

## Minsk Group currently frozen, but could play a role in appropriate circumstances – OSCE CiO



OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Foreign Minister of North Macedonia Bujar Osmani said that the OSCE Minsk Group – the only organization with an international mandate for the Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution, is currently frozen.

“...the Minsk Group is frozen at the moment but I cannot deny that there might be a role for the Minsk format when the circumstances will be appropriate,” Osmani said at a joint press conference with Armenian FM Ararat Mirzoyan, commenting on Azerbaijan’s claims that the Minsk Group has expired and the NK conflict doesn’t exist anymore.

“Minsk format was established formally with the Bucharest summit of the OSCE and is formally there and we support Minsk Group,” he said.

“However, we are aware of the opposing assessments of

some of the parties on its work, as well as changed geopolitical circumstances stemming from the war of Russia in Ukraine, has changed the dynamic between the co-chairs. So we don’t have collective gathering of the co-chair to formally conduct their job. So as you said the Minsk Group is frozen at the moment, but I cannot deny that there might be a role for the Minsk format when the circumstances will be appropriate. However, OSCE is not only Minsk Group, OSCE has many other instruments and mechanisms that can be introduced in order to support the peace process between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, and I’m here to promote and to contribute to that peace process by offering that unique versatile toolkit of the OSCE in confidence building, in reconciliation as well as on promoting peace process achieving a comprehensive sustainable settlement between the two countries.”

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## Armenian PM, OSCE Chairman-in-Office discuss humanitarian crisis in Artsakh



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Foreign Minister of North Macedonia Bujar Osmani.

The Prime Minister welcomed the

visit of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to the region and noted that it is a good opportunity to get acquainted with the difficult situation here. Nikol Pashinyan noted the Armenian government's interest in developing and expanding cooperation with the OSCE.

Bujar Osmani, in turn, emphasized the importance of cooperation with Armenia and added that the goal of the organization is to contribute to peace and stability in the region.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict;

the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh resulted by the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor, and the border delimitation between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Reference was made to the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group and ensuring the more active role of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

Prime Minister Pashinyan emphasized the adequate and consistent response of the international community to the provocative and unconstructive actions of Azerbaijan.

## Armenian Foreign Minister holds meeting with new Ambassador of India

The new Ambassador of India to Armenia Nilakshi Saha Sinha presented the copy of her credentials to Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan on April 10.

FM Mirzoyan congratulated the newly appointed Ambassador on assuming office and wished her good luck in fulfilling her important mission, the foreign ministry said in readout.

FM Mirzoyan and Ambassador Nilakshi Saha Sinha discussed the prospects of development of the multi-layered relations between Armenia and India and exchanged views on the ways for realizing the ambitious bilateral agenda.

Both sides were pleased to note the growing dynamics in the political dialogue between Armenia and India, to which the bilateral high-ranking visits and the active and productive partnership in international platforms contributed to.

The Armenian Foreign Minister and the Indian Ambassador expressed readiness to take joint steps in the direction of maximally utilizing the potential in various areas between Armenia and India, including in trade-economic and business ties, as well as scientific-educational sectors. In this context they noted that the centuries-old friendly relations between the two peoples are also conducive for the further development of the interstate partnership.

Regional and international security issues were also discussed. FM Mirzoyan presented to the Indian Ambassador the Armenian side's vision of the Armenia-Azerbaijan relations and resolution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and appreciated India's stance.

Speaking about the humanitarian challenges in Nagorno Karabakh resulting



from the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan, FM Mirzoyan emphasized the imperative of the implementation of the February 22 ruling by the International Court of Justice, eliminating the blockade without preconditions and preventing Baku's actions aimed at subjecting the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh to ethnic cleansing. In this context the importance of practical steps by stakeholder partners and international organizations in regional stability was highlighted.

## Armenian FM briefs US Assistant Secretary of State on latest Azerbaijani provocation

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a telephone conversation with US acting Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Dereck Hogan.

The interlocutors touched upon regional security issues.

Minister Mirzoyan presented the details of the provocation carried out by the Azerbaijani armed forces in the area of Togh village of the Syunik region of the



Republic of Armenia on April 11, noting that it was another manifestation of the

general aggressive policy of Azerbaijan, also aimed at disrupting the efforts to continue the peace negotiations.

Views were exchanged on the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh and on issues of normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Ararat Mirzoyan reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to the peace process and presented the approaches of the Armenian side to the settlement of existing problems.

## Azerbaijan's actions contradict agreements reached in Prague and Sochi, Armenian PM says



The situation established in the Tegh village section since March 30 needs detailed examination, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the government sitting on April 13.

He noted that the actions of Azerbaijan in the mentioned area are provocative and contradict the statements made as a result of the meetings held on October 6, 2022 in Prague and October 31, 2022 in Sochi.

"In terms of the political assessment of the border situation, I think that the [message](#) spread by the European Union on Wednesday, where the border line of 1991 is emphasized, is important. We are

talking about the existing administrative border between the Armenian SSR and the Azerbaijani SSR, which was transformed into a state border on December 21, 1991 by the Alma-Ata declaration," PM Pashinyan said, stressing that the boundary mentioned by the EU must be respected.

As for EU's calls to the sides to withdraw the armed forces to a safe distance as a reliable guarantee of the stability of the situation, the Prime Minister said "Armenia is ready to take such a measure along the entire Armenian-Azerbaijani border line of 1991.

"Such a solution is hindered by Azerbaijan's destructive approach. Azerbaijan systematically demonstrates its practice of not fulfilling the agreements reached on international platforms. So is the case with the release of captives. This is the case with respect to the maintenance of the ceasefire regime and the non-use of force or the threat of force, which was agreed upon in writing on October 31,

2022 in Sochi. This is the case with regard to the illegal blocking of the Lachin Corridor, which Azerbaijan continues to keep closed despite the February 22 decision of the highest international court, the International Court of Justice. But in case of non-compliance with the court's decision, there are international mechanisms outlined, and our efforts should be focused on implementing those efforts," he added.

"At the same time, despite all the difficulties, we remain committed to the policy of settling all regional issues, the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and Armenia-Azerbaijan relations through negotiations," Nikol Pashinyan stressed.

"We are also ready for the reopening of regional economic and transport links, based on the principles we have previously expressed. We are also ready for border delimitation based on the above-mentioned Prague and Sochi agreements," he concluded.

## OSCE has a role to play in addressing the rights and security of Artsakh Armenians – FM Mirzoyan

As an organization dealing with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict since the 1990s, the OSCE should intensify its involvement, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said at a joint press conference with visiting OSCE Chairman-in-Office, Macedonian Foreign Minister Bujar Osmani.

"We attach great importance to the role of the OSCE chairmanship, as well as the involvement of the structures created for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, in accordance with their mandate," Minister Mirzoyan said.

Commenting on the statements from



the Azerbaijani side claiming that the Minsk Group has exhausted itself and there is no need for it anymore, Ararat Mirzoyan said: "The fact is that no OSCE

member country cannot single-handedly put an end to a mechanism, an institution, a decision, agreed on and founded by all member states as founded, in fact, by all member countries. The Minsk process, the Minsk format exists, but for many reasons, objective and subjective, the activity of the co-chairmanship is currently frozen."

He voiced confidence that the Minsk Group still has its work to do and has a role in addressing the issues of rights and security of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh.

## Mher Sahakyan stripped of parliamentary immunity

The National Assembly voted 65 to 0 to strip Mher Sahakyan from the opposition "Armenia" faction of parliamentary immunity.

About two weeks ago, Sahakyan punched MP Vladimir Vardanyan at the session of the Standing Committee on State Legal Issues and was detained by the police.

The National Assembly discussed a motion on initiating public criminal prosecution against Mher Sahakyan on April 11 tabled by Prosecutor General Anna Vardapetyan.

## Respect for Armenia's territorial integrity, withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces essential for preventing future violence – France MFA

France has expressed deep concern over the violence that occurred on April 11 on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, near the settlement of Togh in Armenian territory, which left 7 dead and several injured on both sides.

The French Foreign Ministry noted in a statement that the delimitation of the border must be carried out exclusively through negotiation and called on the

parties to continue their efforts in this direction.

“Respect for the territorial integrity of Armenia and the withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces from occupied positions on the Armenian side of the line of contact are essential to prevent future incidents and preserve the foundations for a lasting peace in the region,” the Ministry said.

“France fully supports the action of the

EUMA observation mission deployed on the Armenian side of the border, to which it contributes and which plays a central role in helping to reduce tensions. It will continue to work, alongside the European Union, in favor of respect for the ceasefire, dialogue and the pursuit of negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan,” it concluded.

## April 11 Azeri attack was repelled first of all by Armenian military – senior MP on Moscow's statement

A senior lawmaker has said that Russia played some role in neutralizing the April 11 Azeri aggression but that it was repelled first of all as a result of the Armenian military's actions.

On April 12, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said that Russian troops and Border Guards in Armenia took measures to de-escalate the situation on April 11 near the village of Togh where an Azerbaijani attack left four Armenian troops dead and six wounded.

“I don't question Maria Zakharova's words, that Russia participated in some

format, but, nevertheless, it is the Armenian military that fought. If we hadn't fought, if not for the ultimate sacrifice, the issue wouldn't have been solved no matter how many phone calls the Russian foreign ministry was to make. The objective was solved first of all as a result of the actions of our military,” MP Andranik Kocharyan (Civil Contract), the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Security Affairs said at a press briefing.

Meanwhile, another Civil Contract MP, Artur Hovhannisyan, who serves as Secretary of the ruling party's parliamentary

faction, commented on Zakharova's statement that Russia has asked Armenia to explain its planned participation in NATO drills. Hovhannisyan said that Armenia is moving forward with its national interests and is doing everything for increasing the combat readiness of its military.

“Armenia continues warm, friendly and strategic relations with its strategic ally, and continues warm relations also with partners of other countries and is doing everything for the benefit of the development and increase of combat readiness of the Armenian military,” he said.

## Conflict in the Caucasus benefits no country, any geographical change leads to tension, Iran's security chief says



**Iran's top security official says tension and conflict in the Caucasus region benefit no country, while indicating Iran's opposition to any geographical change in that region, [Press TV](#) reports.**

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting Secretary of Armenia's Security

Council Armen Grigoryan in Tehran on Sunday.

“Any geographical change in the South Caucasus region is a tension-building measure, which will play into the hands of the enemies of regional security and stability,” Shamkhani said.

Iran's top security official added that continuous dialogue and interaction must replace any “hard approach” to ending regional challenges.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Shamkhani said the Caucasus region is going through a sensitive period, expressing hope that Azerbaijan and Armenia would be able to overcome the existing tensions through self-restraint and prudence.

He mentioned development of cooperation and interaction with neighbors as an unchanging principle of Iran's foreign policy and a priority for the sitting Iranian

administration.

“[Maintaining] good-neighborly relations and making a joint endeavor for the settlement of the regional challenges through peaceful means are among the Islamic Republic's most important pieces of advice to all [regional] parties,” Shamkhani stated.

For his part, Armenia's top security official said Iran played an “important role” in the development of relations between South Caucasus countries and also in protecting the regional security.

Grigoryan lauded Iran's “very effective” role in the realization of regional peace and stability, emphasizing that dialogue and interaction between countries constitute the only way of resolving the existing regional crises and preventing further tension and conflicts.

## Yerevan and Lyon plan next three-year partnership program

On an official visit to Yerevan, the delegation led by the Mayor of Lyon Grégory Doucet, was hosted at the Yerevan City Hall.

Acting Mayor of Yerevan Levon Hovhannisyan thanked Mr. Doucet for accepting the invitation and expressed confidence that his visit would give new impetus to the expansion of cooperation between the two cities and implementation of joint projects.

“Armenian-French relations are at the highest level. We highly value our partnership and friendship with Lyon, and I believe that we can start working on the

draft of the next three-year agreement and establish concrete cooperation in the fields of transport, traffic management and urban planning, as well as in culture, tourism, education and other fields,” Levon Hovhannisyan noted.

Gregory Doucet noted, in turn, that Lyon attaches great importance to the further expansion of relations with the partner city of Yerevan, and expressed his belief that the visit would provide an opportunity to outline and define the sequence of steps to be taken.

“Healthy city, prosperous life and

responsible economy: these are the important challenges that our cities must overcome. I am sure that by combining our efforts, we will be able to implement all the programs that we have outlined in the framework of cooperation between Yerevan and Lyon. This is my first visit to Yerevan, and I am happy that I was able to be involved in further strengthening and development of ties between the two cities,” said Grégory Doucet.

Within the framework of the meeting, the parties also exchanged ideas on the development of a three-year plan to be signed between Yerevan and Lyon.

## Senior Prosecutor Becomes Armenia's Rights Defender

**(RFE/RL)** - The Armenian parliament has voted to appoint a candidate of the ruling Civil Contract party, who has served as a deputy prosecutor-general until now, as Armenia's new human rights defender.

Anahit Manasyan pledged to “perform my duties impartially” on April 13 as she was sworn in as ombudswoman immediately after the announcement of the vote results. She was backed only by deputies representing Civil Contract.

Manasyan's election followed a heated debate on the parliament floor that lasted for three hours on Tuesday. Opposition lawmakers grilled her and rejected her candidacy, saying that she cannot combat human rights abuses in the country because of her background.

One of them, Gegham Nazaryan, accused the Armenian government of turning the office of the human rights defender into a “subsidiary of the prosecutor's office.”

Manasyan's reluctance to criticize during the question-and-answer session the

authorities' or the controversial behavior of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's political allies added to the opposition criticism. Gegham Manukyan, another lawmaker from the main opposition Hayastan alliance, denounced her claim that there are no political prisoners in Armenia.

Civil Contract deputies defended their candidate. One of them, Vigen Khachatryan, said that Manasyan's work in the Office of the Prosecutor-General on the contrary makes her fit for the post of ombudswoman.

Manasyan, 34, was appointed as a deputy prosecutor-general less than five months ago. She previously worked as a deputy rector of Armenia's Justice Academy and an adviser to two former chairmen of the Constitutional Court. She has also taught constitutional law at Yerevan State University since 2015.

Hayastan and the second parliamentary opposition force, Pativ Unem, had nominated their own candidate for the vacant post, Edgar Ghazaryan. The latter

is a maverick activist highly critical of the government.

Some Civil Contract deputies shouted verbal abuse and threats at Ghazaryan when he appeared before the parliament committee on human rights and harshly criticized Pashinyan's administration last week. One of them pledged to “cut the tongues and ears of anyone” who would make disparaging comments about the 2018 “velvet revolution” that brought Pashinyan to power.

Manasyan also attended the committee meeting. Unlike the Armenian opposition and human rights groups, she pointedly declined to criticize those threats.

The previous ombudswoman, Kristine Grigoryan, unexpectedly resigned in January after less than a year in office. She too had been installed by the parliament's pro-government majority. Unlike her outspoken predecessor Arman Tatoyan, Grigoryan rarely criticized the government and law-enforcement bodies.

## ‘Use of force is unacceptable’ – U.S. State Department on April 11 Azeri attack on Armenian troops

The U.S. State Department has commented on the April 11 deadly Azerbaijani attack on Armenian troops.

In response to a query from the Voice of America's Armenian service, the U.S. State Department said that the use of force for resolving disputes is unacceptable and disrupts the negotiations process.

“We regret the deadly clash between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces on April 11 which claimed several lives. We extend our condolences to the families of those killed and wounded. The conflict can't have a military solution, and the use of force for resolving disputes is unacceptable. The only way towards sustainable peace is around the negotiation table,

while the use of force disrupts the negotiations,” the U.S. State Department said.

On April 11, Armenian troops carrying out engineering works near the village of Togh close to the border with Azerbaijan came under heavy gunfire in an unprovoked attack. Four Armenian soldiers were killed and six wounded.

## EBRD and EU to hold conference in Yerevan dedicated to SMEs

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Union (EU) are holding a conference *EU4Business-EBRD Credit Line in Armenia – Impact to date and Way Ahead* to take place on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 10:00 in Double Tree by Hilton Hotel.

The conference will bring together over 100 professionals representatives from the Central Bank of Armenia, senior management from the local banks, representatives from business associations and the donor community as well as the businesses that benefited from this programme. The event will highlight the benefits extended through the Programme to the economy. It will provide an overview of the impact achieved to date and discuss the opportunities for the private sector players.

Speakers and presenters include:

- Vahan Kerobyan, the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia
- Andrea Wiktorin, HE Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia
- George Akhalkatsi, EBRD Head of Yerevan RO



*EU4Business-EBRD Credit Line in Armenia*, joint EBRD & EU initiative, aims at improving SMEs' competitiveness and trade, both within the region and with the EU countries, offering a combination of loans, grant incentives and free technical assistance. Active in Armenia since 2021, it targets companies that wish to replace old technology with more energy efficient updates, enhance product quality and boost competitiveness at home and abroad.

More than 70 small and medium-sized Armenian enterprises (SMEs) have already invested in greener technology and have boosted competitiveness thanks to this

financing.

The programme offers EBRD loans coupled with EU grant incentives which target small firms through local financial institutions in a network that already unites five commercial banks. A total of €14.5 million in loans was extended to small businesses in the country for 89 investment projects in the past two years.

The participating partner banks are: Ameriabank, ArmSwissBank, Inecobank, Acba bank, ArmEconombank.

Upon successful investment, companies in sectors ranging from manufacturing to agriculture, from food and beverages to medical services, receive up to 15 per cent cashback financed by the EU under its EU4Business initiative.

The EBRD is a leading institutional investor in Armenia. It has invested more than €2 billion across 206 projects in Armenia, supporting private sector development and transition to a sustainable, green economy.

## Russian ban on dairy imports from Armenia contradicts EEU trade regulations, says Economy Minister

Armenian Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan said on April 13 that Russia's ban on the imports of Armenian dairy products is a violation of the EEU trade regulations.

He said that Armenia is discussing the matter with Russian partners.

"We find this to be an obstacle for EEU trade," Kerobyan said in parliament during question time when asked by MP Gegham Manukyan when the issue will be resolved. "We are now discussing this issue with our Russian colleagues. The ban placed by Rosselkhoz nadzor [Russian governmental agriculture watchdog] contradicts the trade regulations in the



Eurasian Economic Union. In addition, we are also engaged in talks to understand the regulations through which we can maximally swiftly resolve this issue without applying the EEU standard procedures," Kerobyan said.

In response to the MP's criticism over the government's handling of the agriculture sector, Kerobyan said that agriculture is indeed a major sector but not the largest, while the dairy production isn't the largest branch in agriculture itself.

Kerobyan said that in 2022 Armenia exported 18 million dollars' worth of dairy products to the EEU market, which amounts less than 1% of the total exports of Armenia.

Russia banned on April 5 imports of dairy products from Armenia, saying that Armenian producers use Iranian raw materials banned in Russia.

## Orion Summit 2023 Investments Position Armenia to take place in New York City

**ARMENPRESS.** The Orion Summit 2023 Investments Position Armenia will take place on June 19-22 in New York City, USA.

It is a one of a kind international event bringing together world-class professionals and organizations representing different countries from the Americas, Europe, Asia Pacific, and various industries, such as Science and Technology, Financial Services, Legal, and Professional Services. Orion Summit has become a powerful opportunity for Armenian and non-Armenian startups globally to build content, customer and capital. The key objective of Orion Summit 2023 is to create reliable alternative investment opportunities for startup ecosystem through establishing Private Equity Firms, Corporate VCs, and Family Offices in Armenia and with international partners.

Over 100 investors, startup founders, representatives of venture capital funds, investment banking, insurance sector and other experts will participate in the event, according to Dr. Diana Arzumanyan, the CEO and Co-Founder of Orion Worldwide



Innovations Armenia. “Half of the participants will be from New York City and other U.S. cities, while the other half from Armenia. We’ve very limited seats left, registration is open through our official website,” she added.

Orion Summit 2023 will feature internationally recognized world-class founders, investors, advisors, and professionals as speakers, such as financial regulatory advisor Jeff Ingber; Associate Director, Endless Frontier Labs at NYU Stern School of Business Beth Xie; Managing Director in the Credit and Structures Solutions Group at Francisco Partners Sebouh Nahabedian; World Economic Forum representative Zara Ingilizian; CEO at Reitium Blockchain

Technologies Thomas Park and others.

Asked on expected results, the Armenia Union of Banks CEO Seyran Sargsyan said they expect to strengthen and expand partnership.

“Today we can confidently say that Armenia has a stable banking system. This is one of our important achievements over the past 30 years since independence,” he said, praising the banking system as reliable and advanced.

“Our banking system can be represented at the Orion Summit 2023, due in the global financial center New York City, with its wide opportunities for financial transactions and exclusive terms for savings deposits. In case of participation in the summit with representatives of American financial organizations, we expect to strengthen and expand cooperation, establish new business ties with international partners, as well as constructive discussions around the main trends of development of financial markets.”

**Karine Terteryan**

## Perspectives of Armenia-Utah economic and trade relations discussed

On April 6-7, upon the invitation of the Utah World Trade Center, H.E. Lilit Makunts, the Ambassador of Armenia to the USA, paid a two-day working visit to Salt Lake City.

The aim of the visit was to highlight the possibilities of establishing Armenia-Utah economic and trade relations, to present the priorities of Armenia’s economy, and to outline other directions of bilateral cooperation.



During the visit, Ambassador Makunts had meetings with Lieutenant Governor

of the State of Utah Deidre Henderson, Senator Curtis S. Bramble, visited the Utah World Trade Center, had a meeting-discussion with business circles, representatives of the Armenian community, participated in a discussion of women leaders at the Kam C. Gardner Policy Institute, got acquainted with the opportunities of the state’s high-tech sector, met with Russell M. Nelson President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## Armenia, US discuss expansion of trade and economic relations

Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Khachatryan and Chief of the Prime Minister’s Office Arayik Harutyunyan received today the delegation led by Thea Rozman Kendler, Assistant Secretary for Export Administration of the US Department of

Commerce and US Ambassador to Armenia Kristina Kvien.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to Armenian-American bilateral trade and economic relations.

The parties exchanged ideas on the expansion of trade and economic relations between Armenia and the US, opportunities for promoting cooperation and other issues of mutual interest.

## IMF expects economic growth in Armenia to reach 5.5 percent in 2023



During March 9–21, 2023, a team of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), led by Iva Petrova, conducted discussions for the first review of Armenia’s economic reform program supported by the IMF. A Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) was approved by the IMF’s Executive Board on December 12, 2022. At the conclusion of the discussions, Ms. Petrova issued the following statement:

“The IMF team has reached a staff-level agreement with the Armenian authorities for the conclusion of the first review of the economic reform program supported by a three-year Stand-By Arrangement. The agreement is subject to approval by the IMF’s Executive Board, which is scheduled to consider this review in mid-June, and following the implementation of a prior action on clarifying the mandate, transparency, reporting, and viability requirements of the Armenian National Interest Fund. While about \$24.8 million (SDR 18.4 million) would become available after the Board meeting, the authorities plan to continue treating the IMF-supported program as precautionary.

“The Armenian economy posted 12.6 percent GDP growth in 2022, and economic activity has maintained strong momentum in early 2023. Relocations of about 2,600 companies, 6000 individual entrepreneurs, and 113 thousand non-residents to Armenia since March 2022 have contributed substantially to this remarkable GDP growth. Annual CPI inflation declined to 5.4 percent in March 2023 (y-o-y) from a peak of 10.3 percent in June 2022. The headline fiscal deficit narrowed to 2.1 percent of GDP, and central government debt declined to 46.7 percent of GDP in 2022. The external position strengthened,

largely owing to booming services trade. The CBA’s international reserves increased by \$870 million in 2022 and the dram appreciated by about 25 percent against the US dollar. The banking system has remained well capitalized and highly liquid and has delivered significant profits.

“Growth is expected to moderate but remain robust at about 5.5 percent in 2023, driven by consumption and investment. Inflation is projected to ease further by end-2023 due to the lagged effects of monetary policy tightening and dram appreciation, and lower imported food and energy prices. However, risks to the outlook remain exceptionally high amid a challenging external environment. Potential slowdown in the global economy, tighter financial conditions, and lower trade and capital inflows could weigh on growth. On the upside, continued capital and migrant inflows may keep demand and inflationary pressures high. Steadfast implementation of the government’s ambitious 2021-26 reform agenda could result in stronger medium-term growth.

“Given a highly uncertain outlook and overheating risks, the 2023 budget execution and 2024 budget plans need to avoid creating excessive demand pressures. The 2024-26 medium-term expenditure framework should strike a balance between preserving macro-fiscal stability and supporting Armenia’s development. Higher planned spending in the 2021-26 Government Program, such as healthcare, wages, education, social protection, and infrastructure require careful prioritization. Efforts to improve government spending efficiency, enhance public financial management—including through robust fiscal risk management, transparency, and governance—and ensure higher-quality public investment are welcome. Eliminating inefficient tax expenditures and strengthening revenue administration will be critical to creating needed fiscal space for priority spending.

“Decisive and proactive monetary policy implementation has been successful

in containing inflationary pressures, and further policy changes should remain dependent on the evolution of inflation and inflation expectations. Efforts to foster capital market development, deepen financial inclusion, improve liquidity management, and enhance the CBA’s communication strategy will further strengthen the effectiveness of monetary policy. Staff welcomes the CBA’s continued commitment to maintaining healthy reserve buffers and exchange rate flexibility, which has helped the Armenian economy absorb the ongoing external shocks.

“Staff welcomes the Central Bank of Armenia’s plans to strengthen risk-based supervision, develop a bank resolution framework aligned with international standards, and incentivize banks to improve their risk management processes. Continued monitoring of financial sector exposures and enhancing the macroprudential tools would help stem risks associated with the rapid rise in house prices and mortgage lending. Limiting the use and generosity of the mortgage interest tax credit would go a long way in further mitigating housing market risks.

“The government’s structural reform agenda appropriately focuses on fostering inclusive growth, including by improving the business environment, raising productivity, reducing unemployment and poverty, and addressing the risks associated with climate change. Achieving these objectives requires developing stronger trade links, building infrastructure to support connectivity; improving transportation, land, and water management and encouraging green energy generation; fostering access to financial services and labor force participation; completing governance reforms, and reducing informality. Advancing digitalization should spearhead public administration reforms and improve public service quality and delivery.

“The IMF team thanks the Armenian authorities, private sector, and development partners for fruitful discussions and cooperation.”



## 31 years after Maragha massacre, Azerbaijan's goal is to subject Artsakh to ethnic cleansing – MFA



Thirty-one years after the Maragha massacre, Azerbaijan's goal is to subject Nagorno-Karabakh to ethnic cleansing, Armenia's Foreign ministry said in a statement.

On April 10, 1992, the Azerbaijani armed forces carried out a preplanned brutal massacre of the peaceful population of the Armenian settlement of Maragha in Martakert region of Nagorno-Karabakh, as a result of which the settlement with a population of about 5,000 was completely subjected to ethnic cleansing, more than 50 civilians were brutally killed and as many were taken captive. This data has been documented in the reports of the human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. The fates of many hostages have not been clarified to this day, and they are considered to have been forcibly disappeared.

"The Maragha massacre was a continuation of the organized pogroms of Armenians in Sumgait, Kirovabad and Baku and one of the manifestations of mass crimes committed by the Azerbaijani authorities on the grounds of national identity. The preplanned crimes against the civilian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, war crimes, their impunity and glorification

became part of Azerbaijan's systemic policy and took on new manifestations during Azerbaijan's aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh in April 2016 and on a larger scale during the 44-day war of 2020 as a result of which tens of thousands of Armenians were displaced also from Hadrut, Shushi and surrounding regions," the Foreign Ministry said.

"It is no coincidence that not only the Armenians displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh during 1988-1991 have never had the opportunity to return to their homes and exercise their rights, including managing their private property, but also nowadays, Azerbaijan violates the provisions of the Trilateral Statement of November 9, 2020, disrupting the return of displaced persons and refugees to Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions, which should be carried out under the supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Moreover, violating the norms of international law and the international obligations, nowadays the official Baku is populating with Azerbaijanis the Armenian settlements fallen under its control, the homes of Armenians, for example in the Armenian village of Talish," the statement reads.

"It is also noteworthy that, grossly violating the decisions of authoritative international courts, Azerbaijan openly continues to desecrate, vandalize and destroy the Armenian religious, historical and cultural monuments and sanctuaries, having the aim to completely erase the Armenian trace from the territories that are under its control. At the same time, the hate speech towards the Armenians continues at the highest level. These actions have already been repeatedly condemned by international institutions," the Foreign Ministry stated.

"31 years after the Maragha massacre, already for around four months Azerbaijan has been illegally blocking the Lachin corridor connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with the rest of the world. The deliberate creation of a humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh, the periodic violations of the ceasefire and the aggressive actions of the Azerbaijani armed forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, the consistent targeting and terrorizing of the peaceful population prove once again that Azerbaijan's goal is to subject Nagorno-Karabakh to ethnic cleansing," it added.

"Today we pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the Maragha massacre. In order to further prevent such crimes, we once again emphasize the urgency of taking the active steps by the international community, including by using the available international mechanisms," the Foreign Ministry noted.

"The Republic of Armenia reaffirms its commitment to the establishment of lasting and comprehensive peace and security in the region, which is possible by Azerbaijan's refusal of the maximalist and aggressive policy and by the search for fair solutions to the existing problems," it concluded.

## EU observers were not present at the scene of Azerbaijan's aggression, they report to Brussels - FM

On April 11, at the time of another provocation by the Azerbaijani forces, the representatives of the European Union civilian mission stationed in Armenia were not at the scene, but they made their observations, they have their reporting mechanism, they report to the EU External Action Service in Brussels, Armenian FM Ararat Mirzoyan announced during the Cabinet-parliament Q&A session.

Eduard Aghajanyan, MP from the Civil Contract Party, asked whether the provocative actions of Azerbaijan on April 11 were under the eye of the EU civilian monitoring group, whether they had the opportunity to record these provocations.

"Certainly, the EU observation mission was informed about the provocation that happened yesterday and the fire fired by the Azerbaijani side in the direction of the servicemen and positions of the Armenian Armed Forces with various weapons. Today, the EU press service has already confirmed that the Armenian side has informed them about the ongoing aggressive actions and the skirmish. They also noted that they were not at the scene at that moment, but they made their observations, they have their own reporting mechanism, they report to the EU External Action Service in Brussels, not publicly," said Mirzoyan.

The Armenian side does not yet have

information about what that report is like.

Aghajanyan asked whether there is any possibility of a quick reaction by the EU in case of similar provocations. Mirzoyan answered that, naturally, in such situations, Armenia immediately informs all international partners, including the EU, EU member states. Armenia also expects and requests their quick response. Yesterday, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also issued a statement, in the last part of which it again drew the attention of all partners to the situation and called on them to issue targeted statements condemning Azerbaijan's aggressive actions and to take steps to prevent further escalation.

## Senator Jordon Steele-John urges Azerbaijani Embassy in Australia and his government to open the Lachin corridor

Australian Greens Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, Senator Jordon Steele-John, welcomed the Armenian Missionary Association Artsakh Representative, Mr Viktor Karapetyan to the Australian Parliament House and re-affirmed his party's strong support for the reopening of land links between Armenia and Artsakh, reported the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU).

Karapetyan, who was visiting Australia as a Special Guest for the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia (AMAA) Annual Program, was joined by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Artsakh, Mr Kaylar Michaelian, AMAA Executive Director, Rev. Dr Krikor Youmshajekian and members of the ANC-AU National Head Office during the meeting.

The Western Australian Senator briefed the visiting delegation on his

conversation with Azerbaijan's Charge D'affaires and affirmed his party's position remains direct and clear – Azerbaijan must open the Lachin Corridor.

Senator Steele-John took to social media in early March, alerting his followers of his meeting with the Azerbaijani Charge D'affaires, saying: "I met with Azerbaijan's charge d'affaires in Australia to strongly urge his government to open the Lachin Corridor, as ruled by the ICJ (International Court of Justice). The humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh must end."

Karapetyan thanked the Australian Greens' Senator for his party's principled support for the people of Artsakh, standing up for human rights and international law.

"There is not a single Australian parliamentarian who has attempted to justify the Azerbaijani regime's illegal and

inhumane blockade of the Republic of Artsakh. There is, however, broad support from dozens of parliamentarians for the people of Artsakh and their rights to self-determination, and Senator Jordon Steele-John is one of the cause's leading vocal supporters," said ANC-AU Executive Director Michael Kolokossian.

"We thank the Senator for engaging in genuine dialogue on this issue with the Armenian National Committee of Australia and for outlining his intention to continue to be a voice of the voiceless," added Kolokossian.

During his visit to the nation's capital, Viktor Karapetyan also had the opportunity to meet with co-convenors of the Australia-Armenia Inter-Parliamentary Union, Jerome Laxale MP and Paul Fletcher MP, who hosted a lunch in coordination with the ANC-AU.

## Television and Radio Commission chief tells lawmakers to watch their language during live broadcast debates

The Chairman of the Television and Radio Commission of Armenia Tigran Hakobyan called on lawmakers to watch their language and refrain from using profanities during debates in order to reduce negative content and hate speech on television.

Hakobyan made the remarks in parliament during the debates on the commission's 2022 report and freedom of

information in the audio-video media, when asked by MP Gegham Nazaryan about the violations of the ethical norms and spread of hate speech and violence by online television companies.

"How will Armenia get rid of this garbage and disaster? People watch channels on their phones full of hate speech, evil, fake news. What can be done to regulate this issue?" Nazaryan asked.

"It is very difficult to fight against calls of violence, hate speech, generally negative content on the air if the same is happening in parliament during live broadcast debates. I don't have the right to call upon you. But, if you want to reduce this on television, you must watch your language and not allow such lexicon here," Hakobyan told lawmakers.

## Turkey Bought Poison Gas from Nazi Germany To Kill Kurdish Alevi & Armenians in 1938

By *Harut Sassounian*

Prof. Taner Akcam of UCLA wrote a revealing article in Turkish, in Istanbul's Armenian Agos newspaper on March 31, 2023, regarding the Turkish government's brutal massacre of tens of thousands of minorities in Dersim, an Eastern province of Turkey, in 1938. The article was titled: "[President] Mustafa Kemal and [Prime Minister] Ismet Inonu ordered the use of poison gas during the Dersim massacre." While this is not the first time this information has been revealed, Prof. Akcam uncovered additional Turkish documents that confirm the details of this horrible massacre ordered by Ataturk and Inonu. The two Turkish leaders issued a secret decree in 1937 for the purchase of 20 tons of poisonous mustard gas and 24 twin-engine airplanes from Germany to exterminate through aerial spraying and bombing of Kurdish Alevi and Armenians who were living in hiding in the mountainous caves of Dersim. The thousands of Armenian inhabitants of Dersim were survivors of the Armenian Genocide who had fled and converted to Alevism to save their lives. Many articles and books have been published in recent years, documenting Hitler's admiration of Ataturk. The cooperation between the Turkish government and Nazi Germany is another indication of the criminal partnership of these two states. Even today, the Turkish military continues to use poisonous gas purchased from Germany in recent years, in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, to exterminate Kurds in Turkey and allegedly in Northern Iraq and Syria. One of the ironic twists of the Dersim massacre is the participation of Sabiha Gokcen, an Armenian girl orphaned during the Genocide of 1915 and subsequently adopted by Ataturk as his daughter. She

became the first female pilot in Turkey and participated in the bombing of Dersim, renamed Tunceli. It is not known if she was aware that she was taking part in killing her fellow Armenians who were survivors of the Genocide, just like her. One of the two Istanbul airports is named after her, as a 'War Hero.' A Turkish court ruled in March 2011 that the Turkish government's massacre in Dersim could not be considered genocide according to the law because they were not directed systematically against an ethnic group. However, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, while Prime Minister in 2011, issued an apology for the 1938 Dersim massacre. Erdogan's apology was viewed with suspicion as an opportunistic move to win the votes of the large Kurdish population in Turkey from the government's main opposition political party, CHP, which is a continuation of Ataturk's Republican Party. Erdogan described the Dersim massacre "as the most tragic event in our recent history." He added that, while some sought to justify the killings as a legitimate response to events on the ground, it was in reality "an operation which was planned step by step.... It is a disaster that should now be questioned with courage. The party that should confront this incident is not the ruling Justice and Development Party. It is the CHP, which is behind this bloody disaster, who should face up to this incident." These comments were pointedly directed at opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who in fact is from Tunceli, and Erdogan's main opponent in the May 2023 presidential election. One wonders if Erdogan would have also apologized for the Armenian Genocide if there were millions of Armenian voters living in Turkey now. In one of the footnotes of his article, Akcam referenced a document of the German

Parliament where several members asked the German government in 2019 for the details of the Turkish purchase of poisonous gas and airplanes from Nazi Germany. German chemical weapons experts were also brought to Turkey in 1938 to train the military in the use of the poisonous gas. In its reply, the German government acknowledged "the suffering of the [Dersim] victims and their descendants" and added: "the federal [German] government is ready if the events of that time are processed by Turkey to examine German participation." While these mass killings cannot be justified under any circumstance, the Turkish government was trying in the 1930's to suppress domestic opposition and impose its rule in the Dersim region. During a speech in parliament on Nov. 1, 1936, Ataturk described Dersim as "Turkey's most important interior problem." Pursuing a policy of Turkification of ethnic and religious minorities, the Turkish government adopted in 1936 the "Law on the Administration of the Tunceli Province" which aimed to resettle the local population to other parts of Turkey. Over 50,000 Turkish soldiers were dispatched to Dersim. They captured and hanged the ringleaders of the local rebellion and indiscriminately bombed and killed thousands of its inhabitants. Even though the Turkish government admitted that 13,806 inhabitants of Dersim were killed, some put the casualties much higher at 70,000 or more. Many of the survivors were moved to other parts of the country and Kurdish girls were given to Turkish families for adoption. Regrettably, Turkey is still in denial about its past mass crimes. The Dersim massacre is just one example of the exterminations of various minorities beginning in the Ottoman Empire and continuing in the Republic of Turkey era.

## Armenia Becomes a Donor to the International Development Association of the World Bank

**WASHINGTON, April 10, 2023**—Armenia became an official donor to the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) with a paid-in contribution of \$1 million. The decision was made official at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., during which Mher Grigoryan, Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia, handed over the signed IDA Instrument of

Commitment to Akihiko Nishio, World Bank Vice President for Development Finance and Antonella Bassani, the Regional Vice President of the World Bank.

Armenia ratified the Government Act to become an IDA donor on March 10, 2023, only nine years after graduating from being an IDA recipient itself and four years after attaining upper-middle income (MIC) country status. The decision to join was made in the fall of 2022, when Armenia and the World Bank celebrated their 30 years of partnership in Yerevan.

*"As an upper middle-income country Armenia is no longer eligible for International Development Association's support. We think it is time for Armenia to start helping countries in need of support. This is a wonderful opportunity for Armenia to help low-income countries, on the one hand, and to express gratitude for similar support received in the past, on the other. With this step, Armenia once again, both reaffirms the effectiveness of mutual cooperation with the World Bank, as well as its agreement with the policy implemented by IDA,"* said **Mher Grigoryan, Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister.**



The World Bank's engagement in Armenia started in 1992, one year after the country became independent, with the objective of supporting Armenia's transition to a market economy. The early engagement was primarily through IDA credits and stabilization programs, supporting transition reforms. Since then, the World Bank has been supporting institutional reforms and infrastructure investments in a wide range of sectors such as energy, water, and roads, as well as in education, health and social protection.

*"Armenia has undergone a profound economic transformation since the World Bank started its engagement in the country, allowing it to graduate from IDA recipient to IDA donor in the span of 30 years,"* said **Antonella Bassani, World Bank Vice President for Europe, and Central Asia.** *"Systematic reforms have helped sustain stable economic growth, thereby improving the lives and livelihoods of many people across the country. In the process Armenia has accumulated important knowledge on how to reform which can be of great value to IDA recipients today."*

Established in 1960, IDA is the World

Bank's main instrument for assisting the world's poorest countries through providing grants and zero to low-interest loans to promote economic development, increase productivity and thus raise standards of living across the globe. Armenia joined IDA in 1993 and, since then, as a beneficiary, has received \$ 1.4 billion in financial support.

*"Armenia joins a global community of donors that enables IDA to provide concessional financing to the world's 75 poorest and most vulnerable countries to address their development needs,"* said **Akihiko Nishio, World Bank Vice President for Development Finance,** who oversees IDA. *"I commend Armenia for this exemplary step of being an IDA graduate that now wants to give back – a show of global solidarity and international cooperation."*

Since joining the World Bank in 1992 and IDA in 1993, World Bank commitments to Armenia have totaled approximately \$ 2.6 billion, supporting 78 projects in areas targeted at boosting small and medium-sized enterprise competitiveness, enhancing human capital and equity, as well as sustainably managing environmental and natural resources.

The World Bank remains committed to being a trusted partner to Armenia and will continue supporting the country on its transformative journey towards a more competitive, green, and digital economy that provides better jobs and opportunities for all its people.

## Armenian artist Tigran Tsitoghdzyan's works to be on display at Babylon Art Exhibition in New York



Babylon x NYC, an exhibition of more than 100 physical and digital artworks, will take place in New York City on April 12-13, 2023. The exhibition, set up by Babylon — a Web3 gallery specializing in primary sales of NFT editions — will showcase works by the project's 30 Founding Artists, well-known for their impact on the NFT art space, *Alexa Blockchain* reports.

Also featuring, as highlights exclusive to the exhibition, are works by prominent Armenian artist Tigran Tsitoghdzyan, whose debut drop on Ethereum will be hosted on Babylon, and — for the first time on public display — the personal collection of Babylon founder Paruyr

Shahbazyan.

Babylon's Founding Artists include mainstream creators like Rik Oostenbroek, who, in a 20-year career, has worked with the likes of Mercedes-Benz, Apple, and Nike; Archan Nair, whose work has been featured in *Rolling Stone* and *Vogue*, and Terrell Jones, whose gangster film-inspired pieces have been auctioned at Sotheby's.

The team and Founding Artists will be on hand to showcase this new NFT platform, which intends to become the home of NFT Editions, at the opening night on April 12. Babylon x NYC will then open to the public on April 13.

Babylon is a passion project of founder

Shahbazyan. He has dubbed it his *ikigai* — a Japanese concept that means 'your reason for being.' Shahbazyan is considered one of the largest and most followed independent NFT collectors, whose collection is estimated at around 4,000 ETH and features rare and valuable pieces such as a 3D Glass Hoodie Punk, a Spiral Fidenza, and a Red Ringer.

He explains the significance of the Babylon x NYC exhibition:

"Art has always occupied a special part of me, but I wanted to make an impact in the space rather than remain purely a collector."

"The emergence of NFTs has offered an opportunity to change and democratize the art world as much as printmaking did in the 18th century. Babylon is bringing in new sales mechanisms based around editions which will create an art world that is fairly distributed and open for all."

*Launched in January 2023, Babylon is a Web3 gallery specializing in primary sales of NFT editions, created and run by a consortium of Founding Artists and collectors. The vision is to make selling and collecting art accessible to all, amplifying the inherently democratic medium that editions are via a flexible listing model and diverse sales mechanics*

## Armenian Armath engineering lab expands to Glendale



The first Armath engineering laboratory has opened in Glendale, the classes have already started.

The delegation of the Union of Advanced Technology Enterprises had a

number of meetings with representatives and organizations of the Armenian community in California. The educational program was presented as an important pan-Armenian project and platform.

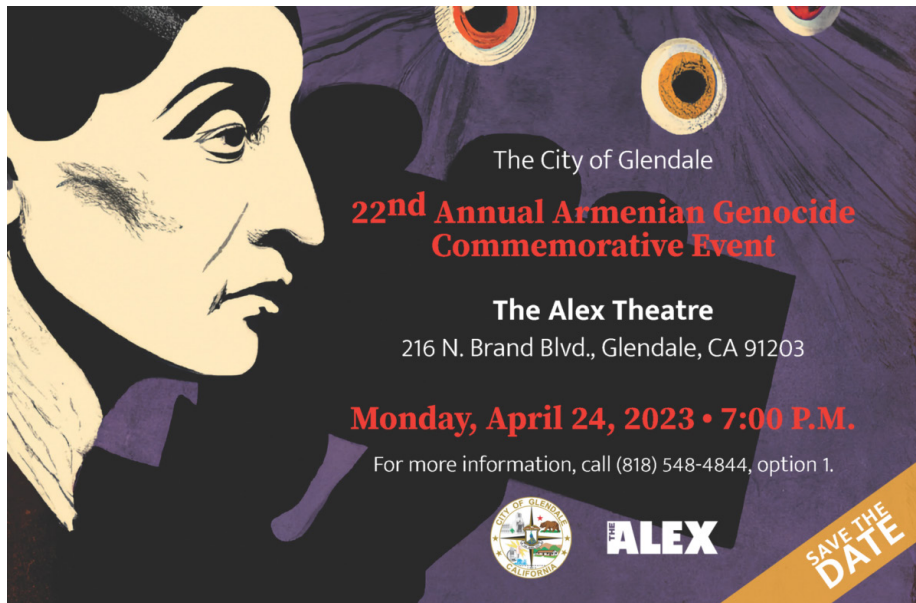
The delegation also had meetings at Armenian technology companies in California, most of which are members of the union: Sada, Service Titan, Disqo, BluIP, Zero Systems. The success of the previous years and future plans of the Armath project were also presented to the

management of the VMWare company, a member of the union and a partner of the Armat project.

Prospects of cooperation with dozens of businessmen of the technology sector were discussed.

The delegation of the "Armath" national educational program was headed by Hayk Chobanyan, executive director of the Union of Advanced Technologies Enterprises.

## City of Glendale announces 22nd annual Armenian Genocide commemorative event



The City of Glendale will host its Annual Armenian Genocide Commemorative Event on Monday, April 24 at 7 p.m., at the Alex Theatre. This year's theme, "The Armenian Experience Through the Lens," celebrates the 100th anniversary of Armenian cinema, as declared by the Armenian Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport.

This year's program will consist of curated segments to educate and inform attendees. The program will commence with a tribute to the ongoing atrocities in Artsakh, reflecting our commitment

to raising awareness of humanitarian crises. Additionally, the event will feature a preview of Armenia's submission to the 2023 Oscars Best International Film category, "Aurora's Sunrise." The city will welcome Joe Manganiello, a celebrated actor, producer, director, published author, and Emmy-winning voice actor, as our keynote speaker. During his speech, Joe will discuss intergenerational trauma, drawing from his familial history and the story of his maternal great-grandmother, Terviz "Rose" Darakijan, who survived the Armenian Genocide.

From Sunday, April 16 to Tuesday, April 25, Glendale will observe the Week of Remembrance, featuring satellite events and screenings across the city to honor the memory of those who perished and recognize the resilience of those who survived. A comprehensive list of events is available below.

Week of Remembrance Events:

Sunday, April 16: Glendale Arts + American Film Society Present Celebrating 100 Years of Armenian Cinema: Feature Film Screening of Vigen Chaldrazyan's "Alter Ego"; 7 p.m. at AMC Americana at Brand 18;

Monday, April 17: Slam Poetry Night; 7 p.m. at Brand Library Recital Hall;

Wednesday, April 19: Armenian Film Society presents a Q&A with Inna Sahakyan, Director of "Aurora's Sunrise"; 7 p.m. at Glendale Central Library's Auditorium;

Thursday, April 20: Film screening of "Songs of Solomon"; 7 p.m. at AMC Americana at Brand 18 (Tickets coming soon);

Monday, April 24: The Armenian Experience Through the Lens, Glendale's Annual Armenian Genocide Commemorative Event; 6 p.m. at The Alex Theatre;

Tuesday, April 25: Film screening of "The Other Side of Home"; 7:30pm The Alex Theatre.

## Nine postage stamps dedicated to the Kingdom of Van put into circulation

Nine postage stamps dedicated to Kingdom of Van have been put into circulation, Armenia's postal operator Hay-Post informs.

The postage stamps depict a bronze figurine (decoration of a throne, height – 10,5 cm) of Van Kingdom.

The figurine is dated 7<sup>th</sup> century B.C. and is kept in the State Hermitage Museum of Saint Petersburg.

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320 – 200 000 pcs

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## Armenian Identity Card

The goal of the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) non-profit organization is to unify Armenians worldwide in a common platform so that through contacts, queries and referenda they can express their views and positions regarding issues of general interest to Armenians around the world and issues of particular interest to Armenian communities in various countries.

Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) also makes it possible to establish business networks, the cardholder can participate in various charitable projects, and can obtain discounts from Armenian and non-Armenian businesses all over the world. Armenians should feel themselves to be full-fledged "citizens" of a reborn Armenia and the Armenian Identity Card is the «passport» for all Armenians.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network is an effective environment where Armenians can implement various projects and pan-Armenian programs. At the heart of HyeID is the creation of an Armenian database which will become the reliable and objective basis to realize the potential of all Armenians around the world. Based on that database, it will be possible to implement various permanent and temporary initiatives through the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) organization.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.
- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.
- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.
- Ensure the security

and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders. The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

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