

Armenian PM scolds Azerbaijan’s Aliyev for distorting history



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has scolded Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev for distorting historic facts. Addressing the sitting of the CIS Council of Heads of State, PM Pashinyan said “using this important format to distort history and bring some tension to the atmosphere is improper.”

Unfortunately, he said “we saw such attempts in Ilham Aliyev’s speech.”

The statement comes after Aliyev said that Armenia glorifies fascism and the proof of it is the monument to “fascist Garegin Nzhdeh in the downtown Yerevan.”

“Hearing his remarks about Garegin Nzhdeh, to be honest, I remembered the famous Soviet film Kidnapping, Caucasian Style. When there is talk of the ruins of an ancient castle and there comes the question “have I destroyed the church too?” Ilham Aliyev’s words give the impression that Hitler had a secondary role in the war, and that the leader of the Nazi movement was Garegin Nzhdeh. And the reality is that Garegin Nzhdeh fought against the Turkish occupation of Armenia, fought against the Armenian

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Pashinyan, Putin discuss situation in Syria



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In continuation to their conversation within the framework of the CIS summit in Ashkhabad on Friday, the leaders of the two countries discussed the situation in northern Syria.

Reference was made to other issues of regional importance.

Cher reminds of Armenian Genocide amid Turkey's Syria assault



American Armenian pop star Cher (Cherilyn Sarkisian) has taken to Twitter to condemn Turkey's assault against Syria.

"Sorry to keep harping about Kurds, but I've heard about 'blood thirsty Turks who tortured and murdered almost 2 million Armenians since I was 11. Also heard it in Armenia. Turk soldiers are still blood thirsty. Now they will commit genocide on the Kurds with Trump's blessing", Cher said on Twitter.

Armenia condemns Turkey's military invasion in north-east Syria

Armenia has condemned the military invasion by Turkey in north-east Syria.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement "it would lead to deterioration of regional security, losses among civilians, mass displacement and eventually to a new humanitarian crisis. The plight of ethnic and religious minorities is of particular concern."

cern."

"This military invasion also creates an imminent threat of identity based grave and massive violations of human rights," the statement reads.

Armenia calls for effective international measures aimed at halting this military invasion, preventing mass atrocities and protecting the population of Syria bordering Turkey.

protecting the population of Syria bordering Turkey.

Armenia supports the unity and sovereignty of Syria and urges to refrain from military offensive against Syria and its people. Armenia will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the friendly people of Syria on the ground.

UK cancels plans to appoint Alan Gogbashian as Ambassador to Armenia

Mr Alan Gogbashian will not be taking up the role of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Yerevan for operational reasons, the British Embassy in Armenia informs.

Mr Gogbashian will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment.

He was to take up his appointment during September 2019.

Mr David Moran has been appointed as Chargé d'Affaires with the rank of Ambassador in the interim, until a new Ambassador is appointed.

David Moran is Head of Global Economic Issues Department in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). David joined the FCO in 1985 and has previously served as Ambassador to Switzerland, Kazakhstan (2009 to 2012), Uzbekistan (2005 to 2007), and as Ambassador (non-resident) Liechtenstein and the Kyrgyz Republic.

He also served in Nairobi, Moscow, Paris and Tbilisi, and in a range of policy and other roles in London. From 2008 to 2009 he was Deputy Director for Early Warning and Transnational Issues

in the Cabinet Office.



On 11 October Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan was present at the opening of the “Cooperation for Justice and Peace” conference of Artsakh friends under way in Stepanakert.



“Today’s event is distinguished both by its content and the participant list. This is the pioneering pro-Artsakh forum, which has brought together, under the same roof, political, public, cultural figures, human rights advocates, scientists, analysts and journalists from different countries who support Artsakh. Here are members of the friendship groups and circles with Artsakh, representatives of administrative units and political forces having recognized the independence of the Artsakh Republic or have been cooperating with us,” the President said in his opening remarks.

“Remaining true to the democratic principles and humanitarian values, you have spared no effort supporting Artsakh for years, raising awareness about and rendering objective information on our country on diverse international platforms, carrying out activities towards the development of bilateral relations and the implementation of multifaceted programs in Artsakh,” he added.

The President expressed gratitude for their painstaking, highly appreciating their

pursuit.

Artsakh’s friends meet in Stepanakert

In this context, it is crucial to present once again our vision of the Artsakh Republic state-building process and our foreign policy imperatives, which is a unique roadmap for your work as well.

Referring Artsakh’s vision of state-building process and foreign policy imperatives, President Sahakyan said “building an independent, sovereign and strong state has always been the backbone of our state-building, our trinity with Armenia and the Diaspora, our commitment to democratic values and principles being among its pillars.”

“The full-fledged security of Artsakh in all the dimensions is a must for us. Even the slightest decline in our security will tempt our opponents to launch a new aggression which itself is pregnant with unpredictable consequences. For this very reason security issues are top priority in the negotiation process too,” he stated.

He reaffirmed the commitment to peaceful settlement of relations with Azerbaijan

around the negotiation table under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group. He reaffirmed that it is impossible to achieve real progress without restoring the full-fledged negotiation format with the direct participation of Artsakh. Obviously, the fate of Artsakh cannot be decided without its participation and there is no return to the past, both with respect to status and borders.

“The principles of balanced and multi-vectored approach remain at the root of the Artsakh Republic foreign policy,” President Sahakyan noted.

“Maintaining equally good-neighborly relations with Europe, the USA, Russia as well as regional states is a foreign strategy imperative for us. This stance is derivative from both the specificity of our region and the existence of the Armenian Diaspora,” he stressed.

Bako Sahakyan added that official Stepanakert will continue placing special emphasis on forging and enhancing relations with different countries and states and their administrative units.

Armenian-populated cities in Syria come under Turkish fire



The Armenian-populated city of Tel Abyad has been targeted by Turkey as part of its offensive against Kurds, informs Mkhitar Hayrapetyan, the head of the National Assembly's Standing Com-

mittee on Education, Science, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sport.

Provided that the Armenian population in the area is under fire, Hayrapetyan talked to Armenia's Consul General to Aleppo Armen Sarkissian to get information on the situation on the ground.

"At this point, Turks are bombing the city of Tel Abyad where 16 Armenian families permanently reside. Their evacuation is currently underway. Apart from this, city of Qamishli, with a number of Armenian residents, is also under attack," he said on Facebook.

Turkey launched air strikes, fired artillery and began a ground offensive against Kurdish fighters in northern Syria on Wednesday (Oct 9) after US troops pulled back from the area.

After Erdogan announced the offensive, Trump called the operation "a bad idea." Later Wednesday, he said he didn't want to be involved in "endless, senseless wars."

Armenian Assembly of America supports bipartisan legislation to sanction Turkey over Syria

The Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) supports bipartisan legislation proposed by United States Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) to sanction Turkey for invading northern Syria and attacking civilian areas with Turkish warplanes, just days after the United States withdrew its troops from the Syrian border with Turkey.

The Graham-Van Hollen Turkey Sanctions Bill puts restrictions on U.S. assets of Turkey's President, Vice President, Minister of National Defense, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Treasury and Finance, Minister of Trade, and Minister of Energy and Natural Resources. The bill also sanctions military transactions with Turkey and the Turkish energy sector, prohibits U.S. military assistance, and implements visa restrictions upon Turkish authorities intending to travel to the United States.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's attack on northern Syria directly targets the Kurdish population and ethnic minorities in the region, including Armenians, Assyrians, Yazidis, and other vulnerable minority groups. The Syrian Democratic Forces, which is a coalition of Kurdish, Arab, Assyrian, Armenian, Syrian Turkoman, and Chechen militias, led by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), said: "They are all in threat of being ethni-

cally cleansed, and this in turn will not lead to any political solutions."

"The Armenian Assembly of America joins the legitimate concerns raised and is thoroughly committed to reversing President Donald Trump's decision to leave America's Kurdish allies and other ethnic minorities, including Armenians and Assyrians, in precarious conditions in northern Syria. Turkey's attack against innocent civilians is all too familiar. Erdogan stated earlier this year that he believed the deportations that led to the 1915 Armenian Genocide to be 'reasonable.'

He also considers the Republic of Turkey to be a continuation of the Ottoman Empire, which implemented the Armenian Genocide. Turkish authorities have never acknowledged their ancestors' role in the Armenian Genocide, as the Germans have done, and are pursuing the same goals of land grabbing and ethnic cleansing in Syria," Armenian Assembly of America Co-Chairs Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian said.

"We applaud this important bipartisan legislation proposed by Senators Graham and Van Hollen. Turkey is not acting as an ally of the United States. It has continued the genocidal policies of the Ottoman Empire and has been openly supporting ISIS. It is about time that the American government recognizes that Turkey is an unrelia-

ble ally," the Armenian Assembly Co-Chairs added.

During his presidential campaign, President Trump called out Turkey for conducting business with ISIS. President Trump stated that the Turkish government "looks like they're on the side of ISIS more or less based on the oil."

"We witnessed Erdogan's readiness to work with ISIS in 2014 when Turkey allowed ISIS militants to easily cross the Turkish-Syrian border and attack the Armenian village of Kessab in the Latakia region of Syria – all done with Turkey's support. Turkey has no business in Syria, and is causing even more innocent Syrian citizens to flee for their lives. Armenia has welcomed more than 20,000 Syrian refugees, and continues to be a safe haven in the region. Just last week, the world's largest Yazidi temple opened in Armenia, founded by refugees escaping violence in Syria. Armenia needs the United States' support to continue helping these minority populations in northern Syria, especially the Christians who survived the Armenian Genocide at the beginning of the 20th century, and are themselves experiencing the same type of ethnic cleansing today from Turkey and ISIS," Armenian Assembly Co-Chairs Barsamian and Krikorian concluded.

Most Armenian families have been evacuated from the Syrian city of Tel Abyad.

They have moved to Al-Hasakah Governorate and Aleppo, said Mkhitar Hayrapetyan, the head of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sport. He said no casualties were reported.

According to some reports, Armenian families in Ras al-Ayn have also been relocated. About 3,000 Armenians in Qamishli are still in the city. The local authorities see no need in relocating the population at this point.

The Armenian Embassy in Syria and the Consulate General in Aleppo keep in touch with the communities in north-eastern Syria.

Most Armenian families evacuated, as Turkey pushes into north Syria

Turkey launched air strikes, fired artillery and began a ground offensive against Kurdish fighters in northern Syria on Wednesday (Oct 9) after US troops pulled back from the area.



Reports say heavy fighting is under way, as Turkey's incursion into Kurdish-held areas of northern Syria enters a second day.

Tens of thousands of people are leaving their homes. The BBC quotes the Kurdish Red Crescent as saying that at least seven civilians have so far been killed, two of them children, and at least 19 more critically injured including four children.

The Turkish invasion, now in its second day, has been widely condemned around the world.

The United Nations Security Council will

meet on Syria behind closed-doors on Thursday to discuss the situation in Syria.

The meeting of the 15-member council was requested by the five European members, Britain, France, Germany, Belgium and Poland, Reuters reported.

The Armenian Government held a closed-door meeting to discuss the situation in Syria. Armenia's Security Council has been instructed to outline an action plan on how to help ensure the security of local Armenian communities, the Council's Secretary Armen Grigoryan said after the meeting.

Earlier today, the Foreign Ministry issued a statement, strongly condemning Turkey's invasion, saying "it would lead to deterioration of regional security, losses among civilians, mass displacement and eventually to a new humanitarian crisis."

The Ministry said Armenia would continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the friendly people of Syria on the ground.

Armenian Catholicos urges international community to condemn Turkey's Syria assault

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, has called the attention of the international community to Turkey's actions against international law and order, expecting urgent and practical steps to prevent further bloodshed.

"The threat of Turkish attacks against minorities, including Syrian Armenians because of their national identity arises the memory of the the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 committed by the same country and should be strongly condemned by

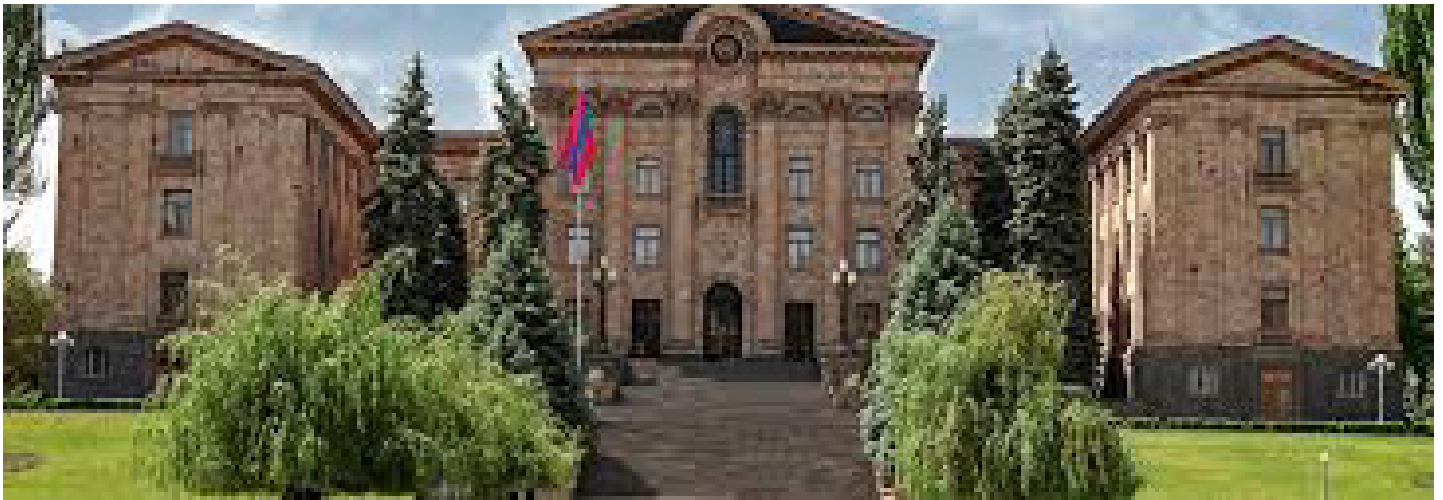


the international community," His Holiness Karekin II said.

"Sharing the pain of the friendly people of war-torn Syria, we pray to God for an immediate re-establishment of peace in Syria and throughout the Middle East. There is no justification to what happened," the Catholicos added.

He pledged that the the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin will maintain support for the people of Syria and the sons of the Armenian nation.

Armenia's National Assembly in top 10 most beautiful parliament buildings



The Armenian National Assembly building has been ranked among the world's most beautiful seats of legislative assemblies compiled by John Rentoul, The Independent's chief political commentator.

Rentoul, in turn, has chosen the top 10 fa-

vorites from a list of the buildings housing the lower house of parliament of all 193 countries of the world presented by Allan Faulds in a Twitter thread.

"Love a bit of symmetry, the contrast between the grey bricks of the ground floor

and the yellow-gold of upper floors is great, grounds look lovely, mild University Campus vibe but overall nice job Armenia," Allan said on on the Armenian Parliament seat.

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Armenian PM scolds Azerbaijan's Aliyev for distorting history



Genocide organized by the Turks, and the fact is that Garegin Nzhdeh, by the way, led many important Russian officers in 1918 on a very important front. part during the Armenian-Turkish war," Pashinyan said.

Nikol Pashinyan stressed that "the Armenian government pays special attention to war veterans."

"Just a few months ago we doubled the social benefits to all

veterans of the Great Patriotic War. I think it's a really important decision," he said. st the Turkish occupation of Armenia, fought against the Armenian Genocide organized by the Turks, and the fact is that Garegin Nzhdeh, by the way, led many important Russian officers in 1918 on a very important front. part during the Armenian-Turkish war," Pashinyan said.

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it's a really important decision," he said.



Armenia improves ranking in Global Competitiveness Report 2018

Armenia is ranked 69th (up from 70nd last year) among 141 countries in the Global Competitiveness Report 2019 released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) today.

Armenia's neighbors Georgia and Azerbaijan are placed 74th and 58th respectively, Turkey is 61st, Iran is 99th.

Armenia's partners in the Eurasian Economic Union Russia and Kazakhstan are ranked 43rd and 55th respectively. Kyrgyzstan is 96th, no data is available about Belarus.



ChainPoint 19 international blockchain conference kicked off in Yerevan today.

The conference has brought together over 50 speakers and 500 participants from 30 countries.

The goal of the conference is to showcase business opportunities of the regional tech ecosystem by bringing together global blockchain professionals and creating a platform for productive dialogue and sharing the best practices.

The conference organized by "Nooor"



Armenian Blockchain Association is set to

build a chain of productive connections between diverse cultures and industries.

The conference focuses on Blockchain development prospects in Armenia, the equilibrium between risks and opportunities, public-private developments, IP rights and blockchain, ICOs, tokenization, blockchain & fintech trends, blockchain applications in any industry.

Ryanair to start flights from Armenia in January 2020

Ryanair, Europe's No.1 airline, today announced its first ever flights from Armenia, the 40th country in the Ryanair network, with two new routes from Yerevan to Milan Bergamo and Rome Ciampino starting in January 2020, and two new routes from Yerevan to Berlin Schönefeld and Gyumri to Memmingen starting in Summer 2020. Ryanair's 2020 schedule will deliver 130,000 customers annually to/from Ryanair's Armenian airports.

Armenian consumers and visitors can now book their holidays as far out as Octo-



ber 2020, flying on the lowest fares.

To celebrate the launch of its first Armenian airports, Ryanair has launched a seat sale with fares from just €29.99, for travel until May 2020, which must be booked by

midnight Friday (18 Oct) only on the Ryanair.com website.

"We're pleased to announce Ryanair's low fares have arrived at Yerevan and Gyumri, our newest airports and 1st airports in Armenia. These four new routes will further promote Armenian tourism, and will deliver over 130,000 customers annually to/from two European countries to one of Europe's fastest-growing tourism destinations.

We look forward to developing new Armenian traffic growth, new routes, and jobs in the coming years," Ryanair's David O'Brien said

Nikol Pashinyan, Alexis Ohanian consider opportunities for joint projects in Armenia



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian. The Prime Minister welcomed his participation in the WCIT 2019 Congress in Yerevan.

“We are proud of the achievements of

our compatriots who have succeeded in various countries around the world, who make our homeland internationally recognized. I am glad to host you here and discuss opportunities for joint programs, mutually beneficial development proj-

ects in Armenia,” Nikol Pashinyan said.

Alexis Ohanian thanked the Prime Minister, noting that he is happy to visit Armenia again for an important world-scale event.

“Armenia has great potential of human talent, numerous opportunities for development and prosperity and be part of the world technological progress,” said Alexis Ohanian.

The interlocutors discussed issues related to the 23rd World Conference on Information Technology, IT cooperation, promotion of youth and women involvement in the field.

Nikol Pashinyan emphasized that the government has declared the IT sector a priority, aiming to make Armenia a technology hub. In this context, the head of government presented the ongoing programs towards development of information technologies.

Serj Tankian: Availability of information at a second is like fast food data

One essential thing that must be highlighted is that not only governments but also the society should be aware of how to use technology to voice out their needs, System Of A Down front-man Serj Tankian says.

“There is a lot of dark side in what’s going on today in the digital world, part of which is the isolation that

people feel, because you go on Facebook and there are friends, who are not really your friends,” Tankian said at a panel discussion within the framework of the WCIT 2019 Congress in Yerevan.

“There is also an issue of people feeling cornered. People feeling anonymity makes them think they can say whatever they want,” he said, adding that privacy



is another issue.

“I remember my parents buy a set of encyclopedia, I was happy, as I did not have to go to the library to get information about things. For me it’s really important to look things up and study them. In the contemporary world where every piece of information is available at a second, I feel people are simply diving into topics. They are not really embody-

ing the knowledge, it’s like fast food data,”

“With the expansion of social media, some of the negative effects have created a world where we need a more localized subscription-based Internets, smaller communities exchanging interests and information on a much more honest basis, a much more

intimate basis,” Tankian said.

According to him, there is addiction to certain parts of technology, which is very dangerous to human beings. “I’m addicted to it,” he said, voicing conviction that “we’re going to see an evolution in how these technologies are used.”

Some technologies have evolved faster than us, Tankian says.

Kim Kardashian in Armenia



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hosted Kim Kardashian at the government.



“Kim has promised to come to Armenia more often,” Pashinyan said on Facebook after the meeting.

“I am pleased to welcome you to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and I am glad that visiting Armenia has become a good tradition for you. I want to note that we greatly appreciate your readiness and activity to represent Armenia in the world, and this is very important. We can witness increased interest for Armenia across the globe, and I think that you have contributed to this process, too. I hope and am sure that you will continue your efforts in a bid to boost Armenia’s potential. I am pleased with this opportunity because my government seeks to promote women’s participation in economic ac-

tivities,” the Prime Minister said, greeting the guest.

Kim Kardashian thanked the Prime



Minister for the hospitality, noting: “I am very glad to be in Armenia. I saw here a lot of attention to women and a willingness to help women start a business. I am really glad to see this.” Kardashian said she was impressed by the warm attitude of people in Armenia and was going to start economic activity in the Homeland.

Nikol Pashinyan and Kim Kardashian exchanged views on the process of international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide, preservation of the Armenian identity, women’s active participation in the socio-political and economic life of Armenia, as well as on the opportunities for cooperation identified during the 23rd World Congress on



Information Technology.

On a visit to Armenia, Kim Kardashian and Kourtney Kardashian were hosted by President Armen Sarkissian.

Kim Kardashian has said she’s blessed to have been baptized in Armenia.

“Thank you Armenia for hosting my family and me on such a memorable trip,” the reality star said in a Twitter post.

“So blessed to have been baptized along with my babies at Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia’s main cathedral, referred to as the Vatican of the Armenian Apostolic Church. This church was built in 303 AD,” she continued.



Visiting the Armenian Genocide Museum was extremely emotional, reality star and entrepreneur Kim Kardashian said in a Twitter post.

Kim shared photos of herself and sister Kourtney at the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial in Yerevan.

“I can’t believe with all of the photos from the massacres and published literature during this time that people still try to deny this ever happened,” she captioned the photos.

“We will never forget that 1.5 million Armenians were murdered,” Kardashian added.

The Army News

Artsakh President, Armenia's Defense Minister Hold Meeting



On 11 October Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan received Defense Minister of the Republic of Armenia David Tonoyan.

Issues on army building and cooperation between the two Armenian states in the sphere were on the discussion agenda. Artsakh Republic Defense Minister **Karen Abrahamyan** was present in the meeting.

Armenian Defense Minister



Receives Newly Appointed German Ambassador

Defense Minister **Davit Tonoyan** on October 16 received German Ambassador to Armenia **Michael Banzhaf**.

The minister congratulated the Ambassador on appointment, wishing success to his diplomatic mission in Armenia.

During the meeting Minister Tonoyan highly appreciated the cooperation between Armenia and

Germany in the defense field, the warm relations between the two defense ministries and highlighted the need to expand them.

In his turn the German Ambassador thanked for the wishes and expressed readiness to assist the strengthening of the Armenia-Germany military-political ties and the development of the military cooperation.

The officials also discussed international and regional security issues, as well as other matters of mutual interest.

Armenia, Lithuania highly value bilateral and multilateral cooperation in defense field

Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan on October 15 received Ambassador of Lithuania to Armenia Mrs. **Inga Stanytė-Toločkienė** and Defense Attaché Colonel **Tamošaitis** (residence in Tbilisi), the Armenian defense ministry told Armenpress.

The Armenian defense minister congratulated the newly-appointed Ambassador and the Defense Attaché, wishing success in their missions.

The minister said the Armenian-Lithuanian cooperation, both at the bilateral and multilateral, NATO, EU, formats, has an experience of many years, attaching importance to the regular dialogue of the defense ministers of the two states on cooperation and security matters.

The Lithuanian Ambassador thanked for wishes and highly valued the Armenian-Lithuanian cooperation. She conveyed the readiness of the Lithuanian side to support the sustainable development of the cooperation.

During the meeting the sides also exchanged views on other issues of mutual interest.

Activity of Armenian Humanitarian Squad in Syria Goes on in a Normal Way



The activity of the Armenian group conducting a humanitarian mission in Syria continues normally, the Armenian Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise told Armenpress.

The location of the Armenian humanitarian group is quite far from the territories of Syria where Turkey currently carries out military operations.

"Our doctors and de-miners continue their daily mission in Aleppo, no other instruction has been assigned to the humanitarian group. The Armenian humanitarian group will not be recalled. This is the decision as of this moment", the Center's representative **Nazeli Elbakyan** said.

On October 9 Turkish forces launched military operations in Syria's north-east.

The Armenian foreign ministry released a statement noting that Armenia condemns the military invasion by Turkey in north-east Syria, which would lead to deterioration of regional security, losses among civilians, mass displacement and eventually to a new humanitarian crisis.

Source: Armenian Defense Ministry, Armenpress

Maestro Constantine Orbelian Wins Lawsuit against Armenian Culture Ministry



The Court of general jurisdiction (Arabkir, Kanaker-Zeytun administrative districts of the Yerevan City) fully proceeded the civil lawsuit of **Constantine Orbelian** against the Ministry of Culture (Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports currently) and the Al.Spendiarov National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater. The lawsuit was filed on 23 May, the trial presided by Judge Mrs **Zaruhi Nakhshkaryan** began on 24 July.

Let's remind that at the first session, there was only a party to the plaintiff whose interests were represented by lawyer **Tigran Martirosyan**. The second, the last session with the participation of the defendant took place on 11 September and it was noteworthy that the representative of the Ministry Mrs **Lilit Kamalyan** managed not to answer any questions from both the judge and the representative of the plaintiff in more or less clearcut way.

According to *golosarmenii.am*, "at the same time it should be noted that the lawyer of the Ministry spoke a lot, but mostly out of the scope of the litigation. So, she unexpectedly (and strangely) expressed doubts about the authenticity of Maestro Orbelian's signature, having noticed the difference between

his signature in the passport and in the attorney's power of attorney, she was indignant at the "threats" of the plaintiff's lawyer who in turn was trying to clarify whether her words said in the court would be considered a forgery statement that requires criminal prosecution, etc...."

It also remained unclear why, in the case of Constantine Orbelian, the Ministry suddenly considered the post of Artistic Director to be not a creative one, although the opposite was always stated in accordance with the law (Law on the Local Government Bodies). Or, on the basis of what, this Body confidently declares that Orbelian does not know the literary Armenian language, although no checks were made on this subject when he was appointed to the post.

In a word, according to the experts presented in the court hall, the defendant as Mrs. Kamalyan looked unconvincing and unfounded, unlike the rep of the plaintiff. At both sessions, Orbelian's lawyer Mr Martirosyan set out and substantiated the position of his principal, answered all the questions of the Court in detail and tried, - alas, - in vain to have a dialogue with Mrs Kamalyan for some

clarification.

After all these procedures, the Court went on to examine the evidence at its disposal, and on 8 October issued a 46 page decision.

The Court invalidated order No. 16 signed by a French citizen **Nazeni Gharibyan** (the-then Acting Culture Minister) on the dismissal of Constantine Orbelian from the post of Director of the Al. Spendiaryov National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater SNCO of 28 March 2019, and so decided to reinstate him and pay financial compensation for the forced downtime.

That is, from 1 April '19 until the day when the Court decision comes into force. The average monthly salary of Mr Orbelian will be taken into account as the basis for compensation.

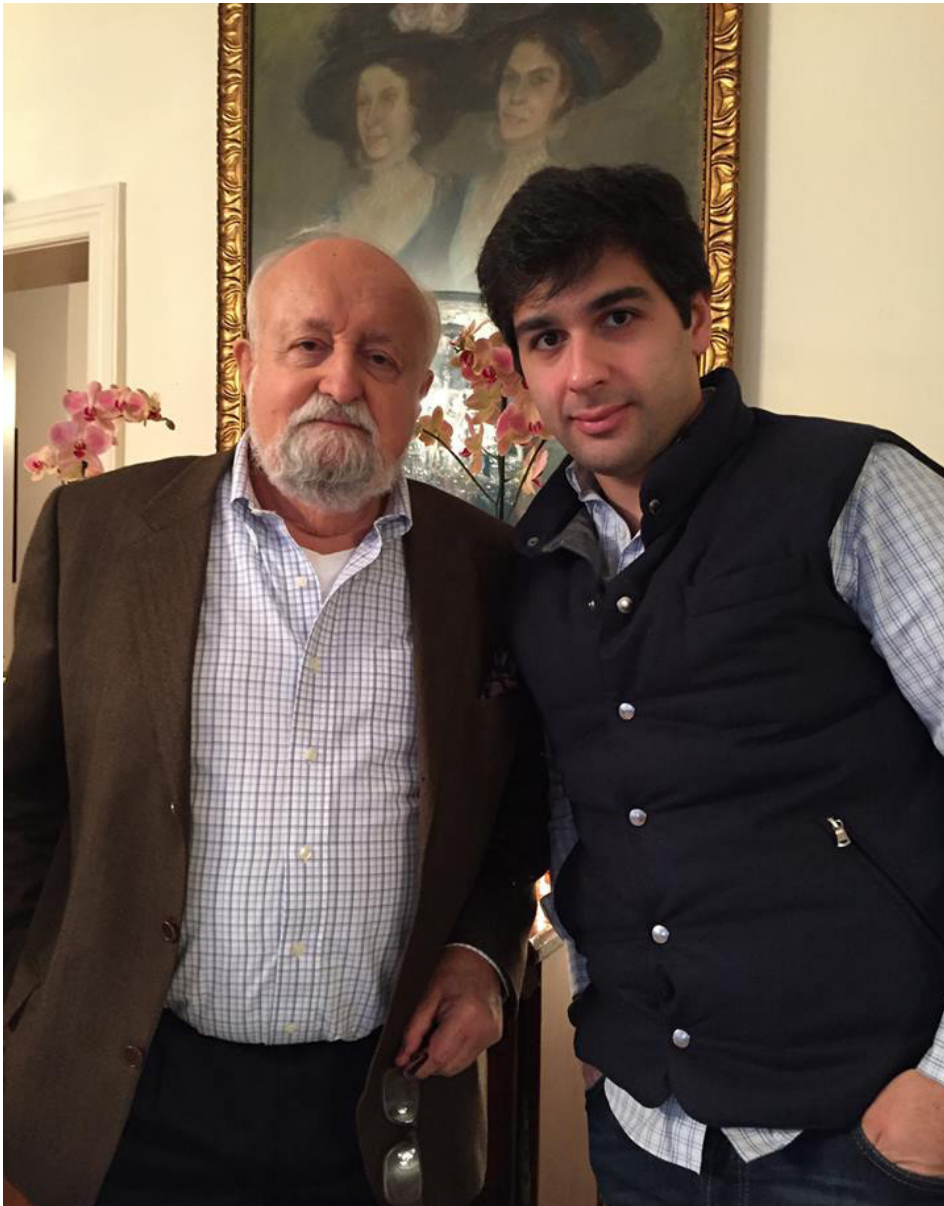
According to opinion of the some, "it is clear that the decision of the trial court satisfies the plaintiff, but is unlikely to satisfy the defendant. Apparently, the losing party will appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Moreover, for the Ministry of Culture, as the public has already seen, the issue of removing C. Orbelian from the post of the Director of the Opera and Ballet Theater is a matter of principle. However, if the defendant is equally unprepared and unconvincing when submitting the appeal, the decision of the higher instance is unlikely to differ from the position of the court of first instance".

Editor's note:

In The Highlights' opinion, however, the Govt of Armenia scarcely is eager to deepen tension between them and the culture activists as well as wide public circle existing thanks to "deeds" of functioners such as Nazeni Gharibyan&Co...

EXCLUSIVE: Legendary Maestro Krzysztof Penderecki Sits Down with ARMENPRESS



Prominent Polish composer and conductor **Krzysztof Penderecki**, 84, says he began writing his next piece of work during his visit to Armenia.

Penderecki had arrived in Armenia as he was named honorary chairman of the jury of the 14th Aram Khachaturian International Competition.

The maestro says he will celebrate his 85th birthday with numerous events in Poland, and assured that Armenian musicians will also participate in the performances. The visit to Yerevan, Armenia for the Aram

Khachaturian competition was Penderecki's second visit to the country this year. Penderecki, who has Armenian roots, was honored with a special festival in Armenia in early 2018, which he attended.

Roza Grigoryan from ARMENPRESS sat down with Krzysztof Penderecki in Yerevan for an exclusive interview about the competition, hospitality of Armenians, as well as upcoming creations of the maestro.

"I didn't even expect before coming here that I will see such high level of musicians. I believe that it was truly a very high level. These kinds of competitions are very im-

portant for young people. Being awarded in a competition like this is a chance to start a career. It is wonderful that we have this kind of a competition here," Penderecki says about the 14th Aram Khachaturian International Competition that was won by Danish cellist **Jonathan Swensen**.

Speaking about the renowned Armenian composer and conductor **Aram Khachaturian** (1903-1978), in honor of whom the eponymous competition is named, Krzysztof Penderecki says he had personally met him many times. *"He was a wonderful person",* he says. *"We met and instantly became friends. I remember how he visited me at my home. After a short while we were talking as if we knew each other for years. I was fond of his music, and I told him that I listen to his work a lot. And this made our communication easier. He was a very open person".*

Penderecki, whose awards include a few Grammys and dozens of honors and other awards, says even though he doesn't visit Armenia often, he tries to be here at least once a year. *"I am fascinated by the Armenian people. Armenians are very friendly people, I always have a wonderful time here,"* he said.

Talking about new creations, the Polish legendary composer said he is preparing himself to create a 9th Symphony. *"This will be my last symphony. It is a tradition for composers to write nine symphonies. Beethoven has nine. I write other works also. I am writing a concerto grosso for two or three violins. I am writing a polonaise for the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence. It will be performed in August. By the way, I began writing it in Armenia,"* he said.

Elżbieta Penderecka, the spouse of the maestro, was with her husband at the interview.

A Declassified Top Secret CIA Report On the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

By Harut Sassounian
 Publisher, The California Courier
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A 48-page Central Intelligence Agency Top Secret Report, prepared in August 1988 and made public in 2012 with some deletions, is titled “Unrest in the Caucasus and the Challenge of Nationalism.” Despite the passage of time, the Report includes an interesting analysis of the Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) conflict from the perspective of U.S. intelligence services.

The CIA analyst, in the introduction of his Report, traced the origins of the Artsakh conflict: “Enmity between Armenian and Azeri factions has existed for hundreds of years, and the 1920s settlement subordinating Nagorno-Karabakh -- Armenia’s cultural and religious center -- to the Azerbaijan Republic has been a continual, albeit long-muted, source of Armenian frustration and concern. Azeri animosity toward the Armenians has been intensified by political, economic, and demographic trends that have adversely affected the political status of Azeris and increased the gap in living standards between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In particular, the rapid expansion of Azerbaijan’s young adult population has put enormous strain on the Republic’s capacity to provide adequate jobs, housing, and education. Azeri frustration has found an outlet in attacks on Armenians.”

The unnamed CIA analyst reported that a split within the Politburo on how to handle the Artsakh crisis made the situation worse. Second Secretary Ligachev and KGB Chief Chebrikov were the hardliners who vehemently opposed the separation of Artsakh from Azerbaijan. They disagreed with Gorbachev’s reforms and blamed foreign powers for inciting unrest inside the Soviet Union.

When two prominent Armenian writers, Silva Kaputikyan and Zori Balayan, met with Gorbachev in Moscow in February 1988, they reported that he was well briefed and assured them that he wanted a “just solution.” He acknowledged “the peaceful nature of the [Armenian] demonstrations and emphasized his personal sympathy with the desire to reunite Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia....”

Upon the return of the Armenian envoys to Yerevan, in a radio broadcast on February 27, 1988, Kaputikyan called for Arme-

nians to trust Gorbachev. “He knows about and understands our problem and wants to resolve it personally.... We must do our utmost to ensure that no harm” is done to him, Kaputikyan announced.

Regarding Soviet concerns about foreign, particularly Armenian-American interference in domestic Soviet turmoil, the CIA analyst reported: “The recent unrest appears to have made Soviet officials more fearful about the role of foreign actors in the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Of the approximately 5.5 million people in the world today who speak Armenian, about 60% live outside the Soviet Armenian republic, about 1.4 million elsewhere in the USSR, and 2 million abroad. So far, Armenian emigres -- most of whom see Turkey much more than Russia as the historic oppressor of their nation -- have not been actively involved in pushing for change in the Soviet system or in Soviet policies. Moscow worries that diaspora attitudes could turn sharply critical of the USSR and that Armenians in the United States, particularly, could grow into a powerful anti-Soviet pressure group. Soviet officials are wary of the large concentration of Armenians in California and New York, states with large electoral votes that have been closely contested in previous presidential elections.”

In a footnote at the end of the previous paragraph, the CIA analyst specified that “the United States hosts at least 600,000 Armenians. About 90 percent of America’s Soviet Armenian immigrants came to California. Los Angeles -- with 100,000 -- has the largest community of Armenians outside Yerevan. The New York City region has about 70,000 Armenians, mostly from Lebanon and Iran.”

The CIA analyst added: “Moscow may be concerned that foreign Armenian terrorist groups like the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) could turn against Soviet targets -- although we have no evidence that this is the case. Hitherto, the USSR has figured very little in ASALA’s blending of armed struggle with Marxist ideology; the dominant faction of ASALA considers Soviet Armenia as liberated territory and the group concentrates its attacks exclusively on Turkish officials. In fact, ASALA eventually would like to see ‘the Armenian provinces’ now located in Turkey and possibly Iraq [?] reattach themselves to the Soviet Armenian core.

Furthermore, ASALA is now in a quiet phase, and its leader was assassinated on 28 April [1988]. Nevertheless, ASALA in early April did send a moderately worded appeal to Gorbachev supporting the reunification of Karabakh with Armenia, while characteristically stressing that Armenia is an integral part of the USSR and seeks only to rectify the border, not to pursue claims against Moscow.”

Finally, the CIA analyst explained the position of Turkey on the Karabakh conflict: “Although the Turkish Government has not explicitly sided with Azerbaijan, Turkey’s fear of resurgent Armenian nationalism makes Ankara sympathetic to Baku. When the crisis broke in February [1988], Turkish Government spokesmen indicated publicly that international agreements entitle Ankara to a voice in the crisis, an apparent reference to the 1921 treaty between the USSR and Turkey that led to the shift of Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan to Azerbaijan. Turkey no doubt especially feared that transferring Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia would whet Armenian appetites and would lead to increased pressure to change the status of Nakhichevan and to acquire former Armenian regions in Turkey. Turkish officials probably also noted that some Armenian expansionist demands for a ‘Greater Armenia’ were based on historic claims rather than on the ethnic composition of the affected territories. Thus, some Armenians have demanded the return of Nakhichevan, even though Azeris now greatly outnumber Armenians in this region. Using such historical criteria, could give Armenians a claim even on some border parts of Turkey where only 50,000 Armenians now live.”

The CIA analyst concluded his Report by outlining five options the USSR had for the resolution of the Artsakh conflict:

- 1) “Sticking with the Status Quo”
- 2) “Making Further Economic Concessions” to Armenians
- 3) “Enhancing Autonomy of Nagorno-Karabakh Within Azerbaijan”
- 4) Expanding “Extraterritorial Native Cultural Institutions”
- 5) “Reconfiguration of Nagorno-Karabakh” by splitting it between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Sergey Smbatyan to perform at La Scala

Sergey Smbatyan, artistic director and principal conductor of the State Symphony Orchestra of Armenia, will perform at the prestigious La Scala Theater in Milan. He will conduct the La Scala Chamber Orchestra.

The concert program will feature works by both classical and modern composers,

including Edvard Grieg, Max Bruch, Krzysztof Penderecki, Vakhtang Kakhidze.

Violinist Simonide Braconi and pianist-composer Vakhtang Kakhidze will be the soloists.

Established in 1778, La Scala is one of the leading opera and ballet theatres

in the world and is home to the La Scala Theatre Chorus, La Scala Theatre Ballet and La Scala Theatre Orchestra. Arturo Toscanini, Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Muti, and other world-famous conductors have headed the orchestra at different times..

System Of A Down to perform in Armenia in June 2020

System Of A Down will perform in Armenia in June 2020, SOAD frontman Serj Tankian has announced.

The concert will be part of a European tour set for May-June 2020, Tankian said at a panel discussion in Yerevan within the framework of the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2019 in Yerevan.

System Of A Down performed live in Armenia for the first time to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015.



French-Armenian artist Richard Jéranian dies aged 98

French-Armenian artist Richard Jéranian passed away on October 10 at the age of 98, Nouvelles d'Armenie reports.

Born in Sebaste (now known as Sivas) on July 17, 1921, Jéranian moved to France in 1930s.

Interested in art and music, he began his studies in Marseille where the landscapes of Provence inspired him, he pursued his studies in Paris at the Académie Julian and at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière.

In 1944 he was called to serve in the air force and was sent to Algiers, then to Fez



where he remained until 1946.

After the war, being closely connected with artists from the Armenian diaspora, he traveled and exhibited in Lebanon, Soviet Russia and Iran, he also visited his native land in connection with the

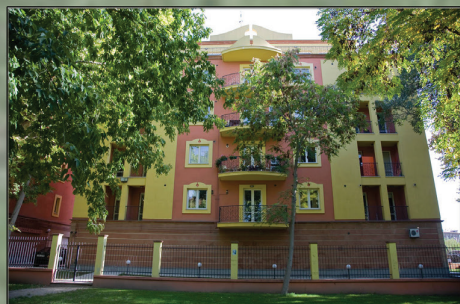
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation efforts in support of Armenia .

After the devastating 1998 earthquake in Armenia, he participated with other artists in donations for the creation of a children hospital.

The style of his works evolved, going through figurative, surrealist, cubist or abstract periods covering the themes of music, woman and Armenia through figures, landscapes, genre scenes or still lifes in oil and ink.

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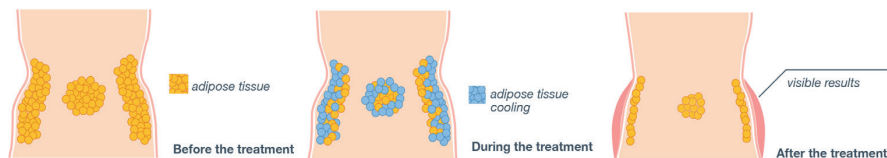
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