

**Statement: Azerbaijan to release 32 Armenian servicemen**



The staff of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the administration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has issued a joint statement, the office of the Prime Minister of Armenia said.

The statement reads as follows:

“The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan share the view that there is a historical chance to achieve a long-awaited peace in the region. Two countries reconfirm their intention to normalize relations and to reach the peace treaty on the basis of respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Following the talks between the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan, an agreement has been reached on taking tangible steps towards building confidence between two countries.

Driven by the values of humanism and as a gesture of goodwill, the Republic of Azerbaijan releases 32 Armenian military servicemen.

In its turn, driven by the values of humanism and as a gesture of goodwill, the Republic of Armenia releases 2 Azerbaijani military servicemen.

As a sign of good gesture, the Republic of Armenia supports the bid of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 29th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, by withdrawing its own candidacy. The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan do hope that the other countries within the Eastern European Group will also support Azerbaijan’s bid to host. As a sign of good gesture, the Republic of Azerbaijan supports the Armenian candidature for Eastern European Group COP Bureau membership.

The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan will continue their discussions regarding the implementation of more confidence building measures, effective in the near future and call on the international community to support their efforts that will contribute to building mutual trust between two countries and will positively impact the entire South Caucasus region.”

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## Armenian Foreign Ministry condemns Baku's actions aimed at provoking new escalation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia has issued a statement strongly condemning Azerbaijani actions aimed at provoking a new escalation, delaying the peace process and bringing it to a deadlock.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry noted that the Azerbaijani side, through provocative actions on the border and rejections

of proposals constantly made by various international actors to continue negotiations, tries to impede the peace process and lead it into a deadlock.

"We strongly condemn these actions of the Azerbaijani side aimed at inciting a new escalation, delaying the peace process and bringing it to a deadlock," reads the statement.

*On December 4, around 2:35 p.m., the Azerbaijani armed forces opened fire at the Armenian combat position in Bardzruni village of Armenia's Vayots Dzor Province.*

*As a result of the Azeri provocation, Armenian military unit serviceman Gerasim Arakelyan received a fatal gunshot wound from a shot fired by the enemy sniper.*

## Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister receives delegation led by MEP Geoffroy Didier

Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Paruyr Hovhannisyan on December 5 received the delegation led by Member of the European Parliament Geoffroy Didier.

Welcoming the members of the delegation, Paruyr Hovhannisyan highlighted the significant support from the European Parliament on issues of primary importance for Armenia during the challenging period for the country and the region, the foreign ministry said.

"The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs noted that the scope of cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union is impressive, including active political dialogue, joint efforts to overcome current challenges,



the implementation of the provisions of the Comprehensive and Extended Partnership Agreement and the prospects for expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The Deputy Minister also expressed appreciation for the EU's initiatives aimed at enhancing Armenia's resilience," the statement reads.

According to the source, members of the delegation expressed their concern about the large-scale military attack by Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh in September, highlighting the resulting humanitarian situation.

Deputy Geoffroy Didier expressed full support for Armenia in overcoming the current challenges.

It is noted that Paruyr Hovhannisyan comprehensively presented steps aimed at normalizing Armenia-Azerbaijan relations and addressing other regional issues.

## Peace treaty can be signed within days if Azerbaijan accepts latest proposals – Speaker

The peace treaty can be signed with 5 days if Azerbaijan doesn't delay the process, Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan has said.

"The treaty can be signed within some ten, or five days in case of desire to do so. We've sent our sixth proposals, significant work has been done. If the Azerbaijani side doesn't change anything and doesn't present new proposals, of course it can be signed within a few days," Simonyan said when asked on the likelihood of concluding the peace talks by yearend.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev

recently said that peace can be established even without a peace treaty, and cited the example of Russia and Japan.

Speaker Simonyan commented on Aliyev's remarks, saying that the Azeri leader brought a very bad example.

"I don't think that the territorial issue which Japan is presenting to Russia, and the issue that we have, are identical. I don't know why he brought that example, I am honestly surprised. Regarding the peace treaty, yes, peace can be achieved if the Azerbaijani president starts from positive steps, for example, by changing his



rhetoric, and coming to the meetings that are being organized in various platforms, and reiterating what he had said during the meetings," Simonyan said.

## No mediators involved in latest Armenia-Azerbaijan agreement – says lawmaker

The negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan which resulted in the [joint statement](#) were held bilaterally, without mediators, according to a senior Armenian lawmaker.

“The negotiations were bilateral, the statement doesn’t mention any other side,” said Sargis Khandanyan, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations, when asked whether the talks involved mediators.

Asked when the Armenian prisoners will return from Azerbaijan, the MP said it’s a matter of ‘hours or days.’

“According to the statement it must take place in the nearest time. It is a matter of hours or days. If I’m not mistaken, the prisoner return process must take place on the state border of Armenia and



Azerbaijan,” he said.

Khandanyan declined to confirm or deny the list issued by Azerbaijan of names of the POWs who are to be released. He said that Armenia cannot release names until the prisoners cross the border.

“I’d avoid mentioning names, first of all because I am unaware of details, but also because this is a highly sensitive topic. I

think the names shouldn’t be released until the prisoners cross the state border of Armenia, because, understandably, this can be very difficult for the families of the prisoners,” he said when asked on the authenticity of the list of names of the detainees issued by the Azeri authorities.

He added that the government of Armenia will continue to work to achieve the release of all POWs and other detainees held in Azerbaijan.

“This was a part of the process, and there is certain result regarding the process, and the government of Armenia will continue to carry out diplomatic and legal work, so that all prisoners and other detainees who are in Azerbaijan are released as a result of such a process,” Khandanyan said.

## Border delimitation process with Azerbaijan will be complex and lengthy, says Deputy Prime Minister

Border delimitation process between Armenia and Azerbaijan will be complex and lengthy, Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia, Mher Grigoryan said during the question-and-answer session with members of the government in the National Assembly.

“The delimitation process will be quite complex and prolonged; this is obvious. There seems to be a mutual understanding that the delimitation process will be carried out solely on the basis of documents having legal significance. Additionally, we will work with maps that are not pictures or map-like diagrams, but actual topographic maps. For example, the 1975 map,

which should be carefully studied. There will not be a single meeting after which we will come and declare that the delimitation process is completed. This is simply impossible,” said the Deputy Prime Minister.

Grigoryan emphasized the importance of the fact that the parties share a common understanding of the process, its significance and the approach to work.

Addressing the outcomes of the latest working meeting between the commissions of Armenia and Azerbaijan on delimitation issues, the Deputy Prime Minister mentioned that they had agreed to establish a working protocol that would outline the institutional process of the work.

The Deputy Prime Minister didn’t provide substantive details from the latest meeting, as it wasn’t discussed, including matters related to enclaves and exclaves.



## Upper Lars problem concerning Armenian freight trucks resolved, says Economy Minister

The problem at the Upper Lars checkpoint pertaining to Russia [banning](#) an increasing number of Armenian export freight trucks from entering the country has been resolved, Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan has said.

He said the issue related to stronger supervision administered by the customs.

“At this moment the vehicles are mostly passing through the Upper Lars checkpoint. The problems emerged as a result of increased control at the Lars checkpoint, after which we initiated discussions on various levels, regarding the problems and solutions. The clearance of vehicles got restored Saturday,” Kerobyan said in parliament when asked on the matter.

The minister said that the government prioritizes that Armenian companies have high-quality products, not just for exports but also local consumption. “We are resolute in this regard, so that goods produced in Armenia become high-quality, high-standard in a short period of time,” he said.

## U.S. urges Azerbaijan to seek durable peace with Armenia



The U.S. continues to engage with Azerbaijan to urge them to seek a durable peace with Armenia, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller has said.

Speaking at a press briefing, Miller said that Assistant Secretary of State James O'Brien's upcoming trip to Azerbaijan doesn't mean that the U.S. is backpedaling

from its policy that, as O'Brien himself said earlier in November 'nothing will be normal with Azerbaijan after the events of September 19 until we see progress on the peace track'.

"No, not at all," Miller said when asked whether O'Brien's trip is a departure from newly announced policy. "We never said that we're not going to continue to engage with Azerbaijan. That would be against our interests as the United States of America. We think it would be against the interests of peace and security in the region for us to just drop all of our diplomatic engagements with Azerbaijan. We continue to engage directly with both Azerbaijan

and Armenia to make clear – for example, in the case of Azerbaijan – where we have concerns. We've been concerned with the recent trend of detaining journalists. We continue to urge them to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, something that I've spoken to from this podium in the past. And we also continue to engage with them to urge them to seek a durable peace with Armenia, and that's something that will continue to be the focus of our diplomatic engagements."

Miller added that human rights is always on the table for the United States of America when they have these sorts of diplomatic engagements.

## Iran welcomes Armenia's step towards peace and security

Iran welcomes the latest steps made by the Armenian government for peace and security, Ambassador of Iran to Armenia Mehdi Sobhani has said.

"We support Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, we support lasting and sustainable peace in the region," the Iranian Ambassador said at a forum entitled New Regional Reality and the Crossroads of Peace.

Ambassador Sobhani spoke about the historic relations between Armenia and Iran and the good-neighborly relations between the two governments which enable the side to further develop ties.

He said that Armenia and Iran have the shortest common border which has always been a border of friendship and peace.

Ambassador Sobhani mentioned the

growing trade between the two countries, and that turnover is already reaching 1 billion dollars.

"Our two countries have mutually beneficial agreements in infrastructure development and energy. We are trying to reveal untapped potential for the benefit of the relations between the two countries. Undoubtedly, the opening of transit infrastructures and connection routes will contribute not only to the development of the economic and trade relations between the two countries, but will pave the way for regional participation. We believe that connection corridors from India up to the Chabahar Port, Armenia and the Black Sea, will provide a reliable road for shipping goods to the north, to Europe. The development of this route will safeguard



our countries from foreign harm. In this context, we attach importance to India's role in the development of the Chabahar Port, and we welcome the Armenian participation in this work. I believe that if the countries have more connection routes, they will acquire a more significant role in the international arena. This is the new concept of power," the Ambassador said.

## Grigoryan, Sullivan discuss Armenia-US ties, regional security

On December 4, Armen Grigoryan, the Secretary of the Armenian Security Council, met with Jake Sullivan, US President's National Security Adviser, at the White House.

The parties discussed issues of mutual interest in the fields of security and economy, highly appreciating the dynamics of



stable development of Armenia-US bilateral relations.

The interlocutors referred to the regional security situation. Armen Grigoryan reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to the normalization of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations and continuing the peace process.

## India ready to participate in infrastructure development projects in Armenia



The centuries-old relations between Armenia, India and Iran are a strong foundation for cooperation in present days, Ambassador of India to Armenia Nilakshi Saha Sinha has said.

Speaking at the New Regional Reality and the Crossroads of Peace forum in Yerevan, the Indian Ambassador said that Armenia and India have historic ties, and Iran is a bridge that has contributed to the development of the relations.

"India and Iran are closely cooperating as part of the North-South international transport corridor initiative, which connects the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf with the Caspian Sea, towards Russia and Europe. We are ready to work with Armenia to understand how the country can benefit from the opportunities of this corridor," the ambassador said.

Speaking about the Crossroads of

Peace project developed by the Armenian government, the Indian ambassador said that this initiative presented by Prime Minister Pashinyan seeks to promote connectivity in the Caucasus, including railways, roads and power transmission lines, through the development of infrastructures.

"Armenia is currently developing its road infrastructure, from the southern border with Iran to the northern border with Georgia. Certain Indian companies have displayed interest towards this project. We are ready to participate in infrastructure development projects in Armenia," the Indian ambassador said.

## In talks with Russia's Lavrov, FM Mirzoyan shared Armenia's vision regarding Russia's position on sensitive issues

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, at a meeting with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan in Skopje, presented the Russian vision of geopolitical developments, and Ararat Mirzoyan shared the Armenian side's vision regarding Russia's position on various sensitive issues.

Armenian Foreign Minister said during a question-and-answer session in the National Assembly, in response to a query from Lilit Minasya, deputy of the NA "Civil Agreement" faction.

The deputy inquired about the topic of the recent meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during the 30th OSCE Ministerial Council in Skopje, particularly considering the recent complications in Armenian-Russian relations.

Mirzoyan highlighted that the agenda of bilateral relations between Armenia and Russia encompasses a wide range of areas and issues. The two countries also share overlapping interests in regional matters, ensuring that there is always a substantive topic to discuss with Russia.

"We are always pleased to use the opportunities for such contacts. During the meeting, the Russian Foreign Minister presented their vision on recent events and geopolitical developments. We, in turn, shared our perceptions of their positions and our views on the behavior and positions of the Russian Federation regarding various sensitive issues," said Mirzoyan, assessing the meeting as effective.

The deputy noted that after the

meeting, the Russian Foreign Ministry published a video where Sergey Lavrov complained about the representative of Armenia in the OSCE.

"Yes, I saw a fragment of our meeting, which was spread by the Russian Foreign Ministry. There seems to be some kind of misunderstanding. Sergey Lavrov believed that the initiative for the meeting came from our permanent representative to the OSCE, but the information I had was completely different.

Apparently, there was a technical misunderstanding, which was brought to the attention of the Russian Foreign Minister. The conversation was about who initiated the meeting, and I said that we did not initiate it," said FM Mirzoyan.

## Worrying report of shootings and death on Armenian-Azerbaijani border – Toivo Klaar

Worrying report of shootings and death on Armenian-Azerbaijani border; EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia said in a post on X.

"The EU is constantly engaged with Baku and Yerevan. It is essential that calm prevails on the ground and decisive

progress is achieved at the negotiating table," Klaar said.

Serviceman of the Armenian Armed Forces Gerasim Avetik Arakelyan was killed as Azerbaijani armed forces opened fire at Armenian combat position in Bardzruni, Vayots Dzor Province at approximately 2:35 p.m. today.



## Finance Minister presents 2024 defense expenditures

The Armenian government has envisaged 554 billion drams for defense expenditures under the 2024 budget, finance minister Vahe Hovhannisyian has said.

“The Ministry of Defense expenditures in 2024 amount to 554 billion drams. This will be a seven percent increase compared to the 2023 defense spending, and as a result the 2024 defense spending will amount to 5,3% of GDP, decreasing by 0,3



percentage point compared to 2023,” he

said in parliament during debates of the 2024 state budget.

Asked to elaborate on the decrease against the GDP, the minister said, “When we say it has decreased 0,3 percent, it doesn’t mean that the money has decreased, it’s just that our revenues are growing faster than the expenditures that we have decided to allocate for the defense sector.”

## No plans to close down Armenian NPP: IAEA chief responds to Turkey’s demands

The International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) is confident that Armenia’s Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant can continue operations given the important refurbishments done at the facility.

Metsamor NPP is following the safety recommendations and guidance from the IAEA, Director General Rafael Grossi told [Armenpress](#).

“The Armenian Nuclear Power Plant is following the safety recommendations and guidance from the IAEA. This is very important. There have been important refurbishments done at the facility which were found to be indispensable, so we can continue operating, there will be an extension of the licensing of the plant for a few more years and we are satisfied with

the way in which they have been implemented,” Grossi told Armenpress at COP28 in UAE.

On Turkey’s latest request seeking to shut down Metsamor alleging that the facility is unsafe, Grossi said that the IAEA has absolutely no plans to close the Armenian NPP and that operations can continue. The IAEA chief noted that countries having ‘certain issues’ with their neighbors around the world tend to file such complaints to the IAEA.

“Well, we listen to everybody. The IAEA is a global organization, so we listen to everybody. And when it comes to this kind of concerns, we explain what we are doing, we give the assurances that everything is being done correctly. I would tell you,

it’s not the only case, in some other parts of the world where neighbors have certain issues, countries come to me and say ‘what is happening in my neighbor’, so we take it seriously but we give the answers, the most important thing is that Armenia continues to work seriously with us and reinforces the safety of the facility and we are very confident,” Grossi said.

Asked whether the IAEA plans to close the Armenian NPP, Rafael Grossi said, “No, absolutely not. If there is an issue with the plant we will address it immediately with the government, and we would be the first to say that there is a problem and that some action would need to be taken. But at the moment, as I say, we are confident that operations can continue.”

## Armenia interested in activities in Iran’s Chabahar Port

Head of Iran’s Ports and Maritime Organization (MPO) Ali-Akbar Safaei has said Armenia is eager to take part in maritime activities in the Islamic Republic’s southeastern Chabahar Port, [Tehran Times](#) reports.

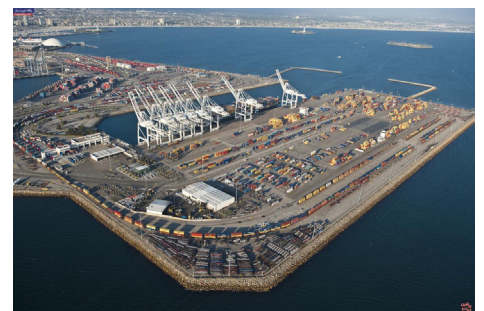
Safaei who met with Armenia’s Deputy Economy Minister Narek Teryan and the country’s commercial attaché to Iran Vardan Kostanyan in Tehran on December 5, said: “Considering the interest of the Armenian government to cooperate in the maritime and port sector with Iran, the Ports and Maritime Organization will

do its best to facilitate such cooperation.”

Addressing the meeting, Safaei emphasized that the MPO welcomes any bilateral agreement between Iran and Armenia in the maritime and port sector, adding that Iran supports any tripartite cooperation with India and Armenia in Chabahar Port, and the proposed packages in this regard are being reviewed by the MPO.

The official said the Iranian government has been following new strategies to expand economic cooperation with neighboring countries and in line with these strategies, the country’s maritime

trade has increased by nine percent in the current Iranian calendar year in comparison to the previous year.



## Armenian companies present solutions and products at EDEX 2023 exhibition of defense and security technologies

Twelve Armenian companies present their solutions and products at EDEX 2023 international exhibition of defense and security technologies in Cairo, the Ministry of High-Tech Industry informs.

High-Tech Minister Robert Khachatryan participated in the official opening ceremony on December 4. He visited the Armenian pavilion, talked to representatives of the companies, got acquainted with the products and solutions on display and walked around the exhibition halls where the latest defense and security technological solutions, equipment and



systems are presented.

Participating companies have the opportunity to get acquainted with the latest developments in leading technologies,

establish business contacts, acquire new partners. EDEX 2023 also creates important prerequisites for promoting Armenian high-tech potential and products on international stage.

The exhibition is held under the patronage of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Abdel Fattah El Sisi. The events has brought together around 400 organizations, 35 thousand visitors are expected at the expo. EDEX is the only defense and security event covering Africa and the Middle East.

## Authorities envisage 47,3 billion AMD in support for NK forcibly displaced persons



The Armenian government has envisaged 47,3 billion drams under the 2024

budget for assistance programs for the forcibly displaced persons of Nagorno-Karabakh, Finance Minister Vahe Hovhannisyan told lawmakers on November 6.

He said that this figure is just a part of the entire assistance.

The assistance includes support projects in education, employment, social protection, accommodation and other areas.

Authorities are currently discussing additional support measures.

The reserve fund of the 2024 budget

is envisaged at an unprecedented level of 156 billion drams, the minister said at the 2024 budget debates.

Speaking about international support for the NK refugees, the minister said that the EU, France and China have pledged to provide budgetary support funds, and upon receiving them the authorities will either reduce the projected deficit of the budget or plan additional urgent spendings.

## Over 500 international IT experts will arrive in Yerevan for the Harmony Meetup 4.0 Conference

The Harmony Meetup annual technology conference will take place for the fourth time in Yerevan from December 11 to 14, with the support of Fastex. During four days, international advocates of the web3 concept of the new era of the Internet, authors of innovative technological solutions, managers and representatives of more than 350 international ICT companies, including more than 60 partner organizations.

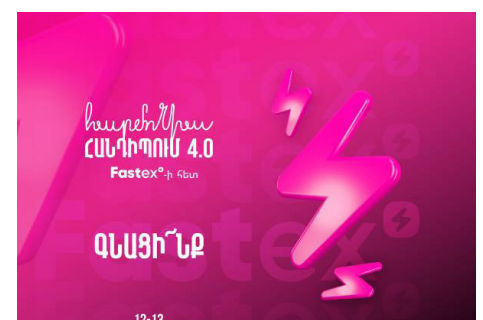
Additionally more than 20 high-level experts will discuss the challenges of the sector, participate in panel discussions,

will share knowledge and experience. Attendees will have an opportunity to tour the buildings of the technology company SoftConstruct.

“Such meetings enable us not only to discuss the future of the sector but also to make the utmost effort to achieve noticeable results for both the web3 community and the consumers of the products created by it,” said Vakhtang Abrahamyan, Executive Director of Fastex.

About 500 representatives of the international web3 community will also attend the special award ceremony, during which

the winners of game projects in various categories will be announced. The prize fund of 3 million FTN will be directed to promote the winners’ projects not only in local but also in international markets.



## In the Republic of Armenia, everyone is equal before the law, and this is the political will of the Government, the parliamentary majority and myself. Prime Minister

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan made a final speech at the discussions of the state budget bill for 2024 in the National Assembly, in which he specifically stated:

“Honorable President of the National Assembly,  
Dear Cabinet members,  
Dear MPs,  
Dear attendees,  
Dear people,

In the previous stages of the discussion of the state budget bill for 2024, I referred to the developments taking place in a number of strategic directions. Today I want to touch on justice, the strategic importance of which cannot be overestimated.

The biggest expectation of the people who implemented the popular, non-violent, velvet revolution of 2018 was justice, the elimination of corruption from the Republic of Armenia. I have to report with pain that these expectations remain in place, which means that they have not been realized, at least in full.

But what does this mean, why have these expectations not been met, does it mean that the government has betrayed the principles and values of the revolution? Strange as it may seem, before answering this question, one must first answer another question: what is justice, rule of law, how is it expressed or how should it be expressed?

After the popular, non-violent, velvet revolution of 2018, many expected that revolutionary justice would take place, that is, verdicts would be made and carried out in the public squares, including the confiscation of property, and even the punishment of specific individuals in specific ways, something that was called terror during the French Revolution. But we did not go that way for a simple reason: we did not carry out a revolution like the October Socialist Revolution, but a revolution of love and solidarity and promised that there would be no vendettas in Armenia.

This is an important nuance, because both justice and not adopting vendetta practices is our revolutionary obligation to the people. And a natural question arises: how were we and are we going to implement that, the two obligations may seem contradictory: not to carry out vendettas and to establish justice in the country.

It is here that the seemingly simple question at first glance acquires key significance: what is justice, how and where



is justice determined?

Our approach has been and continues to be the same: justice is determined in institutions that have the authority to administer justice, establish justice and act on the basis of the law and the Constitution. We can say that justice is an institutional phenomenon, and my belief was and remains that what is not institutional is not and cannot be justice. Otherwise, one may consider shooting another at the building entrance a just action, the second to break another's jaw, the third to take a stake in another's business, the fourth to usurp someone else's property. Not only can this not be justice, even if it is considered fair in public opinion, it is also a direct way to undermine the state and statehood, the highest result of the lack of will to have a state.

Justice is an institutional phenomenon. What is not institutional is not and cannot be justice. But this is where the next important question arises: has the government done anything or what is it doing to establish deep institutional justice and rule of law in Armenia?

The answer to this question is also provided by the state budget of the Republic of Armenia.

Compared to 2018, in 2023 the funding of the judicial system has doubled. In 2024, this trend will become more pronounced. The salary of judges of the Court of Cassation has increased significantly on top of the already high base. And the salaries of judges of the Court of Appeal and the Court of First Instance will increase from January 1, 2024. Funding for the prosecution has more than doubled in 2023 compared to 2018, and this situation will be further accentuated in 2024. Prosecutors' salaries have almost doubled. Investigative Committee funding increased by 256 percent in 2023 compared to 2018. The salary of investigators of the Investigative Committee has almost doubled.

In 2023, funding for the Anti-Corruption Committee increased by 443 percent compared to 2018.

Investigators' salaries have increased substantially on top of an already high base, and operative officers are receiving unheard-of salaries. The salaries of judges of the Constitutional Court have almost doubled, the financing of the Constitutional Court has increased significantly. All these decisions were made by the government, the parliamentary majority, and we made these decisions believing in the ideals of the institutional essence of justice and the essence of the judicial system. Speaking at the Cabinet meetings regarding these decisions, I announced that we are increasing salaries not so much for judges, prosecutors, and investigators as for citizens, because judges, prosecutors, and investigators provide services to citizens, people, and the public. It is they who must implement institutional justice and fairness. I believe and see that great efforts are being made, but the citizens of the Republic of Armenia still do not have a sense of justice and the inevitability of justice, and this is a serious problem, but more importantly, this perception of the public has deep and objective reasons. That is, the lack of that perception.

I have already spoken publicly about some of them, but I must repeat that, for example, the scenes of the arrests of suspects with noise and shouting, with masks and guns, and then the fact that in a few days people see those same suspects enjoying coffee in cafes produces cognitive dissonance in the public consciousness. It's not so that whoever was arrested should no longer be released. But my perception is that when covering their activities, investigative and operational agencies should start relying more on verdicts than on preliminary actions, the judicial outcome of which no one knows.

When reporting to the Government, the National Assembly, and the public, investigative bodies and the prosecutor's office should not rely on the statistics of how many cases were initiated or sent to court, but on how many verdicts were made, because the current methodology of statistics gives a good idea of the actions, but gives no idea of the results. I will suggest to our partners in the National Assembly and the government that changes be made in the relevant regulations to define this



logic in the reports submitted to the Government and the National Assembly, because this is what should show the quality and depth of the work of our investigative bodies, prosecutor's office, and courts. This is what that should answer the question whether there is justice and rule of law in the country or not. On the other hand, we have deep problems in the judicial system. Sometimes it seems that trials can last forever and this is no exaggeration. There are lawyers who assess this as an abuse of judicial rights, and since the delays happen at the initiative of the defendants, another group of lawyers say that it is a matter of the exercise of human rights, and imposing restrictions here will have a negative impact on the protection of human rights.

But on the other hand, the question arises: the victims are humans, aren't they? Who should protect their interests and rights? Doesn't the public, which has the right to know the truth in many cases, consist of humans, or will the unnecessary delays of trials increase the feeling of protection of people in the Republic of Armenia or vice versa? I think, vice versa. And as someone who initiated the 2019 court blockade, this is a bitter note for me. At that time, many tried to present the action as an attempt to obstruct justice. In fact, we closed the doors of the court for a few hours to open the doors of justice. But I must record that the doors of justice are not yet fully opened, not sufficiently opened. What should be done then?

My belief remains that what we must do is to implement institutional reforms. We must keep alive the public demand for justice and rule of law, against all odds, we must keep our faith in the ideal of an independent judiciary. The role of the National Assembly is essential in this process. Only those candidates who believe in justice and rule of law, independent judiciary and possess the proper degree of integrity should be elected to the judiciary.

After 5 years of reforms, we are finally seeing some activity in illegal asset confiscation cases, and these cases are being investigated in the newly formed anti-corruption courts. As you know, after the revolution, we formed 3-instance anti-corruption courts with high salaries for judges. Moreover, we are approaching European standards with the salaries of the judicial system. Significant steps are being taken to ease the burden on the courts. Since 2018, 60 new positions of judges have been added in Armenia, and many other reforms have been implemented. Now, enforcement of arbitration decisions in cases of confiscation of small sums of up to

5 million AMD will be carried out without putting burden on the courts. A package was adopted, according to which, during the last two years before the expiry of the judge's term of office, the given judge will hear only cases of issuance of a payment order and simplified proceedings, in order to relieve the burden of other judges and not to have unfinished and transferred cases, which under our legislation start from scratch.

In administrative, civil, and bankruptcy proceedings, most cases will be heard by written procedure, quickly and efficiently, without conducting hearings for minor cases. The function of returning the application and attached documents in technical cases has been assigned to the judicial clerks, which will speed up the correction of errors in the documents and initiation of proper claims. It is planned to free the courts from obviously unreasonable questions, get the Civil Court of Appeals rid of small money cases, carry out court notifications using telephone or Internet connection, for example by sending a message, completely digitize the civil and administrative proceedings. These are steps that will allow our courts to spend as little time as possible on technical work and focus on the task of ensuring justice and rule of law. And as a result, the citizen of the Republic of Armenia should be confident that if injustice has happened to him, he surely has the opportunity to restore justice through state institutions, and this feeling is essential from the point of view of the interests of our state, the development of the Republic of Armenia.

Dear attendees,  
Dear people,

In this sense, the rumors among the public about the activation of corruption phenomena are disturbing, which are substantiated by a number of specific findings. But I must also record that, among others, protracted trials and the lack of perception of the inevitability of punishment create fertile ground for the activation of corruption phenomena. However, the government and the parliamentary majority have a key role in the anti-corruption fight, which must continue the work of introducing the most serious mechanisms for the fight against corruption and its prevention. I want to emphasize once again that after 2018 completely new institutions of anti-corruption policy were introduced in the Republic of Armenia. For example, the Corruption Prevention Commission, the funding of which increased by 443 percent compared to 2018. In 2024, this indicator will become 566 percent. New declaration and good conduct systems

have been introduced and are under development and this work should continue.

I have already talked about the formation of the Anti-Corruption Committee, I also talked about the need to review the work methods of the Anti-Corruption Committee and increase the efficiency of its work. One thing is obvious and I want to state this once again: there are no untouchable people in the Republic of Armenia, all people are equal before the law, and this is the political will of the Government, the parliamentary majority and myself. But in order to realize this political will, it is necessary to create proper structures, to continue this process, so that the subjective perceptions of the investigator, prosecutor, and judge do not have either a negative or a positive effect on the course and outcome of criminal cases. My feeling is that we have not yet managed to create such a situation, and as trivial as it sounds, the solution to this problem is also related to the change in thinking, the change we have been talking about lately within the framework of the concept of "motherland is a state".

Motherland is the state.

If you love your motherland, be law-abiding.

Motherland is the state.

If you love your motherland, then report the crime.

Motherland is the state.

If you love your motherland, don't take bribes,

Motherland is the state.

If you love your motherland, don't steal.

Motherland is the state.

If you love your motherland, don't falsify.

Motherland is the state.

If you love your motherland, don't give bribe.

Honorable President of the National Assembly,

Dear Cabinet members,

Dear MPs,

Dear attendees,

Dear people,

I think that in the last five years, the ruling majority has made enough reforms, including personnel solutions, to have the right to expect that justice and rule of law will be established as cornerstone institutions in the Republic of Armenia, and therefore the ball is now in the court of institutions that implement justice and rule of law.

The state budget 2024 continues the process of strengthening justice and rule of law as an institution in Armenia. Also for this reason, I urge to vote in favor of the state budget bill. Thank you".

## 60 US Senators and Representatives urge increased security aid for Armenia

Sixty U.S. Senators and Representatives, led by Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), called on congressional leaders to send security assistance to Armenia and provide additional refugee relief aid for Artsakh genocide survivors as part of the national security supplemental funding bill, set to be reviewed as early as next week, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

Specifically, the Padilla-Eshoo letter – broadly supported through ANCA-led nationwide grassroots action – calls for \$10 million in U.S. foreign military financing (FMF) for Armenia and requests humanitarian assistance allocated in the supplemental aid bill to be made available to Armenia to meet the needs of the 120,000 Armenians from Artsakh forced from their homes following Azerbaijan's ethnic cleansing of the region's entire Armenian population in September 2023.

"We thank Congresswoman Eshoo and Senator Padilla for partnering in this bicameral call on President Biden to invest in Armenia's security and meaningfully support Artsakh's refugees," said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "With President Biden lining up on the wrong side of Armenian issues – arming Azerbaijan and abandoning Artsakh – Congress is



stepping up, leading America's response to the escalating threats that Turkey and Azerbaijan represent to Armenia's very survival."

"Azerbaijan's brutal, unprovoked military assault on Nagorno-Karabakh on the heels of their months-long blockade of the Lachin Corridor has created a horrific humanitarian crisis, forcing more than 100,000 ethnic Armenian refugees to flee their homes," said Senator Padilla. "The U.S. must step up to address this emergency. I strongly urge Congressional leadership to include essential security and humanitarian assistance for Armenia in the foreign aid package."

Rep. Eshoo noted, "I'm proud to partner with Senator Padilla in leading this timely bipartisan effort to secure aid for

Armenia in the upcoming national security bill. Armenia urgently needs U.S. aid to defend its democracy against Azerbaijani aggression and to alleviate the humanitarian crisis caused by Azerbaijan's ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh. As Congress prepares legislation to support our vulnerable democratic allies around the world, Armenia must be included."

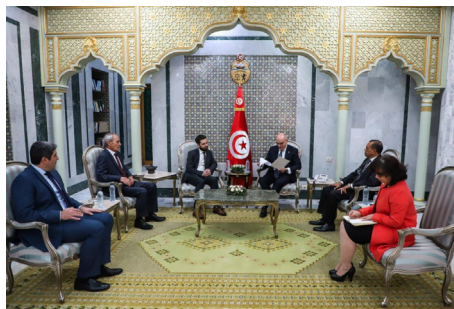
In the letter to Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY), Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), legislators cite Azerbaijan's September 19th attack on Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) and forced displacement of Artsakh 120,000 indigenous Armenians.

"We are particularly concerned that Azerbaijan will continue its aggression by invading the sovereign territory of Armenia. Ominously, Aliyev recently referred to southern Armenia as "western Azerbaijan" and called for the "liberation" of eight Armenian villages along the Azerbaijani border," state the congressional lawmakers. They go on to stress, "At this inflection point for the Caucasus, U.S. leadership is needed to deter further Azerbaijani aggression and enable Armenians to defend their democracy."

## Armenia, Tunisia to deepen cooperation in education, culture, tourism, civil aviation, healthcare, high-tech

On a working visit to Tunisia, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Vahan Kostanyan had a meeting with Nabil Ammar, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians abroad of the Republic of Tunisia. During the meeting, the Deputy Foreign Minister touched upon the relations between the two countries, briefed on the current situation in the South Caucasus, and conveyed to Minister Ammar the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan to visit Armenia.

Following the meeting, the first Armenian-Tunisian political consultations took place between the delegations headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Vahan Kostanyan and Mounir Ben Rjiba, the Secretary of State to the Minister



of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia.

During the consultations, the interlocutors thoroughly touched upon bilateral political and economic relations. Agreements were reached on deepening cooperation in the spheres of education, culture, tourism, civil aviation, healthcare, high technology and other areas of mutual interest.

The sides also touched upon issues on

regional and international security.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vahan Kostanyan briefed his counterparts on the vision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on achieving stability and peace in the South Caucasus, the "Crossroads of Peace" project aimed at stimulating regional communications, as well as the actions of the Government of Armenia to address the rights of people forcibly displaced resulting from the ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh.

During the working visit, the sides signed a memorandum on political consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Armenia and Tunisia, as well as an agreement on the establishment of a visa free regime for diplomatic passport holders.

## Azerbaijan Plans Takeover of Armenia To Create ‘Western Azerbaijan’

By [CA COURIER](#)

While Armenians are dealing with the dispossession of Artsakh and trying to cope with its tragic consequences, Azerbaijan is escalating its demands by launching a campaign claiming that the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia is supposedly ‘Western Azerbaijan.’ No sensible person in the world would take such an outrageous lie seriously, simply because Azerbaijan was founded a little over a century ago, while Armenia has been in existence for thousands of years. Even Coca Cola is older than Azerbaijan!

After establishing the ‘Western Azerbaijan Committee’ with the blessing of Pres. Aliyev, Azerbaijan has embarked on a worldwide campaign to disseminate its ridiculous scheme around the world and at the United Nations. Those Armenians who are concerned about Azerbaijan’s expansionist plans over the Syunik province of Armenia or the so-called Zangezur Corridor should be more alarmed about Azerbaijan’s enormous appetite to take over all of the Republic of Armenia, after occupying Artsakh.

Here are four actions Azerbaijan has taken at the UN in recent months:

1) Azerbaijan’s Ambassador to the UN Yashar Aliyev circulated to all members of the General Assembly and Security Council a letter by the ‘Western Azerbaijan Committee’ on January 17, 2023, stating that “All Azerbaijanis expelled from the territory of nowadays Armenia and their descendants have the right to return to their homeland.”

2) A second letter was submitted by Azerbaijan to the UN on February 22, 2023, accusing Armenians of carrying out acts of “violence, genocide, massacres and other crimes against humanity and gross violations of human rights. This process was particularly violent and cruel in 1905–1906, 1918–1921, 1948–1953 and 1987–1991.” The letter added that “in nowadays Armenia, Azerbaijani historical and cultural heritage, including mosques and graveyards, were massively destroyed, toponyms were changed and systematic racial discrimination was carried out

against Azerbaijanis.”

Moreover, Azerbaijan demanded that the UN take the following steps for the settlement of Azerbaijanis in Armenia:

– Obtaining a legally binding international agreement with appropriate verification and guarantee mechanisms ensuring the voluntary return of Azerbaijanis expelled from the territory of nowadays Armenia to their homeland in safety and dignity;

– Securing the return process with appropriate security, humanitarian and socio-economic assistance programs;

– Establishing international monitoring, accountability, security, intervention and other necessary activities to prevent the recurrence of expulsion, discrimination and harm to the returned population;

– Ensuring sustainable rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees through the implementation of reconstruction and reconciliation measures under international supervision.”

Azerbaijan’s UN Ambassador demanded that Azeris who return to Armenia “have unimpeded communication with the Republic of Azerbaijan.” This is a very alarming suggestion which means that the Republic of Azerbaijan wants to have a road under its control within the territory of Armenia. The letter added that Azeris returning to Armenia should not be dispersed throughout the country, but kept together as a group and their safety and rights ensured. Even more alarming is the demand that Azeris be able to “use the Azerbaijani language in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the [Armenian] Government.” Azerbaijan added the following ridiculous demand: “Azerbaijanis shall be entitled to form local security forces and take an appropriate role in courts” of Armenia. This actually means that Armenia will be an appendix to Azerbaijan rather than a sovereign republic.

Furthermore, to ensure the safety of Azeris returning to Armenia, Azerbaijan “considers it necessary to deploy an international security mission with an appropriate mandate and comprised of the forces of countries trusted by Western

Azerbaijanis in the areas to which they will be returning.” In other words, Azerbaijan wants to station foreign troops on Armenia’s territory, which is completely unacceptable. Azerbaijan also stated that “The Government of Armenia shall ensure the return of property and community lands belonging to Azerbaijanis and pay compensation for property damage and losses caused by preventing the use of property.” Those who make such insane demands are living in a make-believe world.

3) The ‘Western Azerbaijan Committee’ delivered a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in April 2023, requesting him “to send a special UN mission to Armenia for launching the process of safe and dignified return of Azerbaijanis expelled from this country.”

4) The ‘Western Azerbaijan Committee’ submitted a report in October 2023 to the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. According to the Azeri media, the UN Committee “demanded that Armenia address the issues raised by the Western Azerbaijan Committee.” If there is any truth in this claim, I hope that Armenia’s UN Representative responded to Azerbaijan’s allegations and exposed the Azeri lies.

This is the vindictive enemy that Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan naively believes he can sign a ‘Peace Treaty’ with. This unnecessary ‘Peace Treaty’ will actually undermine Armenia’s interests. Azerbaijan is already demanding that the rights of “Azeris expelled from Armenia” be included in such a treaty, thus providing the ground for future aggression and occupation by Azerbaijan. The Azeri letter to the UN in fact includes such an alarming provision: “the [Azeri] Community will aspire to include the creation of conditions for the return of Western Azerbaijanis to their homeland as an obligation of Armenia in the peace treaty to be concluded between Azerbaijan and Armenia.”

The only way to end this nonsense is for Armenia to stop the slippery slope of making endless concessions to Azerbaijan and reject all of its unacceptable demands.

## Journalist Lindsey Snell meets Australian MFA officials, exposes Azerbaijan's aggressive rhetoric



During the 2023 Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU) Annual Advocacy Week in November, international guest of honor Lindsey Snell met with the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to expose Azerbaijan's aggressive rhetoric against the Republic of Armenia and absurd 'Western Azerbaijan' propaganda.

Snell who was honored with the organization's Ben Bagdikian Media award

at the 2023 ANC-AU Advocacy Events in Sydney and Melbourne, met with Geoff Bowan, Assistant Secretary for the Eastern and South-East Europe Branch of the Foreign Affairs ministry along with several of his departmental colleagues.

Throughout the meeting Snell presented unseen video footage and interviews filmed during her recent visit to Armenia highlighting the devastating consequences of the September 2023

premeditated attacks against Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

In addition, Snell presented videos from Azerbaijani state media outlets exposing the regimes Armenophobic rhetoric and openly broadcasted territorial ambitions on the sovereign borders of the Republic of Armenia.

Snell said the footage presented was "shocking" to Australian parliamentarians and department officials and would create even more concern amongst the general Australian public if revealed by mainstream media outlets and journalists.

At the 2023 Advocacy Weeks events in Australia Snell said, "I make a commitment to the truth, I commit to continuing to film, to write, to raise awareness and to follow Azerbaijan's rhetoric."

Armenian National Committee of Australia Executive Director Michael Kolokosian said, "Azerbaijan may be able to hide its territorial ambitions and Armenophobic rhetoric on the global stage, however thanks to the work of Snell who continues to vigorously monitor Azerbaijani state media outlets the evidence of their shameful aggression and hatred will be exposed and it is our job to ensure it is appropriately denounced."

## 35 years after the devastating earthquake



December 7 marks the 35th anniversary of the devastating earthquake in Spitak. The earthquake hit 40% of the territory of Armenia, densely populated regions with 1 million people.

The cities of Spitak, Leninakan (now Gyumri), Kirovakan (now Vanadzor) and Stepanavan, as well as hundreds of villages were totally or partially destroyed. Twenty-five thousand people were killed; 500

thousand were left without shelter. 17% of the buildings were destroyed; the work of 170 industrial companies was halted.

Immediately after the earthquake Armenians all over the world united and offered comprehensive support to the Motherland. "SOS Armenia," "Aznavour for Armenia" and tens of other organizations were created. Many Diaspora Armenians rushed to Armenia, bringing food, clothes and medicine.

Many of them – doctors, psychologists, constructors, architects – stayed in Armenia and personally participated in the rescue works.

A number of countries of the world continued to support Armenia years after the earthquake. Italians built a whole

dwelling district in Spitak, Norwegians built a hospital, which was named after great humanist F. Nansen.

A school built by Englishmen was opened in Gyumri. Prime Minister of Great Britain Margaret Thatcher participated in the opening ceremony.



## AUA and Washington State University launch partnership to create Center for Excellence in Journalism funded by U.S. Embassy in Yerevan



The American University of Armenia (AUA), in partnership with Washington State University (WSU), today signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish a Center for Excellence in Journalism and create a new master's program in journalism education. The \$1.3 million, four-year university partnership initiative is funded by the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan to support Armenia's media sector.

Through the U.S. Embassy's support, 90% tuition scholarship will be provided to approximately nine graduate students per year to study in the Master's in Journalism degree program, with a select number of students also having the opportunity to compete for a summer internship in the United States, where they will acquire hands-on reporting skills in a U.S. media outlet.

"We are proud and grateful to be the recipient of this important grant from the U.S. Embassy," said AUA President Dr. Bruce Boghosian. "Since the University's inception, the U.S. government and US-AID/ASHA have supported the American University of Armenia in various ways, and this marks another milestone in our

long-standing relationship. We look forward to working alongside our colleagues at WSU to implement this project and eventually launch a Master's in Journalism degree program. We are convinced that this new program will be of great benefit to Armenia and the region at large."

The Center for Excellence in Journalism will serve as a hub for journalism education and leadership in research, training, best practices, and collaboration with leading experts and policy makers that advances knowledge of how quality journalism can serve as a bulwark against misinformation and improve networking within Armenia's journalism ecosystem. The Center will also offer professional development programs serving the wider media community.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Rafik Mansour traveled to Armenia to inaugurate the new university partnership. U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Kristina Kvien, as well as Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Zhanna Andreasyan, also attended the launch event.

"This U.S.-Armenia relationship is based on shared values, including press freedom and the critical role of education in building a strong, democratic society that is resilient to disinformation," said Deputy Assistant Secretary Mansour at the inauguration event. "The United States is proud to invest in this university partnership initiative, which will support Armenia's democratic development, and invest in the next generation of journalists."

"This project aims to support current and future journalists with the knowledge and skills to have a positive impact on the journalism sector in Armenia and beyond," says Dr. Yacoubian, dean of the AUA College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS). "The project will contribute to further diversifying the academic portfolio of CHSS and thus providing new possibilities for us as we prepare students to become civic and professional leaders.

"We are delighted to formally establish this flagship partnership in journalism education between AUA and WSU," said Dr. Lawrence Pintak, professor of communication at Washington State University. "This program represents a new milestone in the development of Armenia's media sector and will support the professional development of Armenia's journalism community for years to come."

In addition to this program, the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan also announced an award to AUA to implement a two-year English program for journalists aimed at equipping the participants with English-language skills through courses tailored to their professional needs.

## Tradition of blacksmithing in Gyumri, Armenia, inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list

The tradition of blacksmithing in Gyumri, Armenia, has been inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Blacksmithing, or the creation and repair of iron objects, has played a central role in the local identity and cultural characteristics of the city of Gyumri, Armenia for centuries. Although the practice nearly disappeared in Armenia in the mid-twentieth century, it has survived in Gyumri, where inhabitants continue to preserve existing items – such as window lattices, fences, gates, doors, candlesticks and chandeliers – made by old masters and to forge and use the iron products in



their daily life.

Current blacksmiths, some of which are fifth- or sixth-generation masters, play an active role in safeguarding and transmitting the tradition of urban blacksmithing as well as its history, traditional skills and

knowledge. They typically transmit the practice informally within their families, passing on the skills and styles to their children and grandchildren.

In addition, blacksmithing is also transmitted formally through community museums and in two specialized educational institutions: the Gyumri Fine Arts Academy and the Gyumri Craftsmanship College N 1. A key part of the city of Gyumri's architectural identity, blacksmithing can be seen both in the interior and exterior of private and public buildings and is associated with the values of diligence, honesty, fair work and mutual respect.

## Armenian Astrid Poghosyan honored with Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award 2023

Armenian Astrid Poghosyan has been honored by Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award 2023.

Astrid Poghosyan, who works at the development department of Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, is one of the youngest winners of the award this year. She is the first Armenian winner of this Honor that presented to outstanding foreigners in Shanghai, China.

The award not only shows Shanghai's appreciation to those who make significant contributions to the city's development but also embodies its recognition and encouragement for the international young people who make efforts in

pursuing their dreams in China, Poghosyan told the [Global Times](#).

Coming to Shanghai at the age of 16, Poghosyan, now 30, said that over the years she has well integrated herself into this city, from professional work to daily life, as well as community voluntary services.

"I've been here for 14 years," she told the [Global Times](#). "I grew up here, and most of my friends are Chinese. I'm an expat from appearance, but I have a very 'Chinese heart.'"

Shanghai began honoring expatriates in 1989 with the Magnolia Silver Award and added the gold award and honorary

citizenship to the system in 1992 and 1997, respectively, according to the official website of the municipal government. These awards have honored more than 1,827 foreigners in the past 34 years.



## Armenia issues new postcard dedicated to the Philatelic Exhibition on Christian Values

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 a special postcard, dedicated to the Philatelic Exhibition has been cancelled with a special postmark within the framework of the Philatelic Exhibition Dedicated to the Christian Values and 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Death of Nerses Shnorhali arranged by the Armenian Association of Philatelists.

The postcard was cancelled by the Deputy Minister of High-Technological Industry of the Republic of Armenia Davit

Sahakyan, the Chief Executive Officer of "HayPost" CJSC Arayik Abrahamyan, the Director of the Archives and Museums of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin Rev. Fr. Asoghik Karapetyan, Chairman of the Union of Employers of Information and Communication Technology, Chief Executive Officer of "Unicom" CJSC Armen Baldryan, the President of the Philatelists' Armenian Association Hovik Musayelyan.

The print run of the postcard is 500 pcs.

The postcard depicts the Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral against the background of Mount Ararat, the logotype of the Armenian Association of Philatelists and the inscriptions "PHILATELIC EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO THE CHRISTIAN VALUES AND 850<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF NERSES SHNORHALI" in Armenian and English languages.

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The publisher: NT Holding LTD  
 Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝  
 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՝  
 03ԱՑՑՑ368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.  
 Registration certificate and the date:  
 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: [contact@nt.am](mailto:contact@nt.am)  
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