

Lachin corridor must be opened NOW: US says will not tolerate any attempt to ethnically cleanse Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh



The Lachin corridor must be opened now, no more delay, Acting Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Yuri Kim said during the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the crisis in Nagorno Karabakh.

“The Lachin corridor must open now. Other routes can be opened too, but Lachin must be opened, that’s non-negotiable,” she said.

“We should be mindful that the war is not over between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which adds urgency to our commitment to try to support a durable and dignified peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan,” she noted.

The Acting Assistant Secretary emphasized that “the rights and security of ethnic Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh must be protected.”

“This is an essential element of durable and dignified peace agreement. Azerbaijan must provide internationally verifiable assurances of respect for their rights and their ability to remain

in their homes without fear,” she said.

“The United States will not tolerate any action – short-term or long-term – to ethnically cleanse or commit any other atrocities against the Armenian people of Nagorno Karabakh. The current humanitarian situation is not acceptable. Humanitarian access through the Lachin corridor and other routes must be available now. We will do everything possible to make that happen and we look forward to continuing to work to make that happen,” Yuri Kim stated.

“We view the status quo as completely unacceptable. We will not stop working until we reach a resolution. We have consistently said that that corridor must be opened to commercial, humanitarian and private traffic. We’ve conveyed that message both publicly and privately to all levels of the government of Azerbaijan on numerous occasions. Access to food, medicine, baby formula and energy should never be held hostage,” the Acting Assistant Secretary said.

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Armenian PM, French MP discuss steps to overcome deepening humanitarian crisis in Nagorno Karabakh

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of France, Jean-Louis Bourlanges.

The Prime Minister emphasized his visit to Armenia and thanked him for his contribution to strengthening the friendship between Armenia and France, especially for contributing to

the international visibility of the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh caused by the illegal blocking of the Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan. Nikol Pashinyan noted that France's response to the current situation is one of the best expressions



of friendship between our peoples. The Prime Minister emphasized that the humanitarian aid sent by France has not yet reached the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and highly appreciated the steps taken by the French side.

to overcome the deepening humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as Armenian-French cooperation.

The sides expressed satisfaction with the close interaction formed between the parliaments of Armenia and France.

Jean-Louis Bourlanges once again emphasized France's support to Armenia and the people of Nagorno-Karabakh for overcoming difficulties and existing problems.

The interlocutors discussed the tension caused by the movement of Azerbaijani troops along the state border with Armenia and the contact line with Nagorno-Karabakh, steps

Armenia, UAE celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations

As part of the visit of Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan to the United Arab Emirates, a reception dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was also held at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the UAE, with the participation of the heads of the diplomatic missions of Armenia accredited in the Middle East, as well as representatives



of the Armenian community.

Welcoming remarks were delivered

by Karen Grigoryan, the Ambassador of Armenia to the UAE, Vahan Kostanyan, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia and Arshak Poladian, the First Ambassador of Armenia to the UAE. They also touched upon the dynamics of bilateral relations between Armenia and the UAE, as well as the role of the Armenian community in the development of friendly ties between the two countries.

Pashinyan, Erdogan discuss Armenia-Turkey relations, regional issues

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan held a telephone conversation with President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

During the conversation Armenian-Turkish relations and regional issues were discussed.

The leaders underlined that achieving a lasting peace and stability in the region will contribute to the development and prosperity of all countries of the region, and stated that they shall continue diplomatic efforts to this end.



We can't rely on Russia to protect us anymore, Armenian PM's interview with POLITICO

POLITICO Europe's full interview with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan

The Prime Minister's Office has released the full transcript of PM Pashinyan's interview to POLITICO Europe.

Question – Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for the interview. It's a pleasure to be able to talk to you, despite the difficult circumstances in which we find ourselves, and the global community looking at what is happening in Armenia, Azerbaijan and also Nagorno Karabakh. Over the last few days we have seen a large number of reports of both Azerbaijani and Armenian troops squaring off against each other across the border. There is talk of significant Azerbaijani build-up along the border with both Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, and I want to ask how close we are right now to a new conflict.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – Because Azerbaijan has started the accumulation of forces along the border of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Armenia shall also take certain measures in order to defend itself. But I think that the EU civilian monitoring mission in the Republic of Armenia, which is conducting monitoring mission along the border, they can record that the Republic of Armenia has no intention for escalation, and it's Azerbaijan that has started to bring its central forces towards the border with Armenia and also the entire line of contact with Nagorno Karabakh. In such a situation, unfortunately, it is not possible to exclude the scenario of escalation, and the solution is that the forces that have been mobilized should be taken back to their bases. Armenia is ready to do it.

Question – But at the same time the involvement of Washington and Brussels as mediators gave hope that peace has never been closer. Do you think that peace has never been closer?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – As you know, indeed, in my opinion very serious developments have taken place in the negotiation process. If we try to understand the peak of the seriousness of these negotiations, I must say that it is the agreements achieved between Armenia and Azerbaijan that our countries do mutually recognize each other's territorial integrity: 86.600 km² for Azerbaijan and 29.800 km² for Armenia. In fact, this agreement can be considered a cornerstone for peace, but the problem is that for example I, after this agreement, reconfirmed it publicly, and I reconfirm also now our commitment to

this agreement, but Azerbaijani position in this regard is not very clear. And this situation may also demonstrate which party is interested in this military escalation. In the other hand, I have to say that the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor and the continuation of the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno Karabakh is having a very negative influence on the peace process, and the sincerity is becoming questionable. I am not even saying that in the context of the agreements that I mentioned, it is very important to consider the security and right of Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh and having an international mechanism for Baku-Stepanakert dialogue.

Question – There are a number of different interpretations of Armenia's position. A question to clarify. Is your recognition of the international recognized entire territory of Azerbaijan contingent on a peace deal, or do you recognize Nagorno Karabakh even before a peace treaty is signed?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – Our agreement with Azerbaijan is that Armenia and Azerbaijan, as I said, mutually recognize each other's territorial integrity: 29.800 km² and 86.600 km². After this agreement in a press conference in Yerevan I was asked by a journalist if the 86.600 km² of Azerbaijan includes Nagorno Karabakh, I answered yes, it includes also Nagorno Karabakh. But I also want to say that this does not mean at all that we give Azerbaijan the mandate to carry out ethnic cleansing or genocide against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. This is the reason that part of this agreement is establishing mechanisms to address the rights and security of Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, and especially to build a reliable and meaningful Baku-Stepanakert dialogue.

Question – Do you genuinely believe now that a negotiated settlement can ensure security and rights for the Karabakh Armenians, and are you facing any pressure from the international community to accept a deal that could lead to the exodus of the Karabakh Armenians?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – I know that such talks are being spread. I don't know, or maybe I can guess who spread them, but talking about exiting Nagorno Karabakh means agreeing with what I said: ethnic cleansing or forced removal of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, because these people are living in their homes. When we are speaking about ethnic cleansing, the tool for that

does not need to be physical extermination of people. Any genocide has two parts: one part is the massacre, the other part is forced exile. I have to say that there are some such talks, but there is no such agenda. Moreover, the representatives of the international community are very clear, they are saying that the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh should be able to stay in their homes in Nagorno Karabakh without fear or persecution, they should have the opportunity to live in dignity, security and welfare.

Question – In the worst case scenario, if the international community fails to mediate a deal you would like to see, have you thought of, for example, humanitarian evacuation of the Karabakh Armenians? Is there any contingency planning your Government has done, if another conflict breaks out.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – We should do everything to avoid that conflict. I think that the international attention that is now focused Nagorno Karabakh, the presence of peacekeepers in Nagorno Karabakh, this should be able to become sufficient mechanisms in order for the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh to be able to live in their homes with dignity and security. Moreover, I consider the discussion of this topic useless and also dangerous, because those who circulate such talks they try to bring new agendas to the table that might mean internationally legitimating the ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, whoever manages to escape from Nagorno Karabakh, good for them, whoever does not manage will be subjected to genocide. This type of ideas, the progress of such ideas, in my assessment, are indirectly encouraging the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh to be subjected to ethnic cleansing and genocide.

Question – Over the last few days, maybe over the last week or week and a half, your government has taken extraordinary steps to build bridges with the West. You have sent humanitarian aid to Ukraine for the first time, as Russia steps up its strikes against the civilian infrastructure, your First Lady has been to Kyiv, who was received very well, you have recalled your representative from the CSTO, you have invited US soldiers to come and stage peacekeeping exercises with Armenian Armed Forces. Does this represent a step away from Russia, and is this a kind of "Yerevan's spring"?

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Iran in contact with Armenia, Azerbaijan to ease tensions – MFA

Tehran is closely monitoring the situation in the Caucasus and stays in contact with Armenia and Azerbaijan to ensure peace and security, Spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry of Iran Nasser Kanaani has said, Tasnim News reports.

“The Armenian officials voiced concern about the possibility of (military) clashes, but the Azerbaijani officials gave a message that they have no intention of clashing (with Armenia),” he added, describing the Republic of Azerbaijan’s recent deployment of troops as a “conventional military action” ahead of winter.



“Iran is seriously monitoring the developments. We’d give an assurance that Iran’s borders are safe and we support the security of boundaries,” Kanaani underlined.

He noted that Iran has unchanging and transparent stances on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. He noted that Iran recognizes Nagorno Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan, but insists that “the rights and security of its residents must be defined.”

Reiterating Iran’s call for respect for the territorial integrity of states and avoidance of tensions, Kanaani said a major step in resolving disputes between Armenia and Azerbaijan and achieving peace and security is for the two countries to mutually recognize each other’s territorial integrities.

The Eagle Partner exercise a testament to longstanding US-Armenia partnership – Ambassador

The U.S. Embassy in Armenia welcomes to Yerevan Major General Gregory Anderson, Commanding General, 10th Mountain Division, and Brigadier General Patrick Ellis, U.S. Army Europe and Africa Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. Major General Anderson and Brigadier General Ellis will join Ambassador Kvien to observe the Eagle Partner exercise at the Zar Training Area.

Eagle Partner is a peacekeeping training exercise in Armenia held in Armenia Sept. 11-20. Approximately 85 U.S. Soldiers train alongside approximately 175 Armenian soldiers.

“The Eagle Partner exercise is a testament to our longstanding partnership with Armenia and builds upon decades of successful peacekeeping and security cooperation, underpinned by Armenia’s enduring relationship with the Kansas national Guard under the Department of Defense’s State Partnership Program,” said Ambassador Kvien.

“Our ties with Armenia are multifaceted and cooperative. The U.S. has consistently extended military assistance to Armenia, especially in bolstering the nation’s capabilities in crucial areas such as nonproliferation and peacekeeping,” said



Major General Anderson.

The exercise is also planned to prepare the Armenian 12th Peacekeeping Brigade for a NATO Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) evaluation under the NATO Partnership for Peace program later this year.

Armenia, UAE celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations



As part of the visit of Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan to the United

Arab Emirates, a reception dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was also held at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in the UAE, with the participation of the heads of the diplomatic missions of Armenia accredited in the Middle East, as well as representatives of the Armenian community.

Welcoming remarks were delivered

by Karen Grigoryan, the Ambassador of Armenia to the UAE, Vahan Kostanyan, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia and Arshak Poladian, the First Ambassador of Armenia to the UAE. They also touched upon the dynamics of bilateral relations between Armenia and the UAE, as well as the role of the Armenian community in the development of friendly ties between the two countries.

‘We want the Lachin Corridor to be opened immediately,’ U.S. Department of State

The reopening of the Lachin Corridor and reaching a peaceful resolution between Armenia and Azerbaijan is a priority for the United States, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller has said.

At a press briefing on September 14, Miller was asked to elaborate on United States Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations, the United States Co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group Louis Bono’s visit to Armenia.

“He [Bono] continues to engage both on the short-term priority, which is to reopen the Lachin corridor, and of course the – our long-term priority, which I – I say long-term, but we really want it to happen as soon as possible, which is to reach a peaceful resolution to the overall matter,” Miller said.

Speaking about the situation facing the Armenian people in blockaded Nagorno-Karabakh, Miller reiterated the U.S.

position that the Lachin Corridor must be opened immediately.

“We want the Lachin Corridor to be opened immediately. We have made that clear. Secretary Blinken has engaged with the leaders of both Armenia and Azerbaijan to make it clear that we want the Lachin Corridor to be opened immediately to address the really dire humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh,” the State Department spokesperson said.

Lachin Corridor, the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to 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. The ICJ reaffirmed its order on 6 July 2023.

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 and experts warning that Baku seeks to commit ethnic cleansing against Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. Hospitals have suspended normal operations



The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry has handed a note of protest to the Ambassador of Argentina in Baku over the President’s remarks regarding the blockade of the Lachin corridor at the G20 summit in India.

The Argentine Ambassador to Azerbaijan Mariangeles Bellusci was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 11.

The Foreign Ministry accused

Baku accuses Argentine President of pro-Armenian bias

President Alberto Fernandez of of bias, noting that “statements distorting the prevailing realities in the region using terminology directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan are regrettable.”

Addressing the plenary session of the G20 summit in New Delhi over the weekend, Alberto Fernandez called out Azerbaijan for “painful blockade” of the Lachin corridor.

“At a time when there’s war in Eastern Europe, violent conflicts are emerging, which get less public attention but are equally painful, such as the blockade of Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan, which has caused a humanitarian crisis, aimed at

punishing the Armenian people on its own territory,” the President said addressing the plenary session of the G20 summit in New Delhi.

“Argentina reiterates its commitment to multilateralism as a supreme method for international mutual-understanding,” Fernández said.

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan I thanked President Fernández for raising the issue of Azerbaijan’s blockade of the Lachin Corridor at G20.

“We value messages from international partners, whose purpose is to restore unrestricted movement in the Lachin Corridor,” the Foreign Minister said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Humanitarian aid from Russia reaches Stepanakert

The humanitarian aid sent to Nagorno-Karabakh by the Russian Red Cross contains essential goods of Russian production, the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities said on September 12.

“As previously announced, the Russian

government initiated the provision of humanitarian aid to the Republic of Artsakh. Today, on September 12, the humanitarian cargo entered the Republic of Artsakh through the town of Askeran, with the permission of the republic’s authorities, through the Russian Red Cross and on

board the vehicles of that organization. The aid contains Russian-made essential products,” the official InfoCenter of Nagorno-Karabakh said in a statement, adding that the Nagorno-Karabakh Public Television will report more details.

Five political forces make it to Yerevan City Council according to preliminary election results



Five political forces will be represented in the Yerevan City Council, according to the preliminary results published by the Central Electoral Commission.

The forces that have overcome the threshold are: Civil Contract Party (32.57%), National Progress Party (18.89%), Mother Armenia alliance (15.43%), Republic Party (11.32%) and

Public Voice Party (9.68%). Below are the preliminary results in full:

- Public Voice Party — 22,431 votes (9.68%)
- Civil Contract Party — 75,463 votes (32.57%)
- Fair Armenia Party — 2595 votes (1.12%)
- Victory Party – 3959 votes (1.71%)
- Strength of the Homeland Party — 1706 votes (0.74%)
- European Party of Armenia – 2572 votes (1.11%)
- National Progress Party — 43,765

- votes (18.89%)
- For Social Justice Party — 780 votes (0.34%)
- Republic Party — 26,236 votes (11.32%)
- United Armenia Party — 1282 votes (0.55%)
- Bright Armenia Party — 4174 votes (1.8%)
- Democratic Unity Party — 2348 votes (1.01%)
- Pand of Living Party — 8,425 votes (3.64%)
- Mother Armenia bloc — 35,739 votes (15.43%).



In the framework of preparation for participation in international peacekeeping missions the Armenia-U.S. joint exercise "EAGLE PARTNER 2023" commenced

Armenia hosts joint military exercises with US

on September 11 in "Zar" Training Center of the Peacekeeping Brigade of the Ministry of Defense.

The opening ceremony of the joint military exercise was attended by The Chief of the General Staff of the RA Armed Forces- First Deputy Minister of Defense, Lieutenant General Edward Asryan.

The stabilization security operations between the conflicting parties will be worked out within the training days by

performing peacekeeping tasks. The purpose of the exercise is to increase the level of interoperability of the unit participating in international peacekeeping missions within the framework of peacekeeping operations, to exchange best practices in control and tactical communication, as well as to increase the readiness of the Armenian unit for the planned NATO/PfP "Operational Capabilities Concept" evaluation.



The first floating solar plant was

Armenia's first floating solar plant inaugurated at Lake Yerevan

inauguated at Lake Yerevan on September 13, the French Embassy in Armenia informs.

Armenia'n's Minister of Territorial Administration Gnel Sanosyan was present at the ceremony.

The power generator was produced for

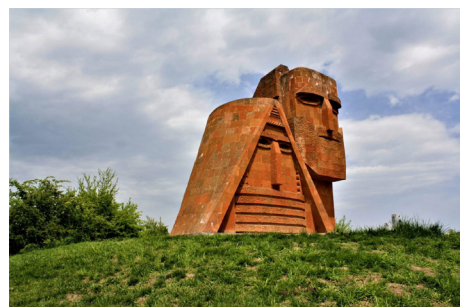
Armenia Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency Fund (R2E2) by the French company NEPSEN, on the basis of a study financed by the French government "France supports Armenia in the energy transition and independence," the Embassy said.

Germany provides 2 million euros to ICRC for life-saving work in Nagorno-Karabakh

Germany is providing an additional 2 million euros to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for life-saving work in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The humanitarian situation in Nagorno Karabakh is very tense. Germany

is therefore providing the ICRC with additional 2 million euros for its life-saving work in the region. It is important that the aid arrives now, which is why we are committed to open humanitarian access," the German Foreign Ministry said.



Artsakh authorities decide to accept humanitarian aid both through Lachin corridor and Akna-Stepanakert road

The crisis caused by Azerbaijan's blockade of Artsakh is deepening daily. The Government organizes the procurement of grain and supply of flour to bread factories in tight circumstances, unfortunately, it is not always possible to provide the daily 200 grams of bread available to a citizen under the coupon system.

Taking into account the deepening humanitarian disaster and security situation in the Republic, the authorities of the Artsakh Republic have decided to accept the joint proposal of the Stepanakert office of the International Committee of the Red

Cross and the command of the Russian military group carrying out a peacekeeping mission for the simultaneous transfer of humanitarian cargo to the Red Cross through the Berdzor corridor, on the Goris-Stepanakert highway, and through the Akna-Stepanakert road, with cars of the international committee (goods of foreign origin).

The decision has been made taking into consideration the deepening crisis caused by Azerbaijan's blockade of Artsakh. The Government organizes the procurement of grain and supply of flour to bread factories

in tight circumstances, unfortunately, it is not always possible to provide the daily 200 grams of bread available to a citizen under the coupon system.

The organization of the process is necessary both to neutralize the threats to the life and health of the citizens, and to ensure the further transportation of humanitarian cargo through the Berdzor corridor. The mediators are working to organize a meeting with the official representatives of Artsakh and Azerbaijan in order to alleviate the tense humanitarian and security situation in the Republic.

Thessaloniki International Fair: Armenia participates in largest expo in Greece



Armenia participates in the Thessaloniki International Fair for the 9th year in a row, promoting Armenian products, tourism and investments in different fields of economy, the Hellenic-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry informs.

The 87th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF), the largest exhibition in Greece,

kicked off the Thessaloniki International Exhibition Centre on September 9 and will continue through September 17.

Visitors will get information about a wide range of Armenian brands including the legendary brandy ArArAt, the world famous ZULAL, ARMENIA WINE, KARAS, ARAME, ZORAH, the multi-award winning KILIKIA beer, JERMUK and BJNI mineral waters as well as NOYAN Premium juices and GRAND CANDY – JOYCO.

For the first time, under the patronage of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, a group of Armenian artisans and manufacturers, namely Wood Mystery, Master of Manuscripts, Misma, Sasun Sargsyan, Sweetprinter, exclusive herbal

tea producers "Teayan", Naro Dolls, "Decostar" mouldings, Noorb Beauty Cosmetics, Zanan Cultural House, Bnatur Cosmetics, Artuyt scarves as well as high quality toys "I am Wooden" will also be represented in the Show.

Capital markets will be introduced by Armbrok, the leading capital investment firm of Armenia and its associates in Greece.

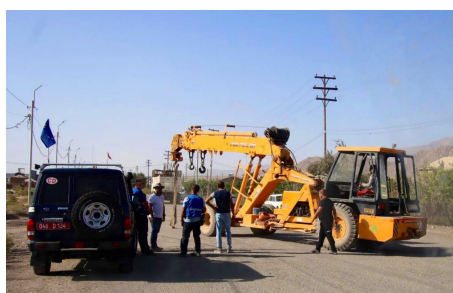
Armenia's participation is organized by the Hellenic-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Greece with the cooperation of the Honorary Consulate of Armenia in Thessaloniki. The event is held under the auspices of the Embassy of Armenia in Greece.

EU Mission in Armenia regularly patrolling Yeraskh area, including the steel plant

The EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA) says it is regularly patrolling the Yeraskh area.

"EUMA has been regularly patrolling in the Yeraskh area, including the steel plant, to observe any security and military developments," the Mission said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

"By our presence, we have contributed to safer and more secure environment,"



EUMA said.

In an earlier post, which was later deleted, EUMA said it was patrolling the area to observe and oversee the dismantling of the plant.

The smelter under construction in Armenia's border community of Yeraskh has often been targeted by Azerbaijani forces. Two Indian nationals working on the site were wounded in one of the attacks.

EU reiterates the need to unblock the Lachin corridor



EU reiterates that the Lachin corridor must be unblocked, in line with past agreements and the ICJ Order, Spokesperson for the European Council President Spokesperson Ecaterina Casinge said in a statement.

President Charles Michel continued to be closely engaged in advancing those and other approaches, with a primary focus on de-escalation of tensions and the humanitarian situation facing the Karabakh Armenians, she said.

“In particular, President Michel has been engaged in intense contacts over the past few days, both with Armenia’s Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev during telephone conversations on September 9, 2023, but also with President of Türkiye

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on the margins of the G20 New Delhi summit on September 10, 2023,” the Spokesperson noted.

“These efforts, supported by daily interaction of his office and EUSR Toivo Klaar with Baku, Yerevan and representatives of Karabakh Armenians, have been aimed at de-escalation of tensions and working out a solution for unblocking humanitarian access to Karabakh Armenians,” she added.

“In this context, we note the passage today of a Russian humanitarian delivery via the Aghdam-Askeran route. We understand all the sensitivities associated with this development; it is our expectation that it will create a momentum for the resumption of regular humanitarian deliveries to the local population,” Casinge continued.

“The situation on the ground is deteriorating quickly. It is vital to ensure essential products are supplied to Karabakh Armenians. The opening of the Aghdam-Askeran route today is an important step that should facilitate the reopening

also of the Lachin corridor. We call on all stakeholders to show responsibility and flexibility in ensuring that both the Lachin and the Aghdam-Askeran route will be used,” she said.

“This difficult situation on the ground has lasted for too long; it is now important to find sustainable and mutually acceptable solutions to ensure humanitarian access, also ahead of the autumn and winter seasons,” the Spokesperson emphasized.

“We reiterate our strong belief that the Lachin corridor must be unblocked, in line with past agreements and the ICJ Order, and underline our belief in the usefulness also of other supply routes, for the benefit of the local population,” she said.

“The EU expects that today’s developments will be followed by more concrete steps in the coming days and weeks, also regarding the dialogue between Baku and Karabakh Armenians on their rights and security, reconciliation efforts and the overall Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process,” the Spokesperson concluded.

Russia hopes Lachin Corridor will be unblocked parallel with Aghdam route opening

Russia hopes that soon the Lachin Corridor will be unblocked parallel with the Aghdam route and Nagorno-Karabakh will start receiving regular humanitarian aid from both directions, Russian Foreign Ministry representative Maria Zakharova said on September 12.

Speaking at a press briefing, Zakharova said that the foreign ministers of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan developed a plan on the simultaneous unblocking of the Lachin and Aghdam routes during their July 25 meeting in Moscow.

“Taking into consideration the significant difference in positions and the high level of mutual distrust, this work did not



proceed easily. As a first step, on 12 September, 15 tons of food, personal hygiene products and beddings were conveyed to the residents of Nagorno-Karabakh requiring aid through the Russian Red Cross. We expect that taking into consideration the previously reached mutual-understanding, soon the Lachin Corridor will also

be unblocked parallel with the Aghdam route, and then humanitarian aid will be regularly delivered to the region from the two directions,” Zakharova said, expressing hope that this way the humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh will be stabilized and the normal life of the population will be restored.

“This will in turn create conditions for launching dialogue between Baku and Stepanakert and relaunching the rhythmic work in the direction of implementing the entire complex of the 2020-2022 highest level trilateral agreements on the normalization of the Armenian-Azerbaijani relations,” she added.

At OSCE, Armenian Deputy FM draws attention to deteriorating humanitarian situation in Nagorno Karabakh



On September 12, Vahe Gevorgyan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, participated and delivered remarks at the OSCE Special Permanent Council meeting in Vienna convened at the initiative of Armenia.

The Deputy Foreign Minister drew the attention of the representatives of the OSCE participating states to the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of Azerbaijan's illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor for 9 months now, as well as the actions aimed at escalating the security situation by the Azerbaijani armed forces along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the contact line with Nagorno-Karabakh.

Vahe Gevorgyan emphasized that Azerbaijan's inhumane blockade of the 120,000 Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh and the complete cessation of humanitarian supplies, accompanied by the deliberate disruption of key infrastructures – electricity and gas supplies, led to

an extreme humanitarian crisis, with the final goal of complete ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh.

“The blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh is a part of the wider picture of the decades-long incitement of hatred against Armenians, policy of use of force and threat of force, grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law – all constituting warning signs of genocidal intent,” noted Vahe Gevorgyan.

The Deputy Foreign Minister emphasized that Azerbaijan should heed the calls of the international community and unconditionally implement the Order of the International Court of Justice of 2023, adopted on 23 February and reaffirmed on 6 July, to end the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor and ensure the uninterrupted movement of people, vehicles and cargo between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in both directions.

Vahe Gevorgyan highlighted the urgent need for unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to Nagorno-Karabakh and engagement with pertinent international organizations on the ground.

Touching upon the security situation in the region, the Deputy Foreign Minister criticized the movements and build-up of personnel, offensive hardware and military equipment carried out by Azerbaijan

along the border with Armenia and the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh. He stressed that these actions are nothing less than a threat to use force, which indicates that Azerbaijan is preparing for a new military attack on Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

“While Armenia continues to stay committed to the settlement of all outstanding issues with Azerbaijan purely through political and diplomatic means, we expect the international community and our partners to undertake all the efforts and employ the means at their disposal to prevent another aggression in our region”, emphasized Vahe Gevorgyan.

The Deputy Foreign Minister reiterated Armenia's commitment to achieving stability and lasting peace in the region and emphasized that this can only be accomplished under conditions which exclude the use or threat of force and mass violations of fundamental human rights.

The ultimate importance of international efforts to safeguard the rights and security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and a strong international mechanism for the dialogue between Stepanakert and Baku, which would ensure tangible outcomes during the process was underscored in remarks.

EU Mission in Armenia opens new operating base in Ijevan

The EU Mission in Armenia has opened a new operating base in Ijevan.

Head of Mission Markus Ritter, Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Vassilis Maragos, Armenia's Deputy Defense Minister Karen Sargsyan, and Governor of Tavush Province Hayk Ghahumyan cut the ribbon to the new EUMA offices in Tavush.



EUMA is a non-armed, civilian and non-executive mission with the aim to observe and report to the EU on the security situation on the ground. The mission is deployed on the Armenian side of the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, with Headquarters in Yeghegnadzor, planned six Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and a Support and Liaison office in Yerevan.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – Spring in Yerevan starts in March and ends in May. By the way, summer comes in Yerevan earlier than usual. Every year we have spring, summer, fall and winter like any other country in this climate zone. But you mentioned about building bridges with the West. We do not need to build bridges, because these bridges have always been there, starting with that we have launched a strategic dialogue with the United States, which started long ago, and we have had joint military exercises in the past as well. As for Ukraine, what happened is a humanitarian step, there is no need to politicize that, because if anyone thinks that at any point we have been indifferent to any human tragedy, or we had any political calculations to express sympathy for human tragedy, this is not the right approach. We have always discussed how we can react. In this case we had this occasion that the First Lady of Ukraine organized an event, which fits in the logic of the association of the First Ladies and Gentlemen. My wife has quite actively and quite a long time been involved in these processes. This was just a part of this working agenda.

When it comes to our relations with Russia and the CSTO, here we are fully transparent. What are the problems, what are the issues there? We have spoken about this and will continue to speak both publicly and at the working level. This conversation, of course, is contingent to the state interest of the Republic of Armenia. We are guided by the state interests of Armenia. Therefore, I do not want and it cannot be so that Armenia is viewed in the role of a proxy. Indeed, the Republic of Armenia has very serious security challenges, but we see the addressing of the security challenges through strengthening our sovereignty, our independence. And as in the past, today and also in the future we will do everything to ensure our sovereignty, our independence, our security.

But conceptually, I want to share an idea with you and your audience: in general, when it comes to geopolitical centers, our relations with them are very important and decisive. I reiterate, we have never declined and we will never decline any agenda of establishing relations with any geopolitical center based on our state interests. But on the other hand, I and my political team, or my political team and me, are in harmony in this regard, and I think that our society is more and more saying the following: if we want to have a lasting, eternal statehood, first of all we need to take very serious steps to settle our relations with our neighbors.

The model that we will have problems

with our neighbors and will have to invite other to protect us in those problems, no matter who these others are, is a vulnerable model, because these others at any point, for objective or subjective reasons, very often not wanting, very often for solving their own issues, may not be here. Even if they want to, they may not be able to help us. Therefore, our strategy should be to try to maximum decrease this dependence on external help.

But this is a theory, the implementation of which particularly in our region is extremely difficult. We have social, psychological, historical, geopolitical issues in our environment, in our region. By the way, our region is a very complex region, it's one of the most complicated regions, but in this regard, what is happening right now and what we are doing right now is work aimed at strengthening statehood, sovereignty, independence. And I also want to add to this trilogy our agenda of strengthening democracy, strengthening our security. These are interrelated, the culmination of which in the end of the day should be the freedom and happiness of the citizens. This is the agenda that right now is guiding us to take steps and measures that are not easy, are not easily understood, and which are by and large criticized. We are resolute to share this agenda with our citizens, so that they can understand all the motivations behind our actions.

Question – You talked about independence, you talked about statehood. But when you came to power, you inherited a country where Russia has a monopoly on the railways, you have Russian armed forces, Russian border guards, you have Gazprom with a monopoly of energy supply. Do you think that gaining real and lasting independence means moving away from that relationship, where Russia has a monopoly on your security, on your energy system, and many other aspects.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – In general, I think that today Gazprom is supplying energy not only to the Republic of Armenia. It is supplying gas also to several other countries. These are factors, the role of which, of course, should not be underestimated, but should not be overestimated either, because yes, gas is important for the economy, for everything. But again, independence, sovereignty and statehood are for the goal of not being dependent on one factor, be it gas or any other factor. And I think that when it comes to gas and independence, it's not right to place these two on the same level.

Question – What I am saying is that countries like Moldova, which is comparable to your country, they have taken a course, which Russia sees as pro-Western.

Russia has used energy supplies to blackmail them, I am talking more generally about Russia's unparalleled influence on your country, in terms of the Russian peacekeepers...

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – Such a situation has emerged as a result of the assessment of the security needs of Armenia. I do not want to underestimate any factor you mentioned. But I already said that I think our task is to settle the relations in our region in a way to minimize the need for any external support. We need to agree that this is not an easy task, but on the other hand, by defining this issue we have reached a point where we need to answer ourselves if we want to have an independent country.

If we want to have an independent, sovereign country, and we do want, we need to have ways, solutions and developments over those issues. I reiterate, by maximally avoiding finding ourselves in the center of West-East, North-South clashes. You mentioned the monopoly of Russian influence, in this period, since our independence, we have developed very serious and natural relations with the United States, which have gained a nature of strategic dialogue since 2019.

We have the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with the EU, we have always had deep relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, with Georgia. And now we want to settle our relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey. And here we are facing challenges, because the entire burden of the previous period is a problem that now we need to manage. We need flexibility, wisdom, we need to be sober for this. We also need to understand that this process contains very serious risks, and this is exactly what we are trying to do. But again, it is very important for us to define our goal. There are things that we are doing, but some of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia may perceive it as treason, others consider it as the correct policy, a third group of citizens may be still following us to be able to clarify their position, attitude towards us. Our policy is for the sake of having an independent state, according to the rules known to the real, modern world.

Question – Do you feel that you are getting the support you would like from the EU, from the US, for supporting Armenia to increase its sovereignty, its independence? Is there anything you would like to receive from the EU, from the US that you are not receiving, such as military exports, security guarantees?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – Of course, support and assistance is never too much, especially for countries like

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page 10 ➔ Armenia. But on the other hand, I do not want and cannot act like an ungrateful. Because I consider, for example, the deployment of the civilian mission by the EU along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border quite a serious support, for which I constantly thank our partners. The EU and the United States support us also in addressing the democratic reform agenda. But again, I cannot say that the support and help we are receiving are sufficient to serve our tasks and agendas. But on the other hand, we are actively working with all our partners to make our positions more clear for them and get more support as a result.

Question – When you sit down across the table with president Aliyev in Brussels, in Washington or in Moscow, do you feel like this is a man negotiating with you in good faith?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – You know I would not like to publicly discuss the negotiation atmosphere. The fact is that we do not have yet an atmosphere of confidence, because had we have this atmosphere of confidence, a lot of issues would not be in the situation they are now. But what is my reaction to that? To continue to work, to continue to work more consistently, try to find solutions, try to find ways for progress. All in all, what's the main problem without delving into details? The main problem is as in the past, Azerbaijan continues to apply the policy of force or threat to use force. This is greatly complicating the situation and I think it is the main obstacle for ensuring future progress. And in this regard, I think that the international community and the forces that are interested in peace and stability in our region, should exactly support the Republic of Armenia in this matter, support the efforts to establish peace in our region.

Question – Do you think the Western mediators, when they talk about effective negotiations, and at the same time it seems that nothing is really good, the military situation continues to evolve, firefights continue. Do you think there is naivety around the talks? Do you think the talks and reality are on different tracks?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – In the negotiation process the mediators usually say that they should be neutral. My response to this is the following: I say when one of the parties is exercising force or the threat to use force, and the other party is vulnerable when it comes to security, then neutrality is encouraging the party which uses force or the threat to use force. Therefore, in this situation, neutrality in its full meaning is not really neutrality, it encourages the party that uses force or use of force. And in this regard, in such a situation the mediators who are acting in

this logic, the mediation of these mediators is not effective. Because the objective and constructive function of the mediator should be to form an environment in the negotiation process in which the interest for peace would be equal for both parties.

Question – You talked about neutrality. After the 2020 war, Russia made a power attempt to come and become a security guarantor. There is a Russian-Turkish monitoring center, I don't know what happened to that. Today I was talking to a young woman from Stepanakert, who said that her brother is serving in the Defense Army, who says that they are in the trenches, facing the Azerbaijani troops. She asked where are the Russian peacekeepers, he said behind us. Do you feel let down by Russia? Do you think Russia has done not enough to uphold the 2020 agreements, when it has undertaken to keep Lachin Corridor open, to maintain the contact line that existed. Do you think Russia has failed as a security guarantor?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – You know it is obvious that after November 9, 2020, the security situation has sharply changed in Nagorno Karabakh: violations of the line of contact, invasions into the territory of Nagorno Karabakh. We have had a case when a person doing agricultural work was killed by an Azerbaijani sniper in the presence of a Russian peacekeeper. There are obstacles for agricultural work, and finally the blockade of the Lachin Corridor, and the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno Karabakh.

All of these were supposed to be in the sphere of responsibility of the Russian peacekeepers under the trilateral declaration of November 9, 2020, and in this regard, as far as these issues exist, yes, the Russian peacekeepers have failed their mission. But on the other hand, I cannot say that if the Russian peacekeepers had not been in Nagorno Karabakh, the situation in Nagorno Karabakh now would have been better. I want to be clear on this nuance that I want us to understand well and very correctly, I think both of the approaches are correct.

Question – Why do you think the Russian peacekeeping mission has failed? Is it incompetence on the one hand, preoccupation with the war in Ukraine, or is this a deliberate decision to avoid angering Azerbaijan and Turkey? Has Russia chosen to remain aside, or it has just failed?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – You know I think both factors could have certain role, because as a result of the events in Ukraine the capabilities of Russia have changed, but on the other hand I think that there is the second factor that you mentioned. In my assessment, both factors exist.

Question – Over the short time you

were in office, you woke up to the news that a war has started in your country. You sent young boys to the battle to defend their country. There are probably not many world leaders alive who have shared the experience, but one of them is president Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine. I want to ask if you have any message to share with him?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – You know, when I meet with Zelenskyy, I will personally share with him. I don't think it's a good idea for leaders of countries to send messages to each other through interviews.

Question – I understand, that's fair enough...

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – By the way, Zelenskyy was present at the last meeting of the European Political Community in Chişinău, Moldova, and I was there too. We exchanged some ideas, and we do have occasions to exchange messages. And really, I do not think it's a good way to send messages in distance. We also send messages to each other on different occasions. Recently, I congratulated him on Independence Day of Ukraine.

You know, one thing in general can be said on that topic: war is a very bad thing, and when in 2020 the war started, there was a lot of talk about what I should have done to avoid the war, which is a very correct and legitimate question, after which the war in Ukraine started. And I was looking at that situation and asking myself, what should the leaders of Russia and Ukraine have done to avoid war? Everyone knows that war is a very bad thing, everyone without exception.

In all cases, everything must be done to avoid war, and this is also the reason why, regardless of all the complications, regardless of the lack of optimism, we have adopted and continue to adhere to the peace agenda, we continue to adhere to the agreements, and we hope that Azerbaijan, in turn, will finally express its commitment to the agreements reached at international platforms.

Question – You have had undoubted success in reducing corruption, strengthening institutions. This is the freest country for press, freedom of speech in the region. Could this lead Armenia to the point where Armenia might have the same aspirations as for example Georgia, to join the EU, to have closer relations with NATO. Do you think this is the course you would like to see for your country?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – Peace is first, first and most important is peace, because peace is both a goal and means. I ➔ page 12

page 11 spoke about the sovereignty of states, I spoke about democracy, but democracy, sovereignty and peace are in the end of the day to serve the welfare, security and happiness of the people. This is my perception that we need to do everything so that the Republic of Armenia is in peace, is a country of welfare, where people can build their welfare with their creative work and feel happy.

Question – Is this a one way trip for Armenia towards democracy and peace, or you have the concern that if the crisis around Nagorno Karabakh worsens, the opposition could find more support for the idea that in this situation it would be correct to go after Russia, to join the union state in order to get security guarantees? Have you concerns that if West and democracy are perceived failed, Armenia may go back to where it was before?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – I think in general the question whether

democracy is able to ensure security is hanging in the skies, in the political skies of Armenia. A lot of things depend on the answer to this question. I really hope and I am convinced that we should do everything to ensure a positive answer to this question and this is one of the most important components of the peace agenda.

Question – And the final question. In 2020 you went through the war, you saw large number of young people buried, you spoke with their families. Shortly after the war, your father died, I am sorry about that. How has this constant fear of a new war affect you, your mental health, your well-being, your job?

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – It is very difficult not to get emotionally burnt out, because very often when I communicate with the relatives of the fallen soldiers, it's clear that those conversations are not easy, but it's not easy not only for

them, but also for myself, because a couple of times I had the occasion to get sincere with them and tell them about my own perception, I have told them that each of them has lost one relative, a son, a soldier, but I have lost thousands. And there is no exaggeration in what I am saying. But on the other hand, if we are unable to act beyond emotions in public administration, managing the country in these high state positions, no one will benefit from this. It will not be better for the country, it will not be better for the fallen soldiers, who, in my perception, fell for the Republic of Armenia to live, and the Republic of Armenia shall live, shall develop, shall be democratic, prosperous and peaceful.

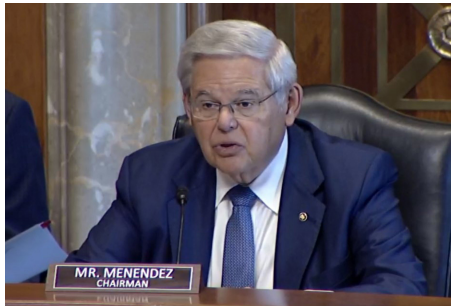
Question – Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – Thank you.

We must stop Aliyev from starving Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh to death – Sen. Menendez

We must stop Aliyev from starving Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh to death, Senator Bob Menendez said on Senate floor.

“In the past the plans of carrying out genocide were clouded by distance or geography. This time we know. We know that Aliyev is doing it right now. We must not only hold him accountable for his actions. We must stop him from succeeding in erasing this Armenian community. We must stop him from starving these Armenians to death,” he said.



“How many leaders have somberly promised to learn history’s lessons and prevent future genocides? How many

people have come to the floor of the Senate and said never, never again? How many people will have to die of starvation before we act?” the Senator said.

“The Aliyev government in Azerbaijan is carrying out a campaign of heinous atrocities that bear the hallmarks of genocide against the Armenians in Artsakh,” Menendez stated.

“Aliyev blocks the Lachin corridor and says, I’m not organizing ethnic cleansing. The same Azerbaijani president who has also threatened to chase away “Armenian separatists like dogs,” the Senator said.

Democracies must act to protect human rights and prevent ethnic cleansing in Nagorno Karabakh – Freedom House

In response to increasing military tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan and worsening conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh, Freedom House president Michael J. Abramowitz issued the following statement:

“We are deeply concerned by reports that the Azerbaijani military is massing equipment along the Armenian border. We condemn any plans to attack the sovereign territory of Armenia and urge mediating parties to work toward preventing any further violation of Armenia’s borders.

“Azerbaijan’s blockade of the Lachin

corridor risks ethnic cleansing of the region’s Armenian population and is exacerbating the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh. We urge the Azerbaijani government to engage sincerely in peace talks, refrain from weaponizing the security of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians, and unconditionally open the blockade to guarantee unimpeded two-way movement of people, vehicles, and cargo along the Lachin corridor. We also urge the United Nations Human Rights Council to appoint a special rapporteur to assess the human rights situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

Armenia is rated Partly Free in Freedom in the World 2023 and Free in Freedom on the Net 2022. Azerbaijan is rated Not Free in Freedom in the World 2023 and Not Free in Freedom on the Net 2022.



Opinion poll shows rising trust for European Union in Armenia

Sixty per cent of Armenians trust the European Union, more than any other international institution and 17 points up on two years ago, while almost three-quarters of those asked (74%) think relations between the EU and Armenia are good, according to the 2023 annual opinion survey in Armenia, EU Neighbors East reports.

The survey was conducted in February 2023 and involved face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of 1,000 people across the country. The opinion polls have been carried out annually by the EU NEIGHBOURS EAST programme project in Armenia and the five other countries of the Eastern Neighborhood region Partnership



since 2016.

This year's survey also found that 69% of Armenians were aware of the EU's financial support to their country (compared to 62% in 2016), and that 37% thought it was effective (only 12% thought it wasn't). A very large majority (82%) was aware that the EU has a Delegation in Armenia.

Only 10% of Armenians have a negative image of the EU, compared to almost half (47%) who have a positive image – up five percentage points since last year – and 38% who felt neutral.

Most Armenians (72%) would like the EU to play a greater role in strengthening the country's defence, while 40% would like more support for health care, and 31% for education.

The survey also found that media sources in Armenia conveyed a positive (49%) or neutral (33%) image of the EU, and that nearly all citizens (90%) would like to have more better access to information about the EU.

Senators reissue calls for enforcing Section 907 restrictions on US assistance to Azerbaijan

Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Bob Menendez was joined on Thursday by Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) in pressing the State Department to enforce Section 907 restrictions on US military assistance to Azerbaijan.

"I have repeatedly expressed my deep opposition to waiving Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, allowing the United States to send assistance to his regime. This clearly alters the balance of military power between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Aliyev's favor. I think Azerbaijan's actions over the past three years have vindicated my skepticism," stated Chairman Menendez.

"When you routinely give the waiver under Section 907, saying that Azerbaijan has demonstrated steps to cease all blockades and other offensive uses of force against Armenia when that's just not the case," stated Sen. Cardin, "we lose credibility when that happens, when we aren't prepared to take decisive steps based upon our values."

Senator Van Hollen stressed that the waiver of Section 907 should not only be based on national security considerations, but as the law states, the impact of the

waiver on the Azerbaijan-Armenia peace process. "Based on your statements from April, the State Department's statements from April, it's pretty clear that at least as of then, in your own words, in the State Department's own words, it was undermining confidence in the peace process. And I don't see anything that's changed from that day to this."

Acting Assistant Secretary Kim defended previous waivers of Section 907, noting that assistance has been used for counter-terrorism and other purposes. She confirmed that President Biden's 2022 waiver had expired in June. "We have not submitted a new waiver request yet because we are reviewing the situation very carefully," stated Acting Assistant Secretary Kim.

Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) was skeptical of the State Department's effectiveness in addressing the Artsakh crisis. "This is obviously a crisis, an active difficult, question regarding the pressure points on Azerbaijan but at this point I think you have to put all possible tools on the table because gentle diplomacy does not seem to be working," stated Senator Murphy. He also commented on Azerbaijan's growing ties with Russia in the



energy sector and asked, "So what are the implications for the U.S. and for Europe as Azerbaijan and Russia draw closer; what is the nature of that relationship, and did we make the wrong bet?"

Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) noted that she shares "the concerns that have been expressed about Azerbaijan's continued obstruction of the Lachin Corridor. In New Hampshire, we have a large Armenian diaspora, and we hear consistently from them about their concerns that Azerbaijan's blockade has resulted in severe humanitarian suffering, that it should be lifted immediately."

Other Senators participating in the hearing included Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member James Risch (R-ID) and Senators Pete Ricketts (R-NE) and Tim Kaine (D-VA).

Armenia picks Michael A. Goorjian's 'Amerikatsi' for Oscar race

Armenia has selected comedy-drama "Amerikatsi" as its official entry for the Oscar's international feature film race, Variety reports.

Written and directed by Michael A. Goorjian, it was produced by People of Ar Productions. Goorjian also stars in the feature, which was shot in Armenia and opened in New York and L.A. on Sept. 8.

In "Amerikatsi," Goorjian ("Part of Five") plays Charlie, an Armenian immigrant to the U.S. In 1948, he returns to his homeland to find the country under Soviet rule and is soon imprisoned. But from his



cell he can see a prison guard's home. "As his life unexpectedly becomes entwined with the man's, he begins to see that the true spirit of his homeland is alive in its passionate people," reads the logline.

The film also stars Hovik Keuchkerian ("Money Heist"), Nelli Uvarova, Mikhail Trukhin, Narine Girgoryan and Jean-Pierre

Nshanian.

"Nothing could make me more proud than to represent Armenian Cinema this year and to help shine a light on the massive talent within our small nation," said Goorjian.

Armenia has never previously been nominated in the Best International Feature Film category.

Producers are Goorjian, R. Patrick Malkassian, Arman Nshanian and Sol Tryon, with Vartan Barsoumian and Serj Tankian executive producing.



An exhibition of nearly one hundred photos of Charles Aznavour by French-Armenian photographer Roger Kasparian opened at the 9th district town hall of Paris on September 12, the Aznavour Foundation informs.

Kasparian immortalized many renowned French and international artists in the 1960s: "The Beatles", Brel, Gainsbourg,

Photos of Charles Aznavour on display in Paris

Hallyday, "The Rolling Stones" and others.

"In 1960, Roger Kasparian had the opportunity to photograph my father for the first time during a famous concert held at the Alhambra Hall in Paris. From then on, thanks to his keen eye and technical skills, he immortalized many other key moments of Charles Aznavour's life and career in a unique way. Black and white or color, each photo tells a story, conveys an emotion, documents the truth. Allow yourself to experience the eternal beauty of those photographs and immerse yourself in Charles Aznavour's universe, thanks to Roger Kasparian's talented eye," said Nicolas Aznavour, Co-founder and Chairman of the "Aznavour Foundation."

A precious testimony to musical and cultural history, the "Aznavour by Kasparian" exhibition pays tribute to an artist of thousand talents. The story of the "Ambassador of all Armenians" is intimately linked to the 9th arrondissement and 22 rue de Navarin, where his family lived.



Armenian students win three medals at 7th European Junior Olympiad in Informatics

On September 8-14, the 7th European Junior Olympiad in Informatics (EJOI) held in the city of Kutaisi, Georgia. The Armenian team was represented by 9th grade students Alex Grigoryan (Quantum School), Alexander Ghazaryan, Vahan Abrahamyan and Makar Dilanyan (PhysMath Special School named after A. Shahinyan).

Alex Grigoryan won a gold medal, Alexander Ghazaryan – a silver medal, Vahan Abrahamyan – a bronze medal. Makar

Dilanyan received a letter of commendation. The team was led by Armen Andreasyan and Samvel Andreasyan (YSU).

A total of 96 representatives from 24 countries participated in the Olympiad. The format of the event was similar to that of the International Olympiad in Informatics and each country was allowed to have a maximum of four participants.

In 2022, the Armenian team won 1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medals at the 6th International Junior European



Olympiad in Informatics, which was held in Ukraine in an online format.

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<p>Switzerland</p> <p>AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG</p> <p>Durachweg 15 CH-8200 Schaffhausen Phone No: +41 52 632 09 10 Fax: +41 52 632 09 11</p> <p>AZAD Pharma AG</p> <p>Bahnhofstrasse 9 CH-3125 Toffen Phone No: +41 31 810 40 10 Fax: +41 31 810 40 11</p>	<p>Canada</p> <p>AZAD Fine Chemicals Ltd.</p> <p>1895 - 55th Avenue Dorval, Qc H9P 1G9 Phone No: +1 514 636 19 99 Fax: +1 514 636 75 55</p> <p>Atlit Inc.</p> <p>16 Westminster Ave., Suite 306A Montreal, Qc H4X 1Z1 Phone No: +1 514 369 25 91 Fax: +1 514 369 81 67</p>	<p>China</p> <p>Hangzhou Representative Office of AZAD Pharmaceutical Ingredients AG</p> <p>Room 801-087, Lixin Plaza, #102 Moganshan Road 310051 -Hangzhou China</p> <p>Phone +86-571-8761 5336 Mobile +86-153-5505-0903 Fax: +86-571- 8895 8963</p>	<p>Germany</p> <p>AZAD Pharma GmbH</p> <p>Fritz-Reichle-Ring 6a DE-78315 Radolfzell Phone No: +49 7732 939101510 Fax: +49 7732 9391016</p> <p>Armenia</p> <p>AZAD Pharmaceuticals LLC</p> <p>Vanahovit 8, Proshian Asharak Ave., Kotayk Maiz Phone No: +374 93 40 40 62 Fax: +374 93 40 34 40</p>
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The publisher: NT Holding LTD
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 ՆՏ Հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ

Ծավալը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպաքանակը՝ 1500
 Circulation: 1500 print copies and
 15600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

President of the NT Media Holding:
TIGRAN HARUTYUNYAN
 Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:
GAYANEH ARAKELYAN
 Director of the weekly:
MARINA HARUTYUNYAN
 Chief Correspondent: **GOURGEN KHAZHAKIAN**
 Computer Design: **Ashot Khalapyan**

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Հարությունյան

ISSN 1829-0604
 Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝
 03ԱՑԶԳՅԶ, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.
 Registration certificate and the date:
 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: contact@nt.am
 URL: www.nt.am

Address in Armenia:
 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA
 Tel.: (+374 60) 35-11-22 (+374 60) 35-11-24

Address in France: Masion De L'Armenie,
 Paris 17e-95, Bld. Gouvion, France
 Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

Address in USA: 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112,
 Glendale, CA, USA, 91206
 Tel.: +1 (818) 646 10 72

Հասցե՝ Իսահակյան 28, Երևան, ՀՀ, 0009