, fair, competitive and transparent election. After that the election took place in a very tense but democratic atmosphere. By the way, very importantly, before the election, the civil society demanded and we changed the electoral code, switching to a fully proportional representation electoral system, and the context was such that there was an election of the Prime Minister. Under the old context and the new context that was the case.

Snap parliamentary elections took place in a very difficult environment, often charged with hate speech. So there was a vote and I was elected the Prime Minister; which was essentially a direct election, because with those numbers in the election, under our Constitution the candidacy of the Prime Minister is not discussed in the parliament. The power that gets the majority, and our party received constitutional majority, immediately appoints the Prime Minister. Importantly, the whole international community unanimously said that the election was free, fair, democratic and transparent. Now, whether the

people made the best choice they could is a question that only people can answer in the upcoming election.

Agence France-Presse Irakli Metreveli – Obviously, Russia did not meet Armenia's expectations during and after the war. How do you justify close ties or trust towards Russia?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – That same question could be asked about any country, "how do you justify your good relationship with any country when in Nagorno Karabakh human rights are violated, there is a humanitarian crisis, ethnic cleansing is being prepared and those countries are not reacting properly?", even the countries that consider human rights and the UN Charter, democracy and ethnic tolerance to be priorities for them.

So now you want to say that all those countries with which we have good relationship are doing their maximum to overcome the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno Karabakh? My direct answer to you will be no for a variety of reasons: some of them are buying gas, some are buying oil, some are thinking about their banking systems, and others have other concerns. But it would not be correct to say that they doing nothing.

We are not speaking about political or inter-ethnic conflict, we are talking about ongoing process of genocide, and not just its preparation. Any genocide you know wasn't like that they woke up one day and started killing people, slaughtering people. Let's go back to the Holocaust, the one that the world knows the best. Did Hitler come to power and the next morning pulled out the sword and started chasing the Jews in the streets? It lasted years, it was a process, which could have been well predicted. It was expressed in rhetoric, it was expressed in policy.

Now in Nagorno Karabakh they have created a Ghetto, in the most literal meaning of the word. I say again, sometimes we do not deliver the terms understandably, we just give people headlines, "humanitarian crisis". Some percentage of our audience well understands all the details of

what's going on, but the majority does not understand, that's not their business, that's not their activity.

But Azerbaijan is creating a Ghetto in Nagorno Karabakh today. What's the international community's reaction? Russia asks us how we justify our good relationships with the West, is that what you expect of them to make a semi-statement that the Lachin Corridor should be opened? Yes, the Lachin Corridor has to be opened. The International Court of Justice rendered a decision back on February 22. That is a decision of the highest international court. By the way, Russia really doesn't well recognize the jurisdiction of that court, but the international community, with the exception of Russia, recognizes it as the highest court. And now Russia asks us "Is this what you expected of the West, when establishing such close relations with the EU and other partners, your expectation was that they would say, for example once a week that the Lachin Corridor should be opened?" In the same way as we justify our relations with the West, in the same way we justify our relations with Russia. Like according to the logic of some western circles our relationship with Russia is not justified, because Russia is not fulfilling all its obligations, and is not meeting all of our expectations, similarly, Russia tells us the same about the West.

negative reactions in Armenia. These reactions reflect this whole tangle. And the challenge is when we speak about paradigm, to what extent are we going to be in the mode of cooperation, rather than in the mode of monologue, because this is not easy for anyone to perceive and realize that in this region for example, this political map should continue to exist for centuries to come. Some people put a question mark after this sentence. Some people frankly want to find justifications so that this political map can stem from the interest of all the regional countries without contradicting the interests of geopolitical centers. I, for example, bear this second belief, but that's not enough. — page 13

Artsakh Parliament to UN: Recognize Artsakh Republic's independence

The National Assembly of Artsakh issued a message addressed to the Member States of the United Nations, calling on them to recognize the independence of the Republic of [Artsakh] Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Based on the UN Charter, the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1948 UN Convention on Human Rights, Convention “On the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide”, European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950, the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other international treaties regarding International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law, the 1974 UN General Assembly Resolution on “Definition of Aggression”, the 2005 UN General Assembly Resolution “On the Obligation to Protect the Population from Genocide, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes Against Humanity”, the results of the September 2, 1991 declaration “On the Proclamation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”, the results of the December 10, 1991 referendum on the independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, the January 6, 1992 Law of the NKR Supreme Council “On the Basics of the Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”, the January 6, 1992 decision of the NKR Supreme Council “On Approving the Text of the NKR State Independence Declaration”, agreements on an Indefinite Ceasefire of May 9, 1994 between the parties to the conflict, the document adopted by the First Meeting of the OSCE Senior Officials on March 31, 1995, the November 9, 2020, Trilateral Declaration signed by Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan on the cessation of all military operations in Nagorno Karabakh, according to the decision of the European Court of Human

Rights of December 21, 2022, the February 22, 2023 decisions of the UN International Court of Justice (reaffirmed on July 6), the resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of June 22, 2023,

Strictly condemning the fact that the Azerbaijani side regularly violates the provisions of the November 9, 2020, Tripartite Declaration,

Drawing attention to the fact that Azerbaijan has not yet fulfilled its obligations to release Armenian prisoners of war and hostage civilians and, in every possible way, prevents the return of internally displaced persons to Nagorno-Karabakh and neighboring regions, which, according to the provisions of the Declaration, should have taken place under the supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

The threats posed by Azerbaijan to the civilian population of Artsakh since the signing of the Tripartite Declaration, have not only not decreased, but have increased significantly. In this regard, we record the following facts:

– On January 30, 1992, Azerbaijan, along with Armenia, became a member of the Council for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE; OSCE since 1995), having assumed obligations. The CSCE recognized the sovereignty of these countries on condition that they, in their turn, accept the fact of disagreements regarding the ownership of Nagorno Karabakh and agree that the future status of Nagorno Karabakh will be decided at an international conference, which will take place under the auspices of the CSCE. Both states have given their consent, undertaking to solve the problem peacefully. Azerbaijan violated its commitments and unleashed a large-scale aggression against the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh).

Organizing its self-defense, the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) showed worthy resistance and defended its independence in the war initiated by Azerbaijan in 1992-1994. In May 1994, Azerbaijan had to sign an agreement with the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic – the Agreement “On a Complete Cessation of Fire and Hostilities”, which was recognized by the international community.

– On April 2, 2016, the Republic of Azerbaijan, violating all norms of international law and disrupting the long-term negotiation process on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship, again unleashed a large-scale military aggression against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) which was stopped by the intervention of the Russian Federation.

– On September 27, 2020, despite the trilateral ceasefire agreement reached, with the full support of Turkey and direct control of military operations with the involvement of thousands of hired terrorists from different countries of the Middle East, Azerbaijan again resorted to large-scale military aggression against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh), which was stopped on November 9, 2020 after the signing of the Tripartite Declaration “On the Cessation of All Hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh by the Leaders of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.”

– On December 12, 2022, a group of Azerbaijanis so-called “environmentalists”, by the order and agreement of the military-political leadership of Azerbaijan, entered the area under the Russian peacekeeping mission responsibility, at the intersection of the Shushi-Karintak roads, and blocked the only road between Nagorno-Karabakh

(Artsakh) and the Republic of Armenia, the Lachin Corridor, having also cut off the supply of energy, gas and electricity through the area.

– On December 21, 2022, the European Court of Human Rights adopted a decision, by which Azerbaijan is obliged to take all necessary and sufficient measures to secure the Lachin Corridor for the seriously ill persons in need of transportation to Armenia for medical treatment;

– On February 22, 2023, the UN International Court of Justice passed a decision by which Azerbaijan is obliged to take all necessary and sufficient measures to ensure the unimpeded movement of people, vehicles and cargo through the Lachin Corridor in both directions. It was reaffirmed on July 6.

– On April 23 of this year, ignoring the provisions set out in the Tripartite Statement of November 9, 2020, the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights of December 21, 2022 and judgments of the International Court of Justice confirmed on 22 February and 6 July 2023, Azerbaijan have illegally set up a checkpoint in the corridor, thus deepening the blockade and taking the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) under a complete siege since June 15.

– As a result of such anti-human actions, 120,000 civilians of Artsakh (including 30,000 children) faced a real threat of ethnic cleansing from Azerbaijan. About 30,000 internally displaced persons are still unable to return to their permanent place of residence.

– Pursuing the undisguised goal of depopulating Artsakh and annexing it by force, and violating the existing norms of international law with impunity, Azerbaijan is consistently illegally occupying new territories of the Republic of Artsakh. Along with the regular shelling of Armenian settlements, the killing and

intimidation of the civilian population, the creation of all sorts of obstacles to their normal life with an intention to make the life of people unbearable, Azerbaijan, at the same time, commits acts of vandalism against the Armenian historical and cultural heritage.

Warning that the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) is under siege from Azerbaijan and faces the danger of LOSS OF HOMELAND and GENOCIDAL actions of the Azerbaijani authorities,

Taking into account the genocidal policy implemented by Azerbaijan towards the population of Artsakh and the most serious ontological threats facing its population, the Republic of Artsakh National Assembly, the highest representative body endowed with the primary mandate of the people of Artsakh, expressing the will and position of the entire population of the republic,

ADDRESSES A MESSAGE

To the UN member countries and
MAKES AN APPEAL

Guided by the norm of the right of nations to self-determination enshrined in the UN Charter; based on the declaration of September 2, 1991 “On the Proclamation of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh”, the results of the referendum on independence of December 10, 1991, Law of the NKR Supreme Council “On the Basics of Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic” of January 6, 1992, the decision of the NKR Supreme Council “On approving the text of the NKR State Independence Declaration” of January 6, 1992, to recognize the independence of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh).

– It is undisputable that all necessary grounds for recognition are there. The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has realized its right to self-determination without violating the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan,

without violating the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the USSR, the definition of the Law of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of April 3, 1990 “On the Secession of Union Republics from the USSR”, according to which “autonomous republics and autonomous entities have the right to independently decide whether to stay in the union or in a union republic which leaves it, and also to resolve the issue of their own state-legal status”, following all norms of international law.

– We are strongly convinced that that the recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) by the UN member states will become a reliable guarantee of the security of our people, contribute to the creation of favorable conditions for its normal life in his historical homeland. This will also ensure stability, long-term and permanent peace in the South Caucasus region.

– We firmly believe, that the only way to prevent the impending tragedy is the recognition of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) independence based on the principle of RECOGNITION IN THE NAME OF SALVATION,” the message reads.

Nagorno Karabakh invokes Remedial Secession, asks recognition from UN member states to prevent genocide

The Nagorno-Karabakh parliament has adopted a statement calling on UN member states to recognize its independence based on the principle of Remedial Secession to save it from the threat of genocide by Azerbaijan.

In the statement, the Nagorno-Karabakh lawmakers said that recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh’s independence by UN member states would be a reliable guarantee of security for its people and would create conditions conducive to the normal life of the Nagorno Karabakh people in its homeland, as well as ensure stability and long-term peace in the region.

Comment on the Press Statement Made by the Russian Foreign Minister Following the Trilateral Meeting in Moscow

In connection with the press statement made by the Russian Foreign Minister following the trilateral talks with the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, which took place on 25 July 2023, we consider it necessary to state the following.

The Republic of Artsakh highly appreciates the long-standing mediation efforts of the Russian Federation,

both in a national capacity and as an OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair. We are grateful to Russia for its exceptional contribution to putting an end to the 44-day aggression of Azerbaijan and for its peacekeeping mission in Artsakh.

We took note that during the meeting, the Russian side presented its assessment of measures that need to be taken promptly and without delay to provide the population of Artsakh with food, medicines and other essentials, and ensure uninterrupted electricity and gas supply.

While not questioning Russia's commitment to helping the parties find a long-term settlement to the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict and facilitate the normalisation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, we believe it is necessary to note that the vision of dialogue between Stepanakert and Baku proposed by the Russian side is not balanced. The statement that there is a need for dialogue to agree on the rights arising from international obligations, including conventions on the protection of the rights of national minorities, reflects the viewpoint of only one party - Azerbaijan. Such an approach predetermines the outcome of any potential dialogue and thereby undermines and devalues its meaning.

»The assertion that the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict is a problem of ensuring the rights of a national minority is a false narrative promoted by Azerbaijan with the aim of distorting the essence



of the conflict and justifying the denial of the right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination, a fundamental principle of international law, which the Russian Federation itself has invoked many times. Attempts to find a solution to the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict based on the logic of safeguarding the rights of national minorities are detached from reality and cannot lead to a fair, balanced and dignified peace. Against the backdrop of Azerbaijan's blatant non-compliance with the provisions of the Trilateral Statement of 9 November 2020, and its international obligation to implement legally binding decisions of the International Court of Justice, observe the norms of international humanitarian law and eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, claims suggesting that Azerbaijan will voluntarily adhere to any mechanisms are devoid of any basis. Attempts to impose such a vision of conflict resolution are fraught with catastrophic consequences.

As regards the remark that the most sensitive issue of the negotiations "remains the problem of guarantees for the rights and security of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh in the context of ensuring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan in full accordance with the 1991 Declaration signed by the leaders of the former Soviet republics in Alma-Ata", we consider it appropriate to recall again that by the time of signing this document, the Republic of Artsakh had completed

the process of seceding from the Azerbaijan SSR in compliance with the legislation of the Soviet Union and the norms of international law.

Furthermore, the Alma-Ata Declaration, like any international document, should be guided by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and other universally accepted norms and principles of

international law. Therefore, the Alma-Ata Declaration contains the same principles and norms as the UN Charter, including the right to self-determination. However, the interpretation of the relationship between different legal norms is subject to the overall logic of the development of international law and international practice. In this regard, we consider it necessary to emphasise that the right to secession, based on the principle of self-determination of peoples, prevails over the principle of territorial integrity of states in cases of massive serious human rights violations and discriminatory policies. This formula, in particular, is described in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States, which has been repeatedly invoked by the Russian Foreign Minister. We express our consent with the interpretation repeatedly provided by the Russian side regarding the relationship between the principles of the right to self-determination and territorial integrity. This approach has also been established in the judicial practices of various countries.

We strongly urge the international actors that in settling the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict they are guided solely by the principles of international law and the interests of people who for nearly 8 months have been on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe, as well as under the growing threat of ethnic cleansing.

page 9

Agence France-
Presse Irakli Metreveli

– You quite straightforwardly criticized the CSTO. Do you see a theoretical prospect of leaving this organization one day?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – No organization in the world is eternal, and every country makes decisions in accordance with its interests. The issue here is that we had and we still have an issue in terms of the effectiveness of the CSTO and the implementation of its commitments. We have discussed this issue transparently with our partners. But in terms of paradigm, I have publicly referred to this on a number of occasions.

The question is not whether Armenia leaves or will leave the CSTO or not. The question is whether the CSTO is leaving or exiting Armenia. I will say directly, there are many experts in Armenia, independent experts, who regularly send me reports stating that these processes demonstrate that the CSTO is exiting Armenia.

Moreover, there are many experts whose assessment is that Russia is exiting the region. This may seem like a science fiction, but unfortunately, our people have seen this in history. After all, a consequence of what was the 1915 genocide of the Armenians, when Russia essentially had to exit the conflicting region under its domestic burden? And the Armenians, that had made a clear geopolitical choice, were left to face Turkey. And naturally, this analysis has intensified because of an event that recently happened in Russia, an event that we all know very well. True, it lasted one and a half days, but dozens of analytical statements were sent to me during the one and a half days, saying that this is the 1915 scenario.

1915, 1917, 1918 – years of instability in Russia, Russia having to withdraw from the region and the genocide carried against the Armenian people. But now the problem is that in 1915 the Armenian people did not have a state, a statehood that would have the obligation of safeguarding its own people. Now the Armenians have

a state, and the policy of the state must be built in accordance with this logic, because the likelihood that one day we will see Iran or Turkey leaving this region is zero, there is no such likelihood, but the likelihood that any geopolitical center which is currently present here, we may wake up one morning and find they have left, that likelihood is greater than zero, not necessarily with the intention of doing harm, not necessarily with the reluctance to carry out their obligations towards anyone, including Armenia.

I repeat, this is not a current day problem, not a problem of the last 10 or 30 years. This is the problem of the last 100, 150 years. And today our situation is very challenging, very difficult, but unlike 100 and more years ago, we currently have a state, which is considered a democratic state, which is considered a developing state, which is considered developing, which is considered capable of negotiating. We have a chance to understand the risks and manage them. However, we need to understand them, which is not going to be easy.

Agence France-Presse Irakli Metreveli – The United States and Europe have suspended or limited the sale of cars to Russia. Armenia has become the main re-exporter of cars to Russia. What is your government doing to ensure that the territory of Armenia is not used by Russia to circumvent sanctions?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – In the issue of sanctions we are closely in touch and cooperate with the EU special envoy and the representative of the US, to make sure that we act as a responsible member of the international community. It may seem strange to you, but we are transparent on this point as well. We are a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, Russia is our main trading partner, and naturally, from the very first days we understood that the sanctions that are being imposed by the West and other countries upon Russia would create

certain problems. We also understood that Russia will have expectations from us to help to the best of our ability in this difficult economic environment, because, imagine the volume of Armenia and the volume of Russia.

And we also understood that the West will be expecting that we help them, in complying with the sanctions. When talking with our Russian partners we said the following – we understand your expectation and we stand ready to address, to meet your expectation, but up to the point at which Armenia would face the threat of sanctions, because if an endless country like Russia can perhaps afford to face the sanctions, but Armenia, especially in this military-political environment, cannot afford anything like that. And this is also the same text that we communicated to the West, as proven by the fact that I am saying this in front of cameras.

This is the rule that we follow. Of course, there are known forces that always want to and they are lobbying the American and European press to make it look like that Armenia is a black hole in that sense, but currently, on the official level we do not have any objections or complaints by the European or American partners, or by Russia, because we do not want to play tricky games with our partners, we are saying this clearly and our position is legitimate.

This is not to say that everything is perfect. There is another thing that the sanctions regime often changes, and in reality, even if something had to be done, it wouldn't necessarily be done by the government. It is the private sector that is moving goods around. We are doing our best to make sure that everything is done in accordance with the rule that I just mentioned. It's my opinion and also the opinion of our international partners that we are able to do this and we will continue to do this.

Agence France-Presse Irakli Metreveli – Thank you Mr. Prime Minister.

The official opening ceremony of the first Repatriation and Integration Center took place in Yerevan



On July 27, the official opening ceremony of the first Repatriation and Integration Center of the Republic of Armenia Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs took place in Yerevan. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, President Vahagn Khachaturyan, High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs Zareh Sinanyan, Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan, ministers, members of the National Assembly and more than 80 representatives of partner organizations.

The newly opened center serves as a comprehensive resource center for repatriates, supporting them in all matters

related to moving to Armenia. The center was established by the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs in cooperation with the H. Hovnanian Family Foundation and in partnership with RepatArmenia.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan welcomed this initiative and highlighted the need for such a center, saying: "The word repatriation is a precious, important and strategic phrase for us all...I want to congratulate everyone on this important occasion. With such steps, we need to strengthen the trust of our citizens, our people, in the future of the Republic of Armenia, while keeping in

mind that no one will deliver that future to us on a silver platter. It's a job we all have to do together, each in their place."

The goals of the Repatriation and Integration Center are to promote repatriation, ensure a smoother integration process for Diaspora Armenians moving to the homeland, and support their active engagement in the socio-political, cultural, and economic life of Armenia.

In his remarks, the High Commissioner noted, "The opening of the center is a significant event for both Armenia and the Diaspora, particularly in regards to the institutionalization of the repatriation and integration processes, which have gained considerable activity in recent years."

Emphasizing the need for further cooperation with non-governmental organizations, Zareh Sinanyan added, "Successful international practices of repatriation prove that, in addition to state participation, the interest of the diaspora and the engagement of private stakeholders is imperative, as we are witnessing today. I hope that the example of the Hovnanian Family Foundation will become contagious."

The center is located in the heart of Yerevan at 37 Hanrapetutyan Street, where the center's partner "Repat Armenia" is also located with which close cooperation is expected in support of repatriates.

Snoop Dogg to perform in Yerevan

The world-famous rapper Snoop Dogg published a video on his Instagram page and informed that he will give a concert in Yerevan.

Snoop Dogg to perform in Yerevan on 23 September.

"On September 23, I will be at Hrazdan Stadium in Yerevan for a special show," he wrote.

Announcing the concert, Snoop Dogg said that the Yerevan concert won't be a regular gig.



"I'll be rolling for your beautiful city of Yerevan on September 23rd for a special show," Snoop Dogg said in a video on Instagram. "It's not a regular gig...this is going to be straight up legendary."

"The word on the street is that the Armenian people got that next level hospitality game. I can't wait to see you all and celebrate together on September 23rd," the artist added.

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