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Noyan Tapan



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Le Premier ministre Nikol Pashinyan rend hommage aux victimes du Génocide arménien à Tsitsernakaberd



Le Premier ministre Nikol Pashinyan, aux côtés du Président Vahagn Khatchaturian, du Président de l'Assemblée nationale Alen Simonyan et des hauts responsables du pays, s'est rendu au mémorial de Tsitsernakaberd à l'occasion de la journée commémorative du Génocide arménien pour rendre hommage aux 1,5 million de victimes du Génocide.

Nikol Pashinyan a déposé une gerbe auprès du Mémorial et a mis des fleurs devant la Flamme éternelle à la mémoire des victimes innocentes du Génocide arménien.

Le Premier ministre a reçu la délégation du Sénat français



Le Premier ministre Nikol Pashinyan a reçu la délégation dirigée par Bruno Retailleau, président du groupe Les Républicains du Sénat français, fondateur et président du groupe sénatorial sur le Haut-Karabagh, ainsi que président du groupe de liaison, de réflexion, de vigilance et de solidarité avec les Chrétiens d'Orient.

Le Premier ministre s'est félicité de la visite de la délégation du Sénat en Arménie et a hautement apprécié le soutien de la France à notre pays en cette période difficile. Le Premier ministre a exprimé ses remerciements au Sénat pour l'adoption de résolutions importantes sur l'Arménie et le Haut-Karabagh. "Cette fois-ci, vous êtes ici à l'occasion de l'anniversaire du génocide arménien, un jour important et symbolique pour nous. Comme je l'ai mentionné dans mon message d'aujourd'hui, c'est le moment le plus opportun pour réfléchir au passé, au présent et à l'avenir", a déclaré le Premier ministre.

La commémoration du 108ème anniversaire du génocide des Arméniens à Paris.



La cérémonie s'est déroulée en présence notamment du Ministre de l'Intérieur, Gérald Darmanin, du Ministre délégué aux comptes publics, Gabriel Attal, de S.E. Madame l'Ambassadrice de la République d'Arménie, Hasmik Tolmajian, de la Maire de Paris, Anne Hidalgo, du Sénateur des Hauts-de-Seine, Hervé Marseille, du Préfet de la région IDF, Marc Guillaume, de la directrice du cabinet du Préfet de police, Magali Charbonneau, de la Conseillère régionale d'Île-de-France, Catherine Michaud, de Monsieur Hovhannès Guevorkian, Représentant de la République d'Artsakh, du Révérend Père Krikor Khatchatryan, Primat du diocèse de l'Eglise apostolique arménienne de France, de parlementaires, élus et représentants d'associations.

STEPANAKERT – Le 23 avril, la partie azerbaïdjanaise a fermé le pont Hakari à la frontière entre l'Artsakh et l'Arménie



Le Centre d'information de l'Artsakh rapporte que le 23 avril, l'Azerbaïdjan a fermé le pont Hakari à la frontière entre l'Artsakh et l'Arménie. À cet égard, le président de l'Artsakh, Araïk Haroutunian, a convoqué une réunion urgente du Conseil de sécurité afin de discuter des derniers développements et des actions pertinentes des autorités. Les autorités de l'Artsakh ont fermement condamné cette nouvelle provocation azerbaïdjanaise, la considérant comme un acte criminel qui aggrave la crise créée par l'encerclement de l'Artsakh et qui tend au nettoyage ethnique, violant à la fois la déclaration tripartite, la décision contraignante de la Cour internationale de justice des Nations unies et d'autres principes fondamentaux du droit international. D'autre part, l'Azerbaïdjan a officiellement annoncé qu'il avait installé un poste de contrôle frontalier sur la route Berdzor-Stepanakert à des fins de contrôle des passeports. Selon les médias azerbaïdjanais, le service des gardes-frontières de ce pays a publié une déclaration à ce sujet.



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*Tamara DANIELYAN,
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Armenia Marks Genocide Anniversary



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan issued an address on the Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day on April 24.

On April 24, we commemorate the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide carried out by the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century, and tens of thousands of citizens will carry out a procession of respect, remembrance and meditation to the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a statement.

“The April 24 march is perhaps the most impactful occurrence that has predetermined and is predetermining our reality, an exceptional day to think about our history, past and future. What do young parents think when walking to the Tsitsernakaberd memorial, often holding the hands of young children, or what do elderly people with more life experience think?” he said.

“They are probably thinking about two questions. Why did the Meds Yeghern happen and what should be done to prevent its recurrence? Hundreds and thousands of works have been written about the causes of the Armenian Genocide, many reasons and motives have been revealed. As for the methodology to exclude the recurrence of such a crime, it largely depends on

our understanding of the concepts of “state” and “region,” the Prime Minister added.

According to PM Pashinyan, “only a developed and sovereign state is able to ensure the existence and security of our people, and everyone has something to do for the establishment of the state – with education, work, civil responsibility and respect for law.”

“Our strategic choice for the region is as follows. do we have the will and ability to normalize and develop our regional relations, regardless of, or even more so, when the existing security threats around us worsen due to regional or extra-regional reasons?” he added,

“Realizing all the difficulties and complications, our government has decided to go the way of finding a positive answer to that question, because only that way can guarantee security and well-being,” the Prime Minister emphasized.

“Today we bow to the memory of the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide and ponder about the past, present and future. And this is the best moment to think about the past, present and future,” he concluded.

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France reiterates support to Armenia in overcoming challenges: PM Pashinyan receives French Senators

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the delegation headed by Bruno Retailleau, the chairman of the Republicans faction, which holds majority in the French Senate, the founder and chairman of the Senate group on Nagorno Karabakh.

The Prime Minister welcomed the visit of the Senate delegation to Armenia and highly appreciated France's support to our country in this difficult period. The head of the government separately thanked the Senate for adopting important resolutions regarding Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. "This time you are here on the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an important and symbolic day for us. As I mentioned in my [message](#) today, this is the most opportune moment to reflect



on the past, present and future," said the Prime Minister.

Bruno Retailleau, in turn, noted: "Today, on April 24, we stand by the Armenian people and together with you pay tribute to the memory of the innocent victims. They are also our victims, because it is

about the tragedy of all humanity." Mr. Retayo once again expressed France's support to Armenia in solving existing problems and overcoming challenges.

The interlocutors touched upon the humanitarian crisis created in Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor, the installation of an illegal checkpoint in the Lachin Corridor in gross violation of the statement by Azerbaijan on

November 9, 2020, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the settlement of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In the context of ensuring security and stability in the region, the effective activity of the European Union observation mission in Armenia was highlighted.

Armenian FM briefs US officials on approaches regarding the settlement of existing issues

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan received US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Erika Olson. The meeting was also attended by the US senior adviser on Caucasus negotiations, co-chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group, Louis Bono.

Issues related to establishment of stability in the region, settlement of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, border demarcation and border security, unblocking of all economic and transport links in the region, the Nagorno Karabakh issue were

discussed.

Ararat Mirzoyan presented the approaches of the Armenian side regarding the settlement of the existing key issues, including addressing the rights and security of Nagorno Karabakh Armenians in order to achieve a comprehensive and stable peace. Minister Mirzoyan reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to the peace process, emphasizing the importance of Azerbaijan's renunciation of extremist aspirations, aggressive policy and belligerent rhetoric

towards the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and the territorial integrity of Armenia.

The interlocutors referred to the humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the imperative to remove the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor in accordance with the provisions of the statement of November 9, 2020.

Thoughts were also exchanged on issues related to the Armenia-US bilateral agenda, including the strategic dialogue.

Criminal proceedings initiated against two Azerbaijani citizens

The prosecutor has allowed initiating criminal proceedings against two Azerbaijani citizens – Agshin Babirov and Hussein Akhundov – for illegally crossing the border the Republic of Armenia in a prior consent with a group of persons, smuggling of firearms and munitions across Armenia's state border.

Charges have been presented under Article 469, Part 3, Clause 2 and Article 340, Part 2, Clause 1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia.

Detention has been chosen as a preventive measure.

Two Azerbaijani citizens crossed to the Armenian side earlier this month.



Speaker Simonyan calls on UN members with mandate of international security to make Azerbaijan comply with ICJ ruling



Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan has called on UN member states having mandate for preservation of international security to take action to make Azerbaijan comply with the International Court of

Justice ruling ordering it to reopen Lachin Corridor.

The Speaker issued a statement on Twitter after Azerbaijan installed a checkpoint in Lachin Corridor, in violation of the trilateral statement of 2020.

"The installation of a checkpoint in the Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan in the area of responsibility of Russian peacekeeping contingent is totally unacceptable as it is a gross violation of Provision 6 of 9 November 2020 Trilateral statement. We call on Russia to fulfill its obligation by ensuring the withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces from

entire security zone of Lachin Corridor and on UN member states having mandate for preservation of international security to take effective steps towards implementation of ICJ decision," Simonyan tweeted.

The United Nations' highest court – the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – ordered Azerbaijan on February 22 to "take all steps at its disposal" to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions. The Lachin Corridor has been blocked by Azerbaijan since 12 December 2022.

Any use of violence or any provocative act is unhelpful to peace process - U.S. Ambassador on Azerbaijani checkpoint

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Kristina Kvien has said that Azerbaijan's decision to set up a checkpoint in the Lachin Corridor is unhelpful to the peace process.

Speaking to reporters at the Armenian Genocide memorial in Yerevan, the Ambassador reiterated U.S. support to the peace process.

"As the United States said yesterday, we are deeply concerned about Azerbaijan's decision to set up a checkpoint on Lachin Corridor. We find it unhelpful to the peace process. And what we are focusing on now is try to get the parties to speak



together to come up with solutions that are mutually agreed and we will continue to support the peace process to try to move it forward," Ambassador Kvien said.

"We find any use of violence or any

provocative act to be unhelpful to the peace process, we said this before multiple times, and we will continue to try to move ahead to help the peace process move forward," she added when asked whether Azerbaijan's actions are damaging the peace process.

Asked whether the United States is considering sanctioning Azerbaijan as a retraining measure, Ambassador Kvien said: "The United States has not levied any sanctions so far on Azerbaijan. And I can't comment on what we might do in the future."

Council of Europe bodies should have access to Lachin corridor, the Secretary General says

The establishment of Azerbaijani checkpoint in the Lachin corridor, free movement through which was already questionable, is certainly a further deterioration of the situation in that area, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić said during question time at the Parliamentary Assembly.

"It certainly does not help building confidence and reducing tensions," she said.

"I made my point clear in December,

when the Lachin corridor was first blocked, and I can only restate that I call to restore free movement, and in the meantime, we have an interim measure issued by the International Court of Justice," she added.

The Secretary General pointed to the humanitarian crisis in the region and noted that "it goes beyond imagination how the situation of people living in that area is under complete blockade"

Mrs. Pejčinović Burić stressed that all

Council of Europe bodies should have a possibility to go to all areas covered by the Council of Europe, including the Lachin corridor.

"I know that some of the bodies wanted to go there to get first-hand information, because what we hear from the sides is contradictory, and I think the best way would be to allow the CoE bodies – the Commissioner for Human Rights, the PACE delegation – to assess the situation on the ground," the Secretary General stated.

EU recorded violation of Armenia's state border in statement following April 11 Azeri aggression - PM

The EU clearly recorded in its [statement](#) on the latest Azeri aggression in the Togh village section that the 1991 border must be maintained, PM Nikol Pashinyan said in response to a reporter's observation that the EU monitors did not give a targeted assessment regarding the attack.

"I think that the EU statement, which didn't contain an assessment emotionally, but indeed, contained a very clear political record that the 1991 border must be maintained. And we agree with this. This is a highly important, fundamental record and assessment. And this means that the violation of the state border of Armenia has been recorded," Pashinyan 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.

The European Union issued a statement over the April 11 deadly Azeri attack on Armenian troops near the village of Togh.

In a statement, the European Union External Action Service said the EU "deplores the armed clashes."

Below is the full statement.

"The EU deplores the armed clashes that yesterday led to several Armenian and Azerbaijani servicemen being killed or injured on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border in the area of Togh.

This incident yet again emphasises that in the absence of a delimited border, the 1991 line must be respected the forces of either side withdrawn to safe distances from this line to prevent any similar

incidents from occurring.

Previous commitments must be respected, including those reached in Prague in October 2022 regarding the mutual recognition of territorial integrity in line with the 1991 Almaty Declaration. The EU also urges the intensification of negotiations on the delimitation of the border and continues to stand ready to support this process.

We renew our calls for restraint and for the settlement of all disputes by peaceful means. The EU continues to support these efforts, including at the highest level, and also through the presence of the EU Mission in Armenia."

Afterwards, PM Pashinyan [said](#) Armenia welcomes the EU's statement and is ready to withdraw its forces to a safe distance from the 1991 line, as proposed by the EU.

Armenia government okays introduction of 6-month military service for women

The Armenian Government on April 21 approved amendments to the Law on Military Service and the Status of Servicemen and the Law on Defense, which envisage introduction of 6-month military service for females on voluntary basis.

The drafts will now be forwarded to the National Assembly. If passed, the law will be enforced during the winter draft.

According to Defense Minister Suren Papikyan, after conscription, women will not be able to terminate or postpone the military service due to "family circumstances," as it does not make sense within a 6-month period.

"Until the day of conscription, they can refuse mandatory military service, and will serve in training military units," Papikyan further clarified.

In case of full service, females will be paid 1 million drams at the end of the service.

According Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan "the service will not be a walk in the military unit."

"Women should become a full part of the military service," said the Prime Minister.

Armenian PM sees opportunity for establishment of normal relations with Turkey

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan sees opportunity to establish normal relations with Turkey

"That opportunity has increased due to extra-political, extra-diplomatic factors, or rather, human values, after we decided to respond to the catastrophic earthquake that occurred in Turkey at the beginning of this year with a logic based on human, neighborly values, and the Turkish government and public accepted our actions exactly that way," the Prime Minister said, presenting the annual report on the implementation and results of the Government's 2022 Action Plan.

"We would not have made the decision

to send a rescue team and humanitarian aid to Turkey if we had not changed our perspective of perceiving history and the problems arising from it during this period," he said.

"And the dozen flags of the Republic of Armenia flying in front of the Turkish Foreign Ministry during the visit of Foreign Minister Mirzoyan to Ankara are not only a ceremonial attribute, but an amazing record that hope can arise where despair prevails. The flags of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey were raised over the ruins of our relations and the catastrophic earthquake, and I hope

that in the near future the Armenia-Turkey border will really open and a basis will be created for the development of normal neighborly relations," PM Pashinyan noted.

In this regard, he attached importance to implementing the agreement to open the border for citizens of third countries and holders of diplomatic passports.

"Of course, this may not happen if the new perceptions and impressions brought by humanitarian and neighborly values freeze and fade over time, and their influence on political and diplomatic decisions becomes null and void. I hope this will not happen," he stated.

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