

Armenia submits requests for ten provisional measures against Azerbaijan at ICJ



Azerbaijan cynically opened the Lachin corridor for first time in nine months to only to let out more than 100 000 fleeing Armenians, Armenia’s Representative on International Legal Matters Yeghishe Kirakosyan said at the International Court of Justice hearing in the case Armenia v. Azerbaijan.

“Despite comprising for millennia the great majority of the population of Nagorno Karabakh, almost no ethnic Armenians remain in Nagorno Karabakh today. If this is not ethnic cleansing, I do not know what it is,” Kirakosyan said.

He noted that Azerbaijan deliberately interrupted vital public utilities and starved the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh for nine months before brutally killing them and causing them to flee their ancestral home,

“I expect my counterpart to tell you that Azerbaijan will permit those it considers its citizens to return. He promised the same thing in October 2021, when he claimed that in areas transferred to Azerbaijan in 2020 ‘Azerbaijan was committed to the return of displaced persons regardless of the national or ethnic identity or origin.’ Two years later not a single ethnic Armenian has been permitted to return to those areas, and instead, virtually all remaining Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh have

been forced to flee their homes,” Armenia’s representative said.

He noted that two provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice did not deter Azerbaijan from escalating violations.

“Since September 2020 Azerbaijan has been taking steps to cleanse Nagorno Karabakh of ethnic Armenians and has been doing so while Armenia’s claims are pending at the Court. Political considerations may have prevented the international community from stopping it,” Kirakosyan said, adding that there is still time to prevent the forced displacement of ethnic Armenians from becoming irreversible and to protect the very few Armenians that remain in Nagorno Karabakh, as well as those who have abducted and are currently unlawfully detained in Azerbaijan’s prisons.

“Azerbaijan’s cynicism crosses any imaginable boundaries. It complains that Armenia’s claims before this Court ‘counter norms and principles of international law’ and asserts that such actions ‘constitute the main threat to establishment of peace, security and justice in the region’ and alleges that Armenia ‘is not interested in the process of peace and normalization with Azerbaijan.’ Such remarkable stance is in

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Armenian FM, US Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations discuss challenges facing people forcibly displaced from Nagorno Karabakh

Armenian Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs Ararat Mirzoyan met with Louis Bono, US Senior Advisor for Caucasus Negotiations, Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Referring to the establishment of long-term peace and stability in the South Caucasus, the process of normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized the need to restrain encroachments on Armenia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and the need for that country to be constructively involved in the peace process.

Thoughts were also exchanged on addressing the humanitarian challenges and rights of more than 100,000 forcibly displaced Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh.

Minister Mirzoyan emphasized that Nagorno-Karabakh actually underwent ethnic cleansing, despite many appeals from international partners, including the US. Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized that the failure to prevent the mass displacement of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh from their homeland in the 21st century once again proves the



need for clear steps by international actors in such situations.

Armenia, UK FMs discuss security situation in the South Caucasus

RA Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan had a phone conversation with James Cleverly, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Development of the United Kingdom.

The heads of the foreign ministries of the two countries discussed the current security situation in the South Caucasus.

Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized that Armenian had repeatedly warned about the open intention of Azerbaijan to subject Nagorno Karabakh to ethnic cleansing, including during the 9-month blockade of the Lachin corridor, adding that the international community actually failed



to take effective steps to prevent the implementation of this intention.

Reference was also made to the situation created by the forced displacement of more than 100,000 people of Nagorno-Karabakh, the ensuing humanitarian problems that require an urgent

solution, and the interaction with international partners in this matter.

Touching upon the general regional security situation Minister Mirzoyan emphasized the imperative to deter any provocations against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia. In this regard, the support of the partners to the main messages of the Statement adopted following the quadrilateral meeting held in Granada on October 5 was highlighted.

The interlocutors also exchanged views on the possibilities of expanding the Armenia-UK bilateral agenda.

President of the Senate of Czech Republic expresses support to Armenia's territorial integrity and sovereignty

Vice Speaker of Parliament of Armenia Hakob Arshakyan is leading a delegation to the Czech Republic at the invitation of First Vice President of the Senate of Czech Republic Jiří Drahoš.

The Vice Speaker's delegation includes MP Arman Yeghoyan, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on European Integration Affairs, and MP Hasmik Hakobyan, member of the Armenia-Czech Republic Parliamentary Friendship Group.

On October 9, Arshakyan met with President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic Miloš Vystrčil.

Arshakyan briefed Vystrčil on the situation resulting from the September 19 Azeri attack in Nagorno-Karabakh that has

led to the ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population.

The Azerbaijani aggressive policy against Armenia's territorial integrity, as a result of which nearly 150 square kilometers of territory of Armenia is under occupation, was also discussed.

"There's no alternative to the peace agenda in our region, we've adopted the path of peace and democracy, we are resolute in our choice and we expect support from international partners," the parliament's press service quoted Vice Speaker Arshakyan as saying.

The support programs for the forcibly displaced persons of Nagorno-Karabakh and the cooperation with international

partners in this direction were also discussed. Hakob Arshakyan thanked the Czech government for the assistance.

President of the Senate Miloš Vystrčil welcomed the latest European Parliament resolution condemning the Azeri attack in Nagorno-Karabakh. He expressed support to Armenia's territorial integrity, sovereignty and democracy.



There is consensus in EU regarding the deepening of relations with Armenia, PM Pashinyan says

There is a consensus in the European Union regarding the deepening of relations with Armenia, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in an interview with Public TV.

He said this consensus was enshrined in two important statements – the quadrilateral statement with EU Council President Charles Michel, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and the bilateral statement with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

“Both statements outlined the pillars of peace in our region. One of the pillars is the reciprocal recognition of each other’s territory by Armenia and Azerbaijan. The second is that the delimitation of borders should take place based on the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration and in line with late



Soviet-era maps. The third is that regional communications must be unblocked with full respect to the sovereignty and authority of the countries, on the basis of equality and reciprocity,” PM Pashinyan stated.

He also attached importance to the fact that the use of force by Azerbaijan against Nagorno Karabakh was condemned, the fact of forced displacement of the people

of Nagorno Karabakh was recorded and the willingness of EU and US to help Armenia manage the situation was reiterated.

“It was emphasized that the people of Nagorno Karabakh should have the right to return to their homes without preconditions. And it was recorded that the European Union is ready to deepen the relations with Armenia as much as Armenia wants or needs,” he stated.

At the same time, PM Pashinyan noted that the absence of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s signature on the statement is among the shortcomings.

“Had he signed the statement, as it was initially expected, I would say there is a 70% chance that we will be able to sign a peace treaty by the end of the year,” Nikol Pashinyan said.

Tigran Avinyan elected Mayor of Yerevan



Tigran Avinyan has been elected Mayor of Yerevan.

Avinyan, representing the ruling Civil Contract party, passed a confirmation vote unopposed on October 10 during the new City Council’s first session.

37 city councilors participated in the voting. Avinyan received 32 votes in favor and 5 against.

Only 37 city councilors (24 from Civil Contract, 5 from Public Voice party and 8 from Hanrapetutyun (Republic) party) were in attendance at the session. The Public Voice and Hanrapetutyun did not nominate any candidate for mayor.

The Mother Armenia bloc and National Progress party boycotted the session.

Armenia ready to continue meetings in 3+3 format – PM

Armenia is ready to continue the meetings in 3+3 format, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in an interview with Public TV.

“We are ready to work in that format. We attach importance to the format, because we often discuss regional agenda far from the region, but do not discuss it within the region,” PM Pashinyan said.

“We value the cooperation with all

partners, but there should not be an impression that we have a contemptuous attitude towards the countries and relations in the region. It’s not the case,” he said.

“On the contrary, we attach importance to relations within the region without separating them from the general context of international relations,” PM Pashinyan noted.

He reminded that an agreement was reached at some point to hold the next meeting in Tehran, and reiterated Armenia’s willingness to participate in it.

“At least until now the meetings have taken place on the level of Deputy Foreign Ministers, and now it’s necessary to discuss at what level the next meetings should be held,” Nikol Pashinyan said.

U.S. denies Russia's accusations of interfering in South Caucasus for 'geopolitical ambitions', says it seeks peace



Allegations that the United States has 'geopolitical ambitions' in the South Caucasus are 'absolutely not true' and

Washington's only goal is to ensure lasting peace and stability between Armenia and Azerbaijan, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller has said.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has accused the United States of interfering in the South Caucasus for geopolitical ambitions and destabilizing the situation.

"Well, that's absolutely not true," U.S.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said at a press briefing when asked to respond to the accusation.

"Our only goal in the South Caucasus, in the relationship between Armenia and Azerbaijan, is to ensure a lasting peace and stability and of course to ensure that the humanitarian needs and rights of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh are protected," Miller added.

Azerbaijan planned and organized the exodus of more than 100,000 Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh – French FM

Azerbaijan planned and organized the exodus of more than 100,000 Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said during the Q&A session at the Senate.

"No matter how it tries to present the situation, Azerbaijan planned and organized the exodus of more than 100,000 Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh. This serious crime cannot go unanswered," she emphasized.



The Foreign Minister said France will demand the adoption of a resolution within the framework of the UN Security Council that will create conditions for the return of Nagorno Karabakh Armenians.

The French Foreign Minister stressed the need to protect the historical and cultural rights of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh and insisted on permanent international presence in the

region.

CoE Secretary General sends special representative to Armenia to assess the needs of people displaced from Nagorno Karabakh



Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić's special representative will pay a visit to Armenia.

She will map the needs of the over 100,000 displaced from Nagorno Karabakh, Marija Pejčinović Burić said during the question time at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

"Almost all unfortunately left Karabakh and we will certainly will devise a plan on how to assist the people who are there. But, of course, there is a bigger question to see when and how these people should return home because I think no one wants to be a refugee, no one wants to leave the place where they were born or their ancestors were born. So, I think throughout the Council of Europe, we should pay attention to that and do whatever we can to allow these people to go back," the Secretary General said.

"And, of course, on the side of

Azerbaijan, I hope soon to be able to send a mission from the Secretariat that will talk to Azerbaijani authorities and see what is their assessment of the situation in Azerbaijan. But also with this I call on Azerbaijan to really apply the European Convention on Human Rights fully because everyone around the Council of Europe space is entitled to enjoy all freedoms and rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights. So I think if we work on all those fronts, then Armenians will be – hopefully very soon – safe to go back to their homes," Marija Pejčinović Burić said.

page 1 ➔ stark conflict with the establishments of the international legal order, which is based on the premise that disputes should be solved by peaceful means only," Kirakosyan stated.

"This in fact reflects the way Azerbaijan prefers to solve its disputes, i.e. by resorting to illegal threats to use of force. This is how Azerbaijan understands peace and security," he added.

"Nothing other than targeted, unequivocal provisional measures protecting the rights of ethnic Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh will suffice to prevent the ethnic cleansing Azerbaijan is perpetrating from continuing and becoming irreversible, to safeguard Armenians' millennia-long enduring cultural presence in Nagorno Karabakh from being eradicated as it was already done in Nakhijevan and is being elsewhere in Azerbaijan, and to protect the abducted military-political leadership of Nagorno Karabakh from fabricated criminal charges," Yeghishe Kirakosyan stated.

"If your provisional measures retain any ambiguity whatsoever, Azerbaijan will exploit them and in doing so will ensure that ethnic Armenian presence and history of Nagorno Karabakh are permanently wiped out," Kirakosyan stated.

He demanded from the Court to

indicate the following provisional measures against Nagorno Karabakh:

1) Azerbaijan shall refrain from taking any measures which might entail breaches of its obligations under the CERD;

2) Azerbaijan shall refrain from taking any actions directly or indirectly aimed at or having the effect of displacing the remaining ethnic Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh, or preventing the safe and expeditious return to their homes of persons displaced in the course of the recent military attack including those who have fled to Armenia or third States, while permitting those who wish to leave Nagorno Karabakh to do so without any hindrance;

3) Azerbaijan shall withdraw all military and law-enforcement personnel from all civilian establishments in Nagorno-Karabakh occupied as a result of its armed attack on 19 September 2023;

4) Azerbaijan shall facilitate, and refrain from placing any impediment on, the access of the United Nations and its specialized agencies to the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, and shall not interfere with their activities in any way;

5) Azerbaijan shall facilitate, and refrain from placing any impediment on, the ability of the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide humanitarian

aid to the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh, and shall cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross to address the other consequences of the recent conflict;

6) Azerbaijan shall immediately facilitate the full restoration of public utilities, including gas and electricity, to Nagorno-Karabakh, and shall refrain from disrupting them in the future;

7) Azerbaijan shall refrain from taking punitive actions against the current or former political representatives or military personnel of Nagorno-Karabakh;

8) Azerbaijan shall not alter or destroy any monument commemorating the 1915 Armenian genocide or any other monument or Armenian cultural artefact or site present in Nagorno-Karabakh;

9) Azerbaijan shall recognize and give effect to civil registers, identity documents and property titles and registers established by the authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh, and shall not destroy or confiscate such registers and documents;

10) Azerbaijan shall submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order within one month, as from the date of this Order, and thereafter every three months, until a final decision on the case is rendered by the Court."

UN sends second mission to depopulated Nagorno-Karabakh



The UN has sent another mission to Nagorno-Karabakh, where the entire population has been forcibly displaced after the

September 19-20 Azeri attack.

Various UN agencies are included in the mission, according to Azeri media reports.

After most of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh had fled the region following the September 19-20 Azerbaijani attack, a UN team reportedly consisting of representatives of Turkey, Pakistan, Albania, Hungary and Russia – all traditional allies and partners of Azerbaijan - visited Nagorno-Karabakh and claimed that

they were 'struck by the sudden manner in which the local population left their homes', and that they did not see any damage to civilian infrastructure.

However, civilian infrastructures were extensively targeted by the Azeri military during the attack.

On October 3, a senior Armenian diplomat strongly criticized the UN team, saying that it was "discrediting the UN as an institution."

It's time for peace in the South Caucasus, says Russia

The Russian peacekeeping contingent is ready to contribute to the strengthening of trust in the South Caucasus, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said.

"Now, when leaders in Yerevan and Baku have resolved the issue of mutual recognition of the sovereignty of the two countries, the time has come to establish

peaceful life and strengthen trust," Lavrov said in an article. "The Russian peacekeeping contingent is ready to maximally contribute to this," he added.

The Russian FM accused the West of destabilizing the situation in the South Caucasus and imposing its mediation upon Armenia and Azerbaijan.



EU to allocate EUR 6.5mln for energy security in four Armenian regions

On October 12, the Government of Armenia approved the draft decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia "On approval of the financial agreement "Sustainable energy, energy security and climate change resilience in rural areas of Armenia" between the Republic of Armenia and the European Commission" with a budget of 6.5 million euros.

Earlier, on June 29, the RA Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal to sign a corresponding agreement. As stated in the explanation to the document, the Armenian government sets a goal to increase the share of solar energy production in the total volume to 15% by 2030, which corresponds to the principles of the "European Green Deal".

The conclusion of the agreement is related to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (goal 7 - "ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy sources

for all"), the obligations undertaken by the RA-EU Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement, comparison and analysis of donor organizations carried out within the framework of the High-Level Initiative on Energy Efficiency, as well as from the RA strategy for the development of the energy sector until 2040, the program "Energy Saving and Renewable Energy Sources 2022-2030".

The overall goals of the financing agreement are aimed at overcoming energy poverty in Armenia, increasing energy security and independence, mitigating the environmental impacts of climate change, and protecting natural resources and ecosystems. To achieve these goals, it is planned to increase access to energy efficient and sustainable energy solutions in rural areas.

The project will be implemented in four regions of Armenia: Tavush, Shirak,

Gegharkunik and Syunik regions. Energy efficient equipment, solar water heaters, photovoltaic installations, thermal insulation works will be introduced in low-income households and public buildings in rural areas where general access to sustainable energy is difficult. At the same time, awareness-raising activities will be implemented regarding energy-efficient equipment and renewable energy sources, energy saving measures, which will contribute to changing practices and behavior among the population.

It is noted that the implementation of the project will provide an opportunity to create an improved environment for energy efficient and sustainable energy solutions in accordance with EU best practices in Armenia, to have energy efficient solutions in rural areas, to increase awareness and financial support for renewable energy sources.

Armenia gets highest economic growth projection in the region from IMF



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecasted Armenia's economic growth in 2023 to comprise 7% instead of its previous projection of 5,5% made in April this year.

The 7% growth projection is the highest forecast among all regional countries. The IMF predicts Georgia to have 6,2% growth in 2023 and 4,8% growth in 2024,

and Azerbaijan only 2,5% this year. The IMF's growth projections for Turkey and Iran for 2023 are 4% and 3%, and 3% and 2,5% for 2024.

The new report issued by the IMF forecasts 5,5% growth in Armenia in 2024.

The Armenian Central Bank's latest projection said the country's economic growth would comprise 7,2% in 2023.

PM Pashinyan says Armenia is ready to open roads for Azerbaijan, Turkey; rules out extraterritoriality



Armenia is ready to open the roads for Azerbaijan and Turkey based on the

principles of its sovereignty, jurisdiction and reciprocity, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has said.

In an interview aired by Public Television, PM Pashinyan said that no third party should have control upon any territory of Armenia.

Armenian border checkpoints and customs services must function based

on Armenia's jurisdiction upon crossing Armenia's border, he said.

"For instance, we are told that the trilateral statement says that security must be ensured by Russia, but I am saying it doesn't say anything like that. It is a public document, let's read it, on the contrary, it says that security is guaranteed by Armenia," he added.

Azeri enclave narrative has no legal grounds, says cartographer



The Azerbaijani narrative that it has enclaves inside Armenia is void of any legal grounds, cartographer Ruben Galichyan has said.

Azerbaijan itself has stated in its independence declaration that it is the successor of the 1918-1920 Azerbaijan, and back then no enclaves existed.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has again falsely claimed that eight enclaves are “under Armenian occupation” which must be “liberated”.

Speaking at a press conference, Galichyan showed a 1926 Soviet map verified by the then-ministry of interior, which doesn't show any enclaves, neither in Armenian nor Azeri territories. Furthermore, territories with an area of 1,200 square kilometers of the Armenian SSR stipulated in this map were later handed over to the Azeri SSR. The Aghavno River was the only division line between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh by that map. More adjacent areas were then handed over to Azeri control.

Moreover, a 1932 map also shows no

enclaves.

These enclaves first appeared in a 1940 map, two in Tavush, one in Ararat, and Artsvashen in Azerbaijan. Although these enclaves were drawn up, no documents pertaining to these areas exist, i.e., there's no legal ground proving their stipulation.

And despite this, in 2014 Azerbaijan published an atlas, showing enclaves located in Armenian territory, but without any note of Artsvashen.

“Two years ago, the Azeri foreign ministry said that if Armenia claims the enclaves to be its territory it should present an official document. But basically, this is a contrary approach, because since these territories are within Armenia, thus they belong to Armenia. And if Azerbaijan has any aspirations for these territories, then it is the one that should present legal grounds, which, basically, do not exist. By the way, the total area of the three enclaves located in our territory is 45 square kilometers, whereas Artsvashen alone is 44 square kilometers. Two years ago, speaking about the topic of enclaves, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan spoke about exchanging them, which is the required path for resolving the issue,” the cartographer said.

If Azerbaijan intends to sign any treaty, it must first of all return to Armenia the territories that it captured since 2021, which include around 240 square

kilometers, Galichyan said.

According to the USSR general staff, the representatives of the Armenian and Azeri SSRs ratified the maps in 1960-1970s, which was the basis for the 1991 Alma-Ata declaration. But now Azerbaijan is circulating fake maps.

The territories occupied by Azerbaijan are recognized as sovereign Armenian territory by Azerbaijan itself under the 1991 declaration.

“If the Azerbaijani side is not withdrawing from individual parts of our country's sovereign territory, then how should we negotiate? The long-term goals of Azerbaijan are clear. If they were to have enclaves in Armenian territory, they would then demand a corridor to have land connection with the enclaves, which would have the same role as the so-called Zangezur corridor. On the other hand, it is clearly visible that the Azeri enclaves are on strategically significant highways, and if these were to be connected with Azerbaijan through [extraterritorial] corridors, Armenia would lose its direct connection with its southern provinces, and the Ijevan-Noyemberyan road would be cut off in the north,” the cartographer said.

And now Azerbaijan is hinting that it wants to take over these territories by force.

He warned that any concessions would simply make Azerbaijan want more.

1,850,000 tourists visited Armenia in the 9 months of 2023

1,850,000 tourists visited Armenia in the 9 months of 2023, Tourism Committee Head Sisian Boghossian has said. The number constitutes a 25% growth compared to the same period of 2019.

Most of the tourists (51%) came from Russia, followed by Georgia (10%) and Iran (6%).

Active tourism visits from France, Germany and the UAE are also seen.

260,000 tourists visited Armenia in September 2023. The September figures in 2022 and 2019 stood at 198,000 and

221,000 respectively.

Speaking at a press conference, Boghossian said that Armenia has a variety of tourism products to offer.

“We are actively working in various platforms to present Armenia. We were in Italy last week to participate in a tourism expo. Italy is a new direction for us, you know that there are direct flights from various Italian cities to Yerevan, and we are now carrying out targeted work in the Italian market to promote Armenia. We also visited France together with twelve



tour operators. We see significant interest towards Armenia in France. We will travel to London in November for an international tourism expo,” she said.

A small world war

By Georgi Derluguian

A sociologist at New York University Abu Dhabi and the author of "Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus."

The ethnic cleansing of Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh came in the focus last week. It will soon disappear in the stream of troubling news as the last Karabakh Armenians leave their ancestral homeland. The less lucky are facing show trials in Baku or, worse, may be disappeared. Several Russian peacekeepers, including ranking officers, also died in a hail of 'stray' bullets. No survivors. Disposing of unwitting witnesses? Baku readily apologized, Moscow accepted. The Russian military bloggers grumbled 'betrayal' through clenched teeth.

Indeed, Moscow had once before enabled the Azerbaijani forces to sweep up the Armenian villages in Karabakh. In the fateful summer 1991 Mikhail Gorbachev was apparently hoping that the still Soviet Azerbaijan would support his revamped version of the USSR against the rebellious and increasingly pro-Western Armenians. From there to the collapse of Soviet superpower — only a few months.

The common encyclopedia facts say that Armenia is the oldest Christian country with its own church and alphabet. Officially baptized in A.D. 301, Armenia played an outsized role in late Antiquity. Look up who was the patron-saint of Maastricht. But as the waves of conquering migrant peoples flooded the Roman realm, the Armenians were reduced to a relic minority — like Celts, Basques, Coptic Egyptians, or the defeated Greeks and Balkan Slavs.

Modernity brought the scholarly realization of how ancient were these nations. Next came the dream of nationhood. The



Azerbaijan, was a major center of oil industry likened at the time to 'Chicago of the East'.

In fact, Baku at the turn of twentieth century boasted a wonderfully cosmopolitan scene where the modernist Muslim

outcomes, however, turned on Western geopolitics. First, the Greeks in the 1820s; the Irish last. The Armenians in 1915 faced genocidal extermination in the unravelling Ottoman empire. As many such minorities amidst the decay of old order, the Armenians were accused of being simultaneously capitalist exploiters and socialist revolutionaries. In short, too pro-Western and modern.

Just a couple slivers of the ancient Armenian homeland survived the carnage to find themselves after 1920 as parts of the newly communist Soviet Union. A larger sliver became Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR). The lesser chunk called Nagorno (i.e. Mountainous) Karabagh was attached, however, to Azerbaijani SSR with the predominantly Muslim and Turkic-speaking population.

Stalin, the Bolshevik Commissar for the Nationalities, followed a materialist logic. To him, ethnic hatreds meant backwardness. Baku, the capital of newly-created

elites switched to the Latin alphabet and established a republic before Turkey. The Azeri educators even dared to lampoon the Islamic traditions in the illustrated magazine Molla Nasreddin widely read from British India to Morocco.

The thin crust of Azeri Westernizers perished in Stalin's purges of the 1930s. Replacing them were the likes of Heydar Aliev, a protégé of the NKVD chief Lavrenty Beria in the 1940s, and the founder of Baku's ruling dynasty since 1969.

The Alievs seem set to outdo the satirical fantasies of Sasha Baron Cohen. President Ilham Aliev awards the order of Heydar Aliev to the vice-president and his spouse Mehriban Aliev. They take selfies in combat fatigues over the conquered Armenian positions. Other Azeri war heroes are hardly ever mentioned. Personalistic power allows for no competition, even overtly loyal.

The grotesque details, however, make the façade. History is made by the

interplay of structure, agency, and contingency. The key is timing. Why did the Karabakh conflict come unfrozen now? What can we project next?

The forgotten expectations of Gorbachev's perestroika in the late 1980s promised a more humane and rational world order starting with the USSR itself. The hopes provided tremendous impetus to the intelligentsia. By definition, the writers and scientists are the custodians of all things rational and humane. The administrative map where Armenian SSR was separated by a narrow strip of mountains from the Armenian autonomy in Karabakh looked irrational, yet easy to fix since both Azerbaijan and Armenia were merely Soviet republics. This ignited the chain of terrible events coldly dubbed population exchange. A mass of ethnic Armenians, mostly urban and educated, were violently expelled from Baku. In 1992-94 the Armenian detachments, determined to avenge the trauma of genocide, secured Nagorno Karabakh and a large buffer zone around it from where Azeri villagers were expelled.

In Baku, after a brief chaotic interregnum of the local democratic intelligentsia, order was restored by the strong hand of Heydar Aliev. In Karabakh and soon in Armenia itself, power fell to the victorious guerrilla commanders, typically the small-town Party careerists. This cursory sociology helps to explain why neither side seriously sought peace between the ceasefire of 1994 and Azerbaijan's resumption of war in 2020. Both were enjoying the corrupt fruits of power, both were former Soviet officials, albeit Heydar Aliev was a legendary shrewd KGB general while his Armenian counterparts were simpler types. The post-Soviet Azerbaijan became an oil-rich presidency for life. Heydar Aliev avoided risks and carefully cultivated his regime which he ultimately passed on to

his son and the in-laws. The Armenian regime remained turbulent changing several presidents before a successful popular uprising in 2018 swept it aside. The insurgent leader Nikol Pashinyan was a journalist of populist bent. He had to learn statesmanship on the job, at great expense to his nation. Still, to a large majority of voters he seemed better compared to the predecessors. From a turbulent authoritarianism, Armenia passed to a turbulent democracy. Moscow did not hide its displeasure.

The Karabakh war reignited in 2020 due to three contingencies: Covid, Brexit, Trump. This ensured that the West would stay preoccupied with its own problems. The Armenian forces in Karabakh with their Soviet-era guns and tactics stood little chance against Azerbaijani armies reequipped with the advanced weapons from Israel and Russia and stiffened with Turkish advisors. So far, all is explicable.

The second Karabakh war, however, strangely ended in November 2020 when Azeri victory seemed imminent. Russian peacekeepers, some of the best-trained troops, swiftly arrived on the scene with a vague mandate of undermined duration. The Armenians certainly lost. But Azerbaijan, besides its own military and the remnants of Armenian Karabakh army, ended up with the Russians and Turks openly stationed on its territory. The presence of Israelis was widely suspected but, of course, never proved.

Evidently, Baku had to accept this bizarre outcome because Putin and Erdogan became the 'rival partners', as Moscow commentators put it. Still, in 2020 Putin looked on the rise. And that could be the clue. Karabakh was a piece of much larger design.

To remind, in summer 2020 Lukashenko, the perennial dictator of Belarus,

nearly lost power in the face of staunch protests. Putin saved him and bagged Belarus.

The inconclusive war in Karabakh then made both Armenia and Azerbaijan awkwardly dependent on Russia. Georgia under its current faceless leadership seemed a foregone conclusion. Then in January 2022, the unexpected (always unexpected) popular uprising in Kazakhstan, the largest country in Central Asia, nearly destroyed the regime and the state. The Russian peacekeepers swiftly came to the rescue — and, bewilderingly, left almost as soon. Of course, they were needed in Ukraine for the surprise attack. But that gambit failed in the face of Ukrainian resistance.

The fate of Karabakh was then sealed. Baku, ever risk-averse, circled over the target for another year and half while watching the waning of Russian power. Moreover, Russia itself evidently became critically dependent on Azerbaijan and Turkey for circumventing Western sanctions and connecting to its newly precious Iranian partner.

What about Armenia? Moscow would much prefer to cause a regime change there in the situation when it is losing on all fronts. The Russian military base in Armenia remains the last outpost in the South Caucasus. The end of Armenian Karabakh could cause the demise of Pashinyan's populist democracy.

Yet many Armenians now painfully realize that, after two centuries, Moscow is no longer an ally. This realization first emerged during Gorbachev's well-intentioned reforms and ultimately ruined the USSR. Ironically, Putin's geopolitical scheming might now ruin the Russian position. History is full of such tragic ironies. The small wars in distant places may prove to be world wars.

Armenian-Azeri conflict still unresolved, says Russia

The Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict is still unresolved, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin has said.

In an interview with RBC, Galuzin praised the Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh for what he described as playing an "essential role" in providing humanitarian assistance to the civilians after the September 19-20 Azeri attack.

He said that the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities' decision to disband their government doesn't mean that the conflict situation is over between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

"And here the complex of the trilateral agreements between the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia is still relevant," Galuzin said, mentioning that the agreements pertain to the unblocking of the transport and economic routes between Armenia and Azerbaijan, border delimitation and demarcation, signing of the peace treaty and establishment of contacts



between public figures, expert circles and parliamentarians from both countries. "All of this should lead to mutually acceptable conditions of resolution that will be stipulated in the future treaty. And Russia, as an honest broker, that has collegial and allied relations with both countries, will seek to support in order for sustainable and balanced agreements to be reached between the two neighbors," the Russian Deputy FM said.

The mass exodus of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh began after the

September 19-20 Azerbaijani attack which ended after Nagorno-Karabakh authorities agreed to Azerbaijan's terms in a Russian-brokered ceasefire deal.

Over 100,600 forcibly displaced Armenians have crossed into Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Many residents of Karabakh made a difficult decision to leave. But at the same time, we believe that the Russian peacekeeping contingent's mission remains more than demanded," Galuzin said, adding that the peacekeepers would be necessary in the future as well.

The terms of the 2020 ceasefire agreement, officially known as the 9 November 2020 trilateral statement by the leaders of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, provide for a repeated extension of the Russian peacekeeping contingent's mission by five more years if Armenia and Azerbaijan do not object to that.

Strong evidence Azerbaijan used Pegasus spyware against Armenia – PACE



Citing "mounting evidence" that spyware has been used for illegitimate purposes by several Council of Europe member states, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has urged five governments to provide information on their use of such spyware within three months, and fully investigate all cases of abuse.

Approving a resolution on Pegasus and similar spyware and secret state surveillance, the Assembly urged Poland, Hungary, Greece, Spain and Azerbaijan to promptly and fully investigate all cases of abuse of spyware, sanction any they find, and provide redress to victims.

The resolution, based on a report by Pieter Omtzigt (Netherlands, EPP/CD),

also called on other member states which seem to have acquired or used Pegasus – including Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands – to clarify their use of it, and the mechanisms in place to oversee it, within three months.

According to the resolution, there is strong evidence that Azerbaijan has used it, including during the conflict with Armenia.

The Assembly notes that according to the "Pegasus Project" revelations, Azerbaijan has used Pegasus, including against journalists, independent media owners and civil society activists. Recent reports have disclosed its use in connection with the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, against 12 persons working in Armenia, including an Armenian government official, in what appears to be an example of transnational targeted surveillance.

The Assembly said secret surveillance of political opponents, public officials, journalists, human rights defenders and civil society for purposes other than those listed in the European Convention on

Human Rights, such as preventing crime or protecting national security, would be a clear violation of the Convention.

Given its intrusiveness, states should refrain from using such spyware until their laws and practice on secret surveillance are in line with the Convention and other international standards, as assessed by Council of Europe legal experts. In any case, they should only use it for "exceptional situations as a measure of last resort", the Assembly said. They should also avoid exporting it to countries where there was a substantial risk it might be used for repression or human rights abuses.

The parliamentarians also asked for information from Israel, a PACE observer state, on how it ensures that Pegasus, which is marketed by an Israel-based company, is not exported to countries where it could be used to violate human rights. Morocco, a PACE "partner for democracy" state which is alleged to have used Pegasus in Spain, was also asked to provide information on and investigate its use.

PACE adopts resolution condemning Azerbaijan's military operation in Nagorno Karabakh

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has adopted a resolution strongly condemning the military operation launched by the Azerbaijani army in Nagorno-Karabakh on 19 September.

The Assembly notes that this military operation took place after a ten-month period during which the Armenian population of this region has been denied free and safe access through the Lachin Corridor, the only road allowing it to reach Armenia and the rest of the world, leading to a situation of extremely acute food and supply shortages and high vulnerability of all inhabitants. This was in clear disregard of the provisional and interim measures addressed to Azerbaijan by the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights, whose decisions also noted the obligation of Azerbaijan under the 2020 Trilateral Statement to "guarantee the security of persons, vehicles and cargo moving along the Lachin Corridor in both directions."

The Assembly deeply regrets that just at a time when the situation concerning the transport of the humanitarian supply

to the population seemed to improve and a glimpse of hope was emerging, Azerbaijan took the decision to launch this show of force. Indeed, the combination of acute food and supply shortages for the population over a period of months, followed by a military operation and the opening of the corridor towards Armenia for departures, following each other in such short succession, could be perceived as being designed to incite the civilian population to leave the country.

The Assembly strongly believes that this long-standing and tragic conflict can only be resolved peacefully, through dialogue and unambiguous signals of goodwill, and on the basis of the applicable international law, fully respecting the human rights of everyone living there.

Strongly regretting that almost the entire Armenian population of the region – more than 100 600 persons at the time of the adoption of this resolution – has left its ancestral homeland and fled to Armenia, certainly out of genuine fear and a lack of trust in their future treatment by the Azerbaijani authorities, the Assembly recognizes the huge responsibility now

placed upon Armenia to cope with the refugee crisis underway. It welcomes the declarations of support and solidarity clearly expressed in Armenia for the refugees and calls on the Council of Europe member States to accompany Armenia in this endeavor by providing not only financial support but also expertise, in particular in the area of mental health and psychological support for this traumatized population. The Council of Europe member States should also be ready to demonstrate European solidarity in welcoming a part of the refugee population, should those persons wish to settle elsewhere.

The Assembly regrets the human tragedy unfolding today, as well as the long-standing and continuing failure on the part of the authorities of Azerbaijan to reassure the Armenian population of this region of their safety and the full respect of their rights, and to guarantee an approach to their future, free of acts or expressions of reprisals or revenge for the events which took place in the 1990s and during the 2020 war.

35+ countries express extreme concern over dire humanitarian and human rights crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh



Over 35 countries have expressed extreme concern over the dire humanitarian and human rights crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh and the situation of the population who have fled from there in the past weeks.

"This massive displacement of ethnic Armenians from their homes stems from Azerbaijan's military operation launched on September 19th and a nine-month long blockage of the Lachin corridor leading to dire humanitarian conditions," they said in a joint statement.

They urged Azerbaijan to comply with the orders of the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court

of Justice.

Below is the full text of the statement delivered by the Permanent Mission of France to the UN in Geneva on behalf of 35+ countries:

We are extremely concerned by the dire humanitarian and human rights crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh and the situation of the population who have fled from there in the past weeks.

According to the report of the UN Mission to the region, nearly the entire ethnic Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh has fled to Armenia – more than 100,000 people. Their report rightly notes the suffering this experience must have caused.

This massive displacement of ethnic Armenians from their homes stems from Azerbaijan's military operation launched on September 19th and a nine-month long blockage of the Lachin corridor leading to dire humanitarian conditions.

We appreciate that High Commissioner Turk's statement of September 26 urged safeguarding the rights of ethnic Armenians, protection of civilians, and observance of international law. We wholly agree that "reported violations of human rights or international humanitarian law require follow-up, including prompt, independent and transparent investigations."

We believe the appropriate next step is for the OHCHR to closely monitor the situation of human rights in Nagorno-Karabakh, meet refugees and displaced persons and those who remain, and to keep this Council informed. We therefore urge Armenia and Azerbaijan to invite the OHCHR to provide them with such technical assistance as soon as possible.

At this time, we urge Azerbaijan to ensure the rights and security of those Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians who remain and to promptly create conditions for the

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31,350 forcibly displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh have registered in Yerevan

31,350 of the over 100,600 forcibly displaced persons who've arrived to Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh have registered in Yerevan, mayoral candidate Tigran Avinyan said ahead of his confirmation vote on Tuesday.

"8076 families or 31350 persons forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh have registered in Yerevan. I'd like to underscore that Yerevan City Hall does not deal with providing accommodation; it only carries out the registration of migration service, supplies vulnerable families with packages for essential needs and



also gathers information about families in need of social assistance, to forward it to the Armenian Red Cross Society. This

process continues and it has become our duty," Avinyan said.

In his speech, Avinyan thanked all voters for going to the polling stations on Yerevan Election Day.

"The fact that none of the political forces have disputed the results of the election speaks volumes. The results of the elections, the absence of significant violations during the campaigning and voting is an evidence of the principles adopted by our party to the values of the 2018 democratic, non-violent, velvet revolution," he said.

Argentina offers to send White Helmets mission to Armenia



Argentina has offered to send humanitarian aid to Armenia to support the forcibly displaced persons of Nagorno-Karabakh who've arrived to Armenia as a result

of Azerbaijan's attack and ethnic cleansing, Diario Armenia reports.

The assistance was extended through the Argentine foreign ministry to the Armenian embassy in Argentina.

The assistance includes logistics and other experts, as well as essential items such as food, medication and other medical supplies.

On October 6 the President of Argentina Alberto Fernández held a meeting with a delegation of the Armenian Organizations of Argentina (IARA). The IARA

leadership welcomed Argentina's decision to send a mission of White Helmets to Armenia to provide humanitarian support to the forcibly displaced persons of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Fernández said he would contact French President Emmanuel Macron to coordinate the requests of the Armenian community to protect the leadership of NK who've been unlawfully arrested by Azerbaijan and to prevent the destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Armenia Human Rights Defender submits report on NK forcibly displaced persons to int'l organizations

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia Ms. Anahit Manasyan has published a preliminary report in English on the results of the fact-finding activities conducted at the registration centers of forcibly displaced persons from Nagorno Karabakh, as well as the analysis of individual conversations held with displaced persons.

In the report, Manasyan summarized and analyzed the information obtained as result of fact-finding activities regarding the crimes and atrocities committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces, documented the evidence of forcibly displaced persons, targeting of ambulances, and violations

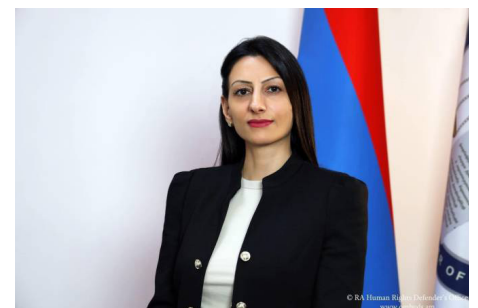
of the rights of children and women. The cases of targeting civilians, as well as vital infrastructures, and the damage caused to the property of individuals were also presented.

The report, among others, is another summary of evidence and analysis that confirms the policy of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is also the result of a systematic policy of Armenophobia at the state level in Azerbaijan.

The Ombudswoman presented recommendations to the state authorities regarding the improvement of the system of protection of the rights of the mentioned group of persons and the introduction of

special mechanisms.

The preliminary report was submitted in its entirety to international institutions with a mandate to protect human rights, as well as to the competent state authorities.



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voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of those who wish to go home. Their cultural and religious heritage should also be guaranteed and protected.

We further urge Azerbaijan to comply with the interim measures issued by the European Court of Human Rights on 22 September and the provisional measures

of the ICJ adopted on 7 December 2021, 22 February 2023 and 6 July 2023.

We urge Armenia, with the support of the international community, to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to those displaced by the crisis.

International access to Nagorno-Karabakh is crucial to provide assistance and independent monitoring, including to report on the human rights situation.

Furthermore, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Armenia and Azerbaijan should be fully respected. We strongly support dialogue among all parties to secure a comprehensive and lasting peace.

We will continue to follow the situation closely and consider any and all appropriate further steps by the Council.

TUMO launches initiative to support forcibly displaced teens from Artsakh

The TUMO Center for Creative Technologies is announcing a new initiative, TUMO for Artsakh Teens, aimed at meeting the needs of young people between the ages of 12 and 18 who have been forcibly displaced from Artsakh. The multi-year, holistic initiative will accompany displaced adolescents throughout their teenage years, helping them gain access to the different types of resources they need to ensure their well being and their healthy integration into their new home environments. The T4AT initiative is part of the TUMO Armenia campaign, which aims to make the TUMO program accessible to all Armenian teenagers by 2026.

TUMO has worked with tens of thousands of Armenian teenagers for the past 12 years, including thousands in Artsakh, through a center in Stepanakert and boxes in Askeran, Martakert and Martuni, and will now take responsibility of assessing their needs and family circumstances in coordination with relevant partner



organizations, and will facilitate and monitor the provision of services to them by governmental and international agencies and NGOs. A dedicated team set up within TUMO will collaborate closely with partners specializing in data collection, social work, and support services.

The key components of the initiative include:

Tracking and maintaining contact with every displaced teenager from Artsakh, from today through their 19th birthday or until they no longer require assistance.

Facilitating their entry into the TUMO program in Armenia wherever facilities are available.

Monitoring their evolving needs for services such as housing, health-care, mental health support, scholarships, access to equipment, university admissions support and career counseling.

Acting as an advocate for the teenagers, connecting them with service providers, and monitoring the provision of those services through regular check-ins.

Raising funds, channeling them to third party service providers and ensuring adequate reporting to donors.

“We consider all young Armenians as our children,” said Marie Lou Papazian, “Our Artsakh teens need our help more than ever, but we also need them. If we help them recover and reach their full potential, we will all benefit from the addition of so many bright young minds working for a prosperous and secure future.”

Armenia to host WCIT 2024



The WCIT 2024 cup has been relayed to Armenia during the 27th World Congress on Innovation & Technology 2023 and the 6th International Digital Economy Conference in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Armenia will host the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) in 2024. UATE Chairman of the Board Alexander

Yesayan accepted the ceremonial handover on stage.

“This is one more victory and one more opportunity for the Armenian IT sector to show to the world what makes us the new hub. Get ready, because the next WCIT is going to be bigger, more resonant and better than ever before,” Yesayan said.

Kim Kardashian speaks on innocent victims of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ethnic cleansing in Artsakh

Entrepreneur and reality star Kim Kardashian sent 'love and support to her Jewish friends and family' in an Instagram post on Wednesday in which she said she is 'particularly sensitive' to the atrocities due to her campaigning to stop another Armenian genocide.

Kardashian's message read: "A message to my Jewish friends and family. I love you. I support you. I have heard about how scared you feel during this time and I want you to know you are not alone in this.

My heart is broken seeing the videos of these babies and families being terrorized and murdered in front of the whole world!

As an Armenian, I am particularly sensitive to these issues because I have been talking about the Armenian genocide for years, and now after months of blockade with minimal media coverage and no external support, Armenians are the victims of an ethnic cleansing themselves in Artsakh.

They are in this moment also suffering from an extreme humanitarian crisis and

there are still prisoners of war being held captive or missing.

No matter whose side you are on, or how you have been triggered by the horrors of these past few days, our hearts should always have room for compassion towards innocent victims caught in the crosshairs of warring over power, politics, religion, race and ethnicity.

Although I know there is nothing I can do to personally get rid of the pain of those who are suffering, my family and I are praying for the safe return of hostages, for those that have died and their affected families, for peace for all the innocent and for the perpetrators of this indefensible violence to be brought to justice.

My call to action today, something that we can all do, is simply to reach out to your friends, colleagues and those in your community, those who are hurting, no matter what side they are on, check in on them and tell them you love them."

The star also urged fans to have leniency towards people who had not spoken



out publicly about the attacks, writing: 'I also ask that, during difficult times like these, not to judge who is or isn't speaking out, because everyone should be allowed to deal with times of crisis in the way that they feel most comfortable whether it is privately or publicly.'

William Saroyan's "The Human Comedy" takes stage in Hollywood

The Human Comedy by William Saroyan is on stage at the David Schall Theatre in Hollywood courtesy of the Actors Co-op Theater Company until November 5, 2023. The production is written and directed by Thom Babbes, the Armenian Film Society reports.

Set in war front America in 1942, this coming-of-age tale tells the story of Homer Macaulay, a 14-year-old boy who delivers telegrams at night to make money for his family. During the course of two days, Homer grows from an idealistic boy to a mature young man as he struggles with the unfairness of the world around him and the pain of families to whom he delivers the War Department's



death notices.

Louis B. Mayer, head of MGM, called on William Saroyan to write a treatment to raise the morale of Americans during World War II. The writer delivered the story for The Human Comedy, which

MGM purchased the rights for \$60,000— over \$1 million, adjusted for inflation.

William Saroyan expressed interest in directing the film, and wrote and directed the 10-minute film, The Good Job, as a proof of concept. Unfortunately, he did not get the directing job for The Human Comedy— which went to Clarence Brown, who had multiple Best Director nominations under his belt by that point.

William Saroyan tried to buy back his script, and when he couldn't, he left the studio and denounced the film. The film, which starred Mickey Rooney, was a massive success, and won William Saroyan an Oscar for Best Original Motion Picture Story at the 1943 Academy Awards.

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