

Armenian PM addresses the nation



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, in a video released on December 5, said that while he assumed the responsibility for the failures in the recent war in Artsakh, representatives of past Armenian administrations are trying to blame his government for their mistakes.

Pashinyan said the blame game had reached a point where former Armenian President Robert Kocharyan, who took Nagorno Karabakh out of the negotiations format, is now accusing his government of reducing the Karabakh issue to a mere territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Pashinyan said that over the last twenty-five years the international community more and more perceived the Karabakh issue as a territorial dispute and Armenia as an occupying force.

“This didn’t happen during the past two years. During the past two years there has been an attempt to get out of that cul-de-sac,” Pashinyan said.

He charged the person negotiating for Armenia during the 2000s as using the word “occupied” referring to the territories surrounding Nagorno Karabakh proper. Pashinyan then made a reference, for which he apologized in advance, to using the toilet in an airplane, saying that when you enter and lock the door behind you, the outside reads “occupied”.

Turning to the issue of ending the recent war, Pashinyan said it could only have been done by signing a document similar to the one he signed, with the leaders of Russia and Azerbaijan, on November 9.

He said he could have ended the war on the first day by signing such a document at declared as much at the National Assembly but that there was little support at the time.

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Armenian PM meets relatives of missing soldiers

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan continues to meet with members of the families of servicemen, missing soldiers and civilians captured during the Artsakh war.

The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan, Minister of Defense Vagharshak Harutyunyan, Minister of Health Arsen Torosyan presented information on the work carried out in the direction



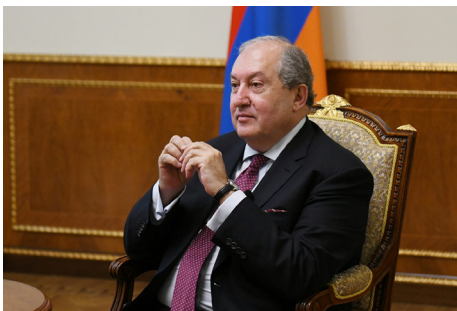
of exchange of prisoners and bodies, acqui-

sition and installation of a second genetic analysis device.

The processes carried out with the participation of the Artsakh Republic and the mediation of the International Committee of the Red Cross of the Russian Federation were discussed in detail.

The Prime Minister listened to the concerns of the family members and answered their questions.

We must restore the atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect, Armenia's President says



Armenian President Armen Sarkissian calls to restore the atmosphere of tolerance, mutual respect, to bring together all the positive and vital qualities of our people, to turn them into a collective force, which will be the guarantee of our further success.

Below is president Sarkissian's address in full:

Dear compatriots,

Today, our country as a state, and our society, we are all in a deep post-war crisis. This should be recorded without greed,

without deceiving ourselves, and at the same time, without despair. We must be fully aware of the existence of this crisis and do everything we can to overcome it. Together, hand in hand.

Regardless of the position we hold, our political beliefs and views, our personal likes and dislikes, we must think about the future of our state, country and people.

Each of us has the right to express our opinion, dissatisfaction and demand an explanation from the authorities for the enormous human and territorial losses caused to us by the war.

The government cannot act in the spirit of 2018 public mood. Today's reality is completely different.

In these tense and difficult days, I appeal to all of you: your every action must comply with the law, it must be lawful.

I also appeal to the representatives of the law enforcement bodies; it is important to

maintain order. At the same time, remember that in front of you, in the streets of Yerevan, is our compatriot, one of us, woman, man, young or old. Among them are the people who a few days ago defended the homeland, each of us, you.

Any violence, disproportionate use of force and means is inadmissible and unacceptable. In your actions you must show responsibility, high human-professional qualities.

Today we need turning points. Solutions must be within the framework of national accord. We must be able to restore the atmosphere of tolerance, mutual respect, to bring together all the positive and vital qualities of our people, to turn them into a collective force, which will be the guarantee of our further success. The activity of the President and Presidential Institute is aimed at that very goal.

God bless us all.

Azerbaijan delays exchange of hostages and bodies – Ombudsman meets with Ambassador of Lithuania



Human Rights Defender of Armenia Arman Tatoyan received on December 4 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Lithuania to Armenia Inga Stanytė-Toločkienė.

During the meeting the sides referred to the gross violations of human rights

committed by Azerbaijan during the war, including brutal treatment towards servicemen and civilians.

The Human Rights Defender stressed that targeting the civilian population of Artsakh and using prohibited weapons against them, involvement of mercenary terrorists, hatred of Armenians and widespread atrocities and inhuman treatment speak about the Azerbaijani policy of carrying out ethnic cleansings by terroristic methods which continues up till now.

Arman Tatoyan told the Ambassador of Lithuania that the Azerbaijani authorities delay the process of exchange of hostages and bodies of victims.

“By this Azerbaijan tries to create uncertainties and atmosphere of tensions among the Armenian public, to undermine the mental integrity of society, to cause mental suffering to the families of deceased servicemen, missing persons and prisoners. All this is part of the policy of anti-Armenianism in Azerbaijan”, Tatoyan said, emphasizing the exchange of hostages and bodies of victims is an issue of great urgency.

During the meeting the parties also discussed other issues related to the protection of human rights, as well as reached agreements on new areas of cooperation on human rights issues.

French National Assembly adopts resolution calling for recognition of Artsakh

The French National Assembly voted 188 to 3 to adopt a resolution on protection of Armenian people and Christian communities in Europe and the East.

The text affirms “the urgent need to reach a final settlement of the conflict guaranteeing the lasting security of the affected civilian populations and the implementation of a process of peace and recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh.”

Calls on the government to consider with its European partners the rapid delivery of humanitarian aid;

The resolution invites the government to reconsider with its European partners, given Turkey’s proven role in this conflict, the continuation of Turkey’s accession process to the European Union.

It emphasizes the need to actively defend threatened minority Christian communities in Europe, the East and the world.

Armenia has welcomed the resolution adopted by the overwhelming majority of the National Assembly of France on the need for the recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh, which followed the similar resolution adopted by the Senate.

“This joint position of both the lower and upper Houses of the



French Parliament symbolizes the resolute voice of France and the French people against the aggression and the policy of ethnic cleansing and genocidal aspirations Azerbaijan has pursued towards the people of Artsakh with the support of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters,” Spokesperson for the Armenian Foreign Ministry Anna Naghdalyan said in a statement.

“It’s important that the necessity to ensure the security of the peaceful population of Artsakh, the facts of undermining the peace process by Azerbaijan through military means and the deployment of terrorist groups and mercenaries in Nagorno-Karabakh with the support of Turkey are enshrined in the resolution,” she added.

“We highly assess such steps by the international community in favor of the final and fair resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the recognition of Artsakh based on the right to self-determination, which has become one of the main imperatives for ensuring the security of the Armenians of Artsakh,” the Spokesperson said.

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“Now, by the way, it turns out that everyone was in favor of handing over the lands by the 5 + 2 formula. If you were in favor, we should have given back in 2016, in 2017, thus preventing the war and resolving the issue, especially after April War, since we knew what was going on,” Pashinyan said.

He said that Turkey got involved in the Karabakh issue due to the failed Armenian football diplomacy of 2007, when Ankara announced it would not establish relations with Armenia as long as the territories of Azerbaijan were occupied.

Referring to the deficiencies in the military, Pashinyan said his government had to resolve all the shortcomings, in equipment and manpower, within 2.5 years. He pointed an accusatory finger at past administrations and officials, saying millions were siphoned from the budget for personal aggrandizement.

“In two years, we had to buy everything that should have been bought and not bought in twenty years. OK, we did not buy what we did not buy twenty years ago in two years, but why didn’t you not buy it in the previous eighteen or twenty years? How is it that you considered building castles, buying islands, buying private houses in Europe, accumulating millions in Swiss banks more important than what we

couldn’t buy in two and a half years.”

He said that in 2017 Armenia purchased air defense systems for US\$42 million that never worked.

Referring to the military defeat, Pashinyan said that some are accusing him of making bad tactical decisions during the war.

“Now, I am personally responsible for the failures on the battlefield. Has the prime minister ever led a battle? Does the prime minister make decisions at the level of a platoon commander or even a regiment commander? Did the prime minister make decisions alone? The prime minister once made a sole decision during the war, and thanks to that decision, the 7th Defense District is in place, because some people wanted to hand over the 7th Defense District in a panic.”

Pashinyan asked if the nation will have the strength to admit that the reason for the military defeat failure was that Armenia has been a corrupt state for at least twenty-five years.

“In any case, the history of our past and our failures must be analyzed in detail. And it must happen without manipulation. And if we want it to happen effectively, it must take place in calm, peaceful, working conditions. This work will definitely be done, but real analysis is needed for calm, and

today we are all in turmoil.”

Pashinyan said his government’s priority is the return of Armenian POWs and to identify and locate missing soldiers and civilians.

He talked about the resumption of the OSCE Minsk Group negotiation process, referring to the joint statement of the Foreign Ministers of Russia and France, and the US Deputy Secretary of State.

Turning to internal matters, Pashinyan reaffirmed that he will not be resigning any time soon.

He said that reforms are underway in Armenia to ensure that the people of Armenia remain in power.

“The purpose of all this is not for us or me to stay in power, but for the people to stay in power. What does this mean? This means that the citizens of Armenia have the opportunity to freely choose their government. Let me remind you that the only parliamentary election in the history of Armenia in which the results were not disputed by anyone was the 2018 parliamentary election. Some circles want to do everything possible to make the 2018 parliamentary election unique, the only one where the people made their own decisions. We will not allow this. The power of the people in Armenia cannot be questioned.”

Opposition sets ultimatum for Armenian PM to resign

(RFE/RL- Yerevan) - A coalition of 16 Armenian opposition parties gave Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan until December 8 to step down or face nationwide protests as it again rallied thousands of supporters in Yerevan on Saturday.

Holding their biggest rally so far, opposition leaders stood by their demands for the formation of an interim government and conduct of snap general elections. They again blamed Pashinyan for sweeping Armenian territorial losses in and around Nagorno-Karabakh suffered during the recent war with Azerbaijan.

The anti-government street protests were sparked by a Russian-brokered ceasefire that stopped the six-week war on November 10. The opposition forces accuse Pashinyan's government of mishandling the war and capitulating to Baku.

They held their latest demonstration three days after nominating veteran politician Vazgen Manukyan as a caretaker prime minister who they believe should prepare for and hold the elections within a year.

"We could have prevented the war," Manukyan told thousands of people who gathered in Yerevan's Liberty Square.



"We could have won the war. We could have ended the war earlier and with minor losses."

Manukyan made clear that his interim administration would not walk away from the Armenian-Azerbaijani ceasefire agreement. He said it would seek instead to ensure that the agreement's ambiguous provisions are interpreted in Armenia's favor.

The crowd then marched to Pashinyan's official residence tightly guarded by riot police and other security forces.

Ishkhan Saghatelyan, a leader of the opposition Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutyun), read out the opposition ultimatum there. "Nikol must go. Period," he said.

Saghatelyan warned that the opposition will launch a nationwide campaign of "civil disobedience" if Pashinyan fails to

announce his resignation by Tuesday noon.

The idea of an interim government and fresh elections is also backed by President Armen Sarkissian and a growing number of public figures. Pashinyan has rejected it so far.

The prime minister again signaled no plans to resign or agree to snap polls in a televised address to the nation aired on Saturday morning. He said he is not clinging to power and only wants to ensure that "the people stay in power."

Pashinyan emphasized the fact that Armenia's last parliamentary elections, held in December 2018 and won by his My Step bloc, were widely recognized as democratic. In an apparent reference to the country's former leaders, he said that "some circles" want to come to power through a fraudulent vote.

President Sarkissian insisted, meanwhile, that Armenia is in a "deep post-war crisis." "The government cannot act in the spirit of the [public] mood of 2018," he said in a statement issued later in the day. "Today's reality is completely different."

Government to compensate civilian victims of Karabakh war

The Armenian government approved on December 3 a compensation package for civilian victims of the Nagorno-Karabakh war.

It said, in particular, that the families of civilians killed during the war will receive 5 million drams (\$10,000) each. The government will also pay seriously wounded and disabled individuals between 1 million and 3 million drams in compensation.

The compensations were proposed by Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Mesrop Arakelyan and approved by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's cabinet. They are understood to cover residents of not only Armenian border villages but also Karabakh towns and villages shelled by Azerbai-



jani forces.

According to Karabakh authorities, more than 40 civilian residents of the Armenian-populated territory were killed during the six-week hostilities. Several other civilian casualties were reported in villages located in Armenia.

The fighting also left at least 2,700 Armenian and Karabakh Armenian soldiers dead.

Their families will receive monthly benefits from a state insurance fund set up in 2017 for military personnel. The fund also compensates soldiers wounded in action.

The government also decided to compensate the owners of an estimated 75 village houses in Armenia which Arakelyan said were seriously damaged by Azerbaijani shelling. Government officials did not say how much will likely be spent for their reconstruction.

In a related development, the Armenian Ministry of Education announced impending tuition waivers for university students who participated in the war. It said the measure will also apply to those students whose parents fought in the army ranks.

Minsk Group Co-Chair countries urge Armenia and Azerbaijan to negotiate a lasting and sustainable peace agreement

The Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries – Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, Deputy Secretary of State of the United States Stephen E. Biegun, and Minister for European and Foreign Affairs of France Jean-Yves Le Drian – welcome the cessation of military activities in the area of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in accordance with the statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and President of the Russian Federation from November 9, 2020.

The Co-Chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group call upon Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue implementing fully their obligations under the November 9 statement, in Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding districts, as well as their previous ceasefire commitments. The Co-Chair countries highlight the significance of measures taken by the Russian Federation, in agreement with Azerbaijan and Armenia, to guarantee the non-renewal of hostilities. They also call for the full and prompt departure from the region of all foreign mercenaries, and call upon all parties to facilitate this departure.

The Co-Chair countries remind Armenia and Azerbaijan of their obligation to comply with the requirements of international



humanitarian law, in particular with regard to the exchange of prisoners of war and the repatriation of remains. They underline the importance of guaranteeing conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified, and sustainable return of people displaced by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, including during the recent hostilities. They underscore the importance of protecting historical and religious heritage in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. The Co-Chair countries call on Azerbaijan and Armenia to cooperate fully with the relevant international organizations to implement their obligations in these areas and ensure humanitarian access.

The Co-Chair countries appeal to the international community including ICRC, UN institutions, and other appropriate structures as well as OSCE Minsk Group individual countries to take concrete steps to improve the humanitarian situation in

Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent areas in a coordinated way. The Co-Chairs also reiterate their strong support for the continuing work of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office (PRCiO) and his team.

The Co-Chair countries urge Armenia and Azerbaijan to take advantage of the current ceasefire to negotiate a lasting and sustainable peace agreement under the auspices of the Co-Chairs. In that context, the Co-Chair countries urge the parties to receive the Co-Chairs in the region at the earliest opportunity and to commit to substantive negotiations to resolve all outstanding issues in accordance with an agreed timetable.

The Co-Chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group recall their firm commitment to the non-use or threat of force to settle disputes. They reiterate their consistent and united position in favor of a negotiated, comprehensive, and sustainable settlement of all remaining core substantive issues of the conflict in line with the basic principles and elements well-known to both Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Co-Chair countries remain fully committed to pursuing this objective in line with their long-standing efforts to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

UN chief urges Armenia, Azerbaijan to resume negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group



UN Secretary-General António Guterres Co-Chairs, his Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said in a statement.

“The Secretary-General takes note of the 3 December joint statement on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh by the Heads

of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries. He welcomes the continuing adherence to the ceasefire in accordance with the 9 November joint statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and the President of the Russian Federation, and calls on all concerned to continue implementing their obligations, notably as they relate to international humanitarian law and human rights law,” the Spokesperson stated.

The Secretary-General underlines that the United Nations is prepared to respond

to the humanitarian needs in all areas affected by the conflict, and to scale up ongoing assistance in Armenia and Azerbaijan, as required. He calls on all relevant actors to cooperate fully with the United Nations entities to ensure their unfettered access.

The Secretary-General urges Armenia and Azerbaijan to resume negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE’s Minsk Group Co-Chairs to reach a lasting peaceful settlement. He encourages the Governments and the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan to embark on a path of dialogue to foster regional peace, stability and prosperity.

Armenia PM highlights formation of common EAEU gas market

The Armenian side prioritizes the full implementation of the project “Strategic Directions for the Development of Eurasian Integration by 2025”, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the siting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council.

This document is aimed at bringing the levels of economic development of the member states closer, expanding the spheres of economic cooperation, and improving the institutions of the Eurasian Economic Union’s regulatory sphere, he said.

“The mechanisms for the formation of common markets without barriers and restrictions mentioned in this document are an important factor for the practical establishment of the four freedoms, the cooperation of our national economies and the level of competitiveness,” the Prime Minister stressed.

He noted that the implementation of the document will serve to strengthen the Union’s reputation in the world, and will undoubtedly contribute to the growth of its



investment and innovative attractiveness.

“The need to create equal, non-discriminatory conditions of competition in all sectors of the Union’s economies remains a key issue for us. That is why we believe that it is necessary to pursue a coordinated energy policy to develop the common markets for oil, oil products, gas, as well as the common market for electricity,” PM Pashinyan stated.

In this regard, he added that the adoption of an international agreement on the EAEU common gas market will be of great importance. It envisages the implementation of common approaches to pricing and tariff

setting in the EAEU common gas market, including common tariffs for services provided by natural gas monopolies.

The Prime Minister highlighted the creation of a single market for construction services. “The adoption of an action plan in this area is an important step in that direction. In the context of the envisaged measures, it is possible to develop an international agreement within

the EAEU on mutual recognition of the professional qualifications of the leading technical personnel in the field of construction.”

“Finally, I would like to address the issue of providing tariff benefits for goods and services from developing, less developed countries. I consider it necessary to immediately review the list of countries using the common system of tariff privileges. It must be made in accordance with our own standards,” Nikol Pashinyan said.

He reiterated Armenia’s readiness for active cooperation in favor of further development of Eurasian integration.

First flights between Russia and Karabakh could start this month – RIA Novosti

The authorities of Artsakh Republic and Russia are discussing the issue of opening air communication, the first flights from Russia could land at the Stepanakert airport in December, a source in the Nagorno Karabakh administration told *RIA Novosti*.

“Both sides are making efforts to make this happen,” the agency’s interlocutor said, answering a question about the possibility of resuming the work of the airport by the end of the year.

He added that the airport will also serve passenger flights, which are expected to



arrive in Nagorno Karabakh not only from Moscow, but also from Russian regions.

Another source confirmed the credibility of these plans. In his words, “probably

by the end of this month we will witness the first Russian planes landing in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

Advisor to the President of Artsakh, David Babayan, earlier told *RIA Novosti* about the possibility of an early opening of the airport in Karabakh. In his words, the opening of air communication will become an important aspect of economic recovery of the region after the recent aggravation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani military conflict.

Activities of Hayastan All Armenian Fund aimed at mitigating the humanitarian crisis

Along with coordinating the “We Are Our Borders” global fundraising campaign and the delivery and distribution of over 100 tons of humanitarian aid, the Hayastan All Armenian Fund has been and continues to implement both short term critical and long-term strategic initiatives to meet the most urgent needs of the displaced population of Artsakh, the Fund said in a statement.

In particular, it refers to the allocation of 300,000 AMD as a one-off payment to all families from over 100 settlements in Kashatagh, Martakert, Shahumyan, Hadrut, Shushi, Askeran and Martuni regions of Artsakh.

According to preliminary assessment, between 30,000-35,000 people will benefit from this initiative with a 10 billion AMD budget.

Tens of thousands of displaced individuals from Artsakh have received and continue to receive 68,000AMD or more per family member. Approximately 80,000 to 100,000 individuals from Artsakh will benefit from this initiative with a 10 billion AMD budget.

One of the Hayastan All Armenian Fund’s most urgent priorities is the reinforcement and strengthening of the healthcare sectors in both Artsakh and Armenia. A significant number of large-scale medical equipment and supplies (63,301,140 AMD), as well as



15 ambulances (201,390,000 AMD) have been provided to the healthcare sectors since September 27th 2020.

To get through the notoriously cold Artsakh winters, the Fund has, to date, provided electric and wood heaters, portable gas stoves to families in Artsakh, as well as 100 diesel generators, with more on the way on the way and to be delivered within a week, to deal with power outages in various communities.

The Homeland Defender’s Rehabilitation Center will soon be equipped with a state-of-the-art German / Dutch gait and prosthetics laboratory for the treatment of the brave young men who heroically put their lives on the line for us all. The center currently houses 120 soldiers receiving treatment for injuries sustained during the war. This is an ongoing project and additional equipment and supplies will be provided to the Center in the near future.

7,500 displaced families from Artsakh will receive support packages as part of a joint project between the Hayastan All Ar-

menian Fund and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

The Fund will provide housing for 50 families from Shushi, who are currently facing eviction from hotels or temporary accommodation around Armenia.

The “Women’s Development Resource Center” Foundation operates several temporary shelters in Goris the 350 beneficiaries of which as mostly women, children and the elderly from Artsakh. The Fund will install central heating systems at these temporary shelters in Goris as well provide additional beds to increase capacity.

The Fund continues to meet with individuals, organization as well as large groups and NGOs, who have to date supported the displaced population of Artsakh, to map the most urgent needs and create opportunities for joint initiatives. The developed projects will focus on not only the physical needs of the families from Artsakh but also include initiatives in education, art, psychological support to both children and adults, long-term in-home care projects for wounded soldiers among many others.

These projects and initiatives are ongoing and subject to continuous deviations given the daily changing needs of the beneficiaries in a post war environment. Only by being united and responsive to these critical changes can we mitigate a potential humanitarian disaster.

New evidence on the use of chemical weapons in Artsakh by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces

Armenia’s Human Rights Defender Arman Tatoyan visited the National Burn Center on December 5 together with a staff doctor, where they acquired new evidence of use of mass destruction weapons containing chemical elements (possibly white phosphorus) by Azerbaijan against Artsakh.

“We carried out the examination with the help of special devices. The recorded facts come to substantiate this assumption,” the Ombudsman said.

According to the doctors, the injuries and swellings of the servicemen (especially in the upper extremities) persist for a long

time, the wounds caused by the burns are deep in some places, with gray edges, occasionally bleeding, difficult to treat.

Low levels of calcium and hemoglobin in the blood (hypocalcemia), enlargement of the liver and spleen (hepatosplenomegaly) are observed.

According to doctors, the substances emitted from the used weapons enter the body through the respiratory tract, causing damage to internal organs, which can lead to long-term deterioration of health and even death.

Doctors say the burns of various degrees

most of the people received from the first days of the war were different from the cases they had encountered in their practice before.

During the visit Arman Tatoyan held discussions with the medical staff, the injured servicemen and their families.

The above-mentioned and all other facts have received the necessary legal recording in the Office of the Human Rights Defender, additional professional studies will be carried out and necessary steps will be taken depending on the results.

Turkey should withdraw its military personnel from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, Armenian FM says

For the people of Artsakh and Armenia the large-scale war unleashed by Azerbaijan with direct support by its allies Turkey, foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists, added another dimension to the already dire situation, Armenian Foreign Minister Ayvazian says.

“During the 44 days of war Azerbaijan and Turkey, in a clear defiance of their international obligations, and in violation of the commitments to the OSCE, despite the numerous calls made by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, despite three agreements to cease hostilities, despite the calls from the international community, continued the offensive,” Minister Ayvazian said, addressing the 27th OSCE Ministerial Council.

He noted that the aggression was accompanied by numerous gross violations of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts, by war crimes, including deliberate targeting of civilian population and critical infrastructure, executions, inhumane treatment of prisoners of war and civilian captives, beheadings, mutilation of dead bodies, other well-documented crimes with the ultimate purpose of ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population from their ancestral lands.

“Today we should acknowledge the efforts of the Russian federation and personal engagement of President Vladimir Putin in establishing a ceasefire and stopping the war, also providing peacekeeping forces on the ground. We are also grateful to France and the United States for their efforts and engagement to achieve ceasefire.

“The actions of Azerbaijan and its allies created new dangerous precedent for addressing conflict situations in the area of responsibility of the OSCE,” Minister Ayvazian noted.

First, he said, it is the recruitment, transfer and deployment of foreign terrorist fighters and jihadists from Syria and Libya in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone by Turkey which flagrantly violates the international obligations and OSCE commitments on combating the phenomenon of the foreign terrorist fighters. “This is the first time ever that two OSCE participating States have deployed terrorist fighters and jihadists in support of their armed forces in the context of conflict in the OSCE area of responsibility, a fact that was acknowledged not only by a number of the OSCE participating states, but the relevant UN



body.”

Second, Azerbaijan’s aggression against Artsakh was greatly instigated and supported politically and militarily by the Turkish leadership in its pursuit of expansionist power projection into the South Caucasus and beyond.

“Third, Azerbaijan and its allies unleashed the war against Artsakh falsely claiming the legitimate right to use force, which is a clear breach of international law. Furthermore, Azerbaijan and Turkey now insist that the situation resulting from the use of force, aggression and war, large-scale violations of international law, war crimes and ethnic cleansing, should be considered as resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We strongly condemn the use of force against the right of people of Nagorno-Karabakh to self-determination and we will not accept any attempt to deprive the people of Nagorno-Karabakh of their rights,” the Foreign Minister stated.

He noted that Armenians have been ethnically cleansed from the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh recently occupied by Azerbaijan, those few who stayed were killed or tortured and expelled by Azerbaijani armed forces from their ancestral homeland. This reality clearly attests to the fact that Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh cannot be placed under the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan.

According to the Foreign Minister, the comprehensive resolution of the conflict aimed at achieving lasting and sustainable peace in the region include:

- Status of Artsakh based on realization of the right of self-determination, security of its people;
- De-occupation by Azerbaijan of the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh;
- Safe and dignified return to their homes of the recently displaced population of Artsakh;
- Preservation of Armenian cultural and re-

ligious heritage on the territories that fell under the control of Azerbaijan.

The Minister stressed that immediate and unconditional exchange of prisoners of war and hostages based on principle all for all, repatriation of remains should be implemented without any further delay.

“The trilateral statement of November 9 should be considered without prejudice to the final political and durable settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Only political, negotiated settlement that will respect rights of all may bring peace and reconciliation to the South Caucasus region,” he added.

“At the same time, to achieve this Turkey, whose genocidal record against Armenians is well known, should abandon its destabilizing policy and refrain from any actions which could further fuel tensions. In this context we call on all OSCE participating States to continue exerting pressure on Turkey to withdraw its military personnel from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, from the South Caucasus, together with its affiliated terrorist fighters. So far there is no sign that foreign terrorist fighters are being withdrawn from the conflict area. Quite opposite, there are persistent reports on further spread of terrorist fighters and mercenaries and plans to resettle them in areas of NK, which is currently occupied by Azerbaijan,” Ara Ayvazian said.

“The lasting and sustainable resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be achieved through the negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship, which is the only internationally mandated mechanism to deal with settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In this context we took positive note of the statement of heads of delegations of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries issued earlier today, which once again showed the unity and determination of the Co-Chair countries in pursuing negotiated comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict,” he added.

“We also concur that all the foreign mercenaries, brought in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone by Turkey and Azerbaijan, should be withdrawn fully and promptly from the region,” the Armenian Foreign Minister concluded.

Baroness Cox releases a comprehensive report about the recent trip to Artsakh

Member of the UK House of Lords, Baroness Caroline Cox has released a comprehensive report about her recent trip to Artsakh.

“We always say about the people of Nagorno Karabakh that they do not just survive; they create beauty from the ashes of destruction, Baroness Cox writes.

“Even during these darkest days of war, it has been humbling and inspiring to witness the ‘Spirit of Armenia’ rising like a Phoenix from the ashes of death and destruction, as the people share the love of their land, their history and their rich culture of music, dance and art. All this within the context of the breathtaking beauty of their land’s rugged mountains, thick forests, fertile valleys and crystal rivers,” she says.

Caroline Cox and representatives of her We visited Nagorno Karabakh to deliver aid to our partners at The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre. We also held meetings with refugees, human rights experts and the Presidents of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh. While it was only possible to meet a limited number of people and therefore obtain limited evidence, the consistency of the information and the experiences of those whom we met is inherently disturbing.

Baroness Caroline Cox and representatives of her Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART) fund visited Nagorno Karabakh



to deliver aid to their partners at The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre. They held meetings with refugees, human rights experts and the Presidents of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

URGENT PRIORITIES RAISED IN THE REPORT:

Maltreatment of prisoners

Despite a ceasefire, reports of brutality against military and civilian prisoners continue to emerge, including torture and beatings, with claims that the Red Cross is unable to visit many detainees.

Violations of international law

Azerbaijan, supported by Turkey, reportedly targeted civilians with tanks, helicopters, drones, heavy artillery, multiple-launch rocket systems, including

Smerch, and cluster bombs – in breach of international humanitarian law and Geneva conventions.

Genocidal policies

According to a Genocide Emergency Alert issued in October 2020 by Genocide Watch, Azerbaijan had reached stage 9, ‘extermination’, and stage 10, ‘denial’ of the ten stages of the genocidal process.

War of Terror

The adoption of tactics of terror reflects a deep hatred of Armenians, stretching back over 100 years to the Armenian Genocide and is reinforced by an unprecedented rise in state-backed anti-Armenian rhetoric.

International impunity

Neither Azerbaijan nor Turkey has been held to account for its actions, despite widespread evidence of atrocities and war crimes.

Humanitarian aid

An estimated 100,000 refugees urgently need help with accommodation, food and medical care.

Self-determination

The Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh have sufficient evidence to claim the same right to independence as the people of Timor Leste, Eritrea and Kosovo, who were awarded self-determination for suffering-incomparable attempted ethnic cleansing.

Former US Presidents Obama, Bush and Clinton volunteer to get coronavirus vaccine publicly

Former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton are volunteering to get their Covid-19 vaccines on camera to promote public confidence in the vaccine’s safety once the US Food and Drug Administration authorizes one, the *CNN* reports.

The three most recent former presidents hope an awareness campaign to promote confidence in its safety and effectiveness would be a powerful message as American public health officials try to convince the public to take the vaccine.

Freddy Ford, Bush’s chief of staff, told *CNN* that the 43rd President had reached out to Dr. Anthony Fauci — the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the nation’s top infectious disease expert — and Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House coronavirus

response coordinator, to see how he could help promote the vaccine.

“A few weeks ago, President Bush asked me to let Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx know that, when the time is right, he wants to do what he can to help encourage his fellow citizens to get vaccinated,” Ford told *CNN*. “First, the vaccines need to be deemed safe and administered to the priority populations. Then, President Bush will get in line for his, and will gladly do so on camera.”

Clinton’s press secretary told *CNN* on Wednesday that he too would be willing to take the vaccine in a public setting in order to promote it.

“President Clinton will definitely take a vaccine as soon as available to him, based on the priorities determined by public health officials. And he will do it in a public

setting if it will help urge all Americans to do the same,” Angel Urena said.

Obama, in an interview with SiriusXM host Joe Madison scheduled to air Thursday, said that if Fauci said a coronavirus vaccine is safe, he believes him.

“People like Anthony Fauci, who I know, and I’ve worked with, I trust completely,” Obama said. “So, if Anthony Fauci tells me this vaccine is safe, and can vaccinate, you know, immunize you from getting Covid, absolutely, I’m going to take it.”

“I promise you that when it’s been made for people who are less at risk, I will be taking it,” he said.

“I may end up taking it on TV or having it filmed, just so that people know that I trust this science, and what I don’t trust is getting Covid,” he added.

Armenian Missionary Association of America Provides Multilateral Assistance to Artsakh People both in Armenia and Artsakh

These days, hundreds of Artsakh families have found refuge in Mother Armenia. The Armenia branch of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is one of the leading organizations helping and supporting them. The Highlights correspondent visited the office of the Association and asked **Harout Nercessian**, the Armenia representative of the Association, to tell us about their work. He particularly said:

- First of all, as soon as the war started, when Armenians all over the world were donating to Artsakh, AMAA joined the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's fundraising entitled "We are our borders, everyone for Artsakh" with one million dollars.

At the start of the war, I received an instruction from the Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association



of Artsakh, and educational programs for children, as well as various entertainment... our compatriots from Artsakh settled in five of our centers, - in different parts of Armenia. We also helped pay the rent for people who rented private

of Artsakh, and educational programs for children, as well as various entertainment...

Then I received an instruction from Mr. Khanjian to take care of all the needs of the children of Artsakh. First, we needed to provide the children with warm clothes, from underwear to coats and winter shoes. We intend to start with a thousand children, then gradually increase that number.

In partnership with *Teach for Armenia*, we are currently working on a program to provide Artsakh children with 500 tablets which will be equipped with various educational as well as psychological programs, so that the children can continue their education online and get help to deal with their war traumas. Within the framework of the "Infant Formula" program, we bought infant formula for more than a 200 newborns



tion of America, Mr. **Zaven Khanjian** to assist all the people of Artsakh who had to be evacuated to Armenia. Now that the war has ended and many of them are returning to their homes in the Republic of Artsakh, we are instructed to help them re-establish themselves in their homeland.

First, over two hundred and thirty of

apartments.

Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. **Melanya Geghamyan**, Principal of the "Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian" School of our association, many DPs (displaced persons) from Artsakh were kindly hosted by Armenian families in their apartments. Thus, we provided shelter, food, clothes to about 230 people



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up to one-year-old, and we are already distributing it. As you may know, a large number of Artsakh people have found refuge in the Town of Goris, so we have done serious work there, in cooperation the municipality, as well, distributing food, diapers, etc.

A specific example - the Governor of the Lori Marz (Province) Mr. **Andrey Ghukasyan** contacted us; at his request we assessed the needs of thirty families sheltered in Vanadzor to provide financial and humanitarian assistance. We are now expanding this program in other cities in the Marz.

When Artsakh President Mr. **Arayik Harutyunyan** appealed to the people of Artsakh to return to their homes, we immediately reopened our office in Stepanakert, where AMAA started its Artsakh services in 1995. The first office there was opened on July 15, 1998.

It should be noted that AMAA was the first Diaspora Armenian organization that was officially registered in Artsakh. For more than a year, our representative in Artsakh is Mr. **Victor Karapetyan**, who was in Artsakh during the entire duration of the war, and was bravely visiting basements and other various shelters, distributing food, hygienic items and other supplies to the people of Artsakh, who were sheltering from the bombings and other brutal attacks.

During the war, the building next to our Stepanakert office was bombed, as a result of which our office was quite damaged.

On November 15, early in the morning, eight of us from AMAA Yerevan office, along with two Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA) pastors left for Artsakh. There we held the first post-war worship service the ECA sanctuary, located in the AMAA Stepanakert office complex. Next, within six hours, we cleaned up the office, the AMAA Kindergarten building and the ECA sanctuary from the explosion debris, and covered the broken windows with plastic.



It is important to mention that during the war, over thirty Artsakh residents, mostly grandpas and grandmas, who did not want to leave their Homeland because their sons and grandsons were fighting, took refuge in our “Bedrosian” camp in Shushi. Our Shushi So-

food and other necessities to the evacuees.

It is worth mentioning that we have several facilities and services in Shushi. Every summer, the “Bedrosian” camp hosted about 800 children and teenagers. The “Bilezikian” Kindergarten and “Shogh” Children’s Educational Center served the children of Shushi. Unfortunately, some of the fiercest Shushi fighting was taking place right next to that camp . . . Thank God, we had no wounded or victims there... We are very proud of our employees. I cannot but mention our heroic Shushi Social Worker, Gayane Yeghiazaryan, who many years ago moved from Yerevan to serve at the Shushi “AMAA Shogh” Educational Day Center. She has dedicated her whole life to Shushi... I can say without exaggeration that throughout the war Gayane stayed in Shushi and served its population, often risking her life.

Our other long-time employee, **Lusine Ohanyan** from Yerevan, a brave woman, a strong believer, decided to go to Shushi and Stepanakert during the heaviest shellings.

I strictly forbade her to go, but she was relentless in her insistence. Eventually I let her go, as she insisted saying “God will protect



cial Worker, **Gayane Yeghiazaryan**, with assistance from our camp custodian, **Sarik**, ran the facilities, providing

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me.” And indeed . . . miraculously God protected her throughout her trip. Her car was packed with food, medical supplies and other necessities. Fearlessly she drove to Shushi and Stepanakert alone ... After that she went several times... Her heart is in Artsakh, really...

Before the war we had more than a hundred employees in Artsakh, some of whom are now in Armenia. We had “Shogh” centers in Shushi and Askeran; a summer camp in Shushi; AMAA offices and kindergartens in Mardakert, Stepanakert, Askeran and Shushi. We had a very active presence in Artsakh.

In April of this year, we built a two-story building on the campus of the “Bedrosian” Camp which was to serve as the Shushi AMAA office, and the ECA Christian education center. ... Now, unfortunately, all of that is not in our hands, but we all believe that it will all be ours again, **NO DOUBT !!!**

Regardless, we are determined to resume our active humanitarian, educational and various children service with increased determination and vigor in Artsakh. We are committed to the heroic people of Artsakh!

We expect a large grant from Holland. Our partner Dutch organization, “Mission Possible”, mediated for the Dutch Christian TV station EO-Metterdaad to come to Armenia and film the situation of the Artsakh evacuees. The documentary which they will broadcast will raise significant funds for the people of Artsakh.

I would like to inform you that our sister organizations, the Armenian Missionary Associations of Canada, Australia, and the French “Hope for Armenia” provide significant assistance to Artsakh through us.



An interesting fact - now the Press Officer of our Association, *Andranik Mardoyan* is sitting in front of us. On the initiative of his son *Khoren*, the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada sent two large containers of supplies. In addition, they are sending two minibuses to the AMAA serve the people of Artsakh and Armenia.

I must stress that we cooperate very closely with the French “Hope for Armenia” organization for the benefit of the people of Artsakh.

I consider it my duty to inform **The Highlights’s** honorable readers that since the 1988 earthquake, its first President was the Very Reverend Dr. *Rene Leonian*. Taking the opportunity kindly provided by the esteemed and oldest French/English **The Noyan Tapan Highlights** newspaper, let me remind you that Very Reverend Leonian was the Armenia and Artsakh Representative of the Armenian Missionary Association of America in the years 1994-2011. He was also the Senior Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Armenia in Armenia and Artsakh. During those years, he helped develop the vision and the strategy of the organization based on which we continue our work today.

P.S. ...When leaving AMAA office, just at its doors I met *Armen* and *Olya (Laura) Avanesyans* from Artsakh Maghavuz village. They came to say “Thank you” to the Association for its assistance because they decided to come back their native **BLESSED LAND**...(To note, their sons and even grandchildren fought in the name of Motherland!!!)



AND...As the Armenian Missionary Association press department (Head Andranik Mardoyan) informs **The Highlights...**

The Armenian branch of AMAA will receive two luxury minibuses from the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada

The cost of the buses and the transportation expenses were undertaken by two Armenian Canadians; the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Toronto, Canadian-Armenian philanthropist *Varuzhan Lapoyan* and *Raffi Tokmakjian*, President of “Tok Group” company donated two minibuses to the Armenian Missionary Association of America Armenia branch. Mr Tokmakjian is one of those well-known businessmen of the Canadian-Armenian community who has always been focused on the problems that Armenia and Artsakh faced and has repeatedly supported solutions for many problems.

Many thanks to Varuzhan Lapoyan and Raffi Tokmakjian for this exceptional donation.

God protect our Homeland !!!

Interviewed by *Gourgen James Khazhakian*,

Chief Correspondent, Honored Journalist of the Republic of Armenia (since 2014), holder of other both civil and military awards, writer and publicist

Senator Bernie Sanders cosponsors resolutions requiring review of Turkey and Azerbaijan human rights violations

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders cosponsors S.Res.754 and S.Res.755, the Armenian National Committee of America – Eastern region (ANCA-ER) reports.

On October 22 Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Bob Menendez (D-NJ) introduced two powerful resolutions calling on the State Department to report about Turkey and Azerbaijan’s human rights violations, and the role of U.S. security aid in the repression and aggression.

According to the office of Senator Menendez, the Azerbaijan resolution requests:

— All available information concerning alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Government of Azerbaijan within Azerbaijan;

— A description of the steps the U.S. has taken to promote observance of human rights in Azerbaijan;

— The Secretary’s opinion of whether extraordinary circumstances require a continuation of U.S. security assistance to Azerbaijan and all the facts suggesting such assistance is in the national interest of the U.S.;

— All available credible information con-



cerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Government of Azerbaijan throughout the South Caucasus;

— Information on the likelihood that U.S. security assistance has been or will be used in the South Caucasus by the Government of Azerbaijan;

— A description of the steps the U.S. has taken to discourage practices inimical to human rights by the Government of Azerbaijan in the South Caucasus, and to disassociate the U.S. and U.S. security assistance from them.

The Turkey resolution requests:

— All available information concerning alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Government of Turkey within Turkey;

— A description of the steps the U.S. has taken to promote observance of human rights in Turkey;

— The Secretary’s opinion of whether extraordinary circumstances require a continuation of U.S. security assistance to Turkey and all the facts suggesting such assistance is in the national interest of the U.S.;

— All available information concerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights by the Government of Turkey, its armed forces, and associated groups and persons in the south Caucasus, Syria, Libya, and Iraq;

— Information on whether U.S. security assistance has been or is likely to be used in the South Caucasus, Syria, Libya, or Iraq by the Government of Turkey;

— Information on whether U.S.-built F-16s have been used by the Government of Turkey in the South Caucasus;

— A description of steps the U.S. has taken to discourage practices inimical to human rights by the Government of Turkey in the south Caucasus, Syria, Libya, and Iraq, and to disassociate the U.S. and U.S. security assistance from them.



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Documents: (a) Valid Driving License of the Republic of Armenia and Georgia or International Driving License (b) Medical Fitness Certificate (c) Birth Certificate (d) Educational Certificates.

Age: 25-35 Years

Work Experience: 4 Years of driving experience with a reputed company or international organization (certificates from previous and present organization are required). Preference will be given to applicant with “No Accident Record” and he must be aware of routes in Yerevan, Tbilisi and other important cities in Armenia and Georgia.

Responsibilities: The person will be responsible for driving the diplomatic car of Embassy of India, Yerevan. He can be asked for staying back after office hours.

Interested candidates may address their Application/Curriculum Vitae to :

Head of Chancery

Embassy of India 50/2, India Street (Dzorapi Street), Yerevan, Armenia

By e-mail their resumes to the following emails:

hoc.yerevan@mea.gov.in

accounts.yerevan@mea.gov.in

Last Date for acceptance of application: December 25, 2020

Yerevan to host “Polish Days in Armenia”

Yerevan will host “Polish Days in Armenia” project December 7-9, 2020. The project is organized by “Róbmy swoje dla kultury” (Poland) Foundation and the Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival, in cooperation with the Polish Embassy in Armenia.

The project is co-financed by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage from the Culture Promotion Fund.

On December 7, 7pm the Dalan Art Gallery will host the openings of “Polish Days in Armenia” program and “Battle of Warsaw” photo exhibition which is provided by the Royal Łazienki Museum. The presentation of the film “18 Battle in the History of the World”, provided by the Polish History



Museum will take place during the vernissage. Dallan Gallery will also host the presentation of the book “Jozef Piłsudski” by Vladimir Sulea.

On December 8, 6pm the screening of the film “The Legions” by Dariusz Gajewski will take place at Moscow Cinema. On December 9, 4pm the screening of the film “The Messenger” by Władysław Pasikowski will take place at Moscow Cinema. Both films are translated into Arme-

nian.

On December 9 at 19:00 concert of Polish Classical Music will take place at the National Centre of Chamber Music.

During the concert Armenian String Quartet – Astghik Vardanyan (1st violin), Razmik Hovhannisyan (2nd violin), Vahagn Yeghishyan (viola), Hakob Atyan (cello), polish pianist Kuba Matuszczak as well as friends of the quartet will perform, presenting compositions by Wieniawski, Lipiński, Kazanecki, Dębski, Kilar.

Admission to the all events will be free.

PBS to air Armenian genocide documentary

A documentary co-written by Mary McDermott, an adjunct instructor in English at Penn State Brandywine, about the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide will air on Philadelphia’s public broadcasting station WHYY at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 8., the website of the Pennsylvania State University reports.



“What Will Become of Us” follows six Armenian Americans — famous and otherwise — as they navigate the 100th anniversary of the genocide, which began in 1915. According to the film’s website: “Their struggle speaks to the many immigrant communities who have experienced trauma. 100 years ago, Armenians were nearly annihilated by genocide. Today, often unrecognized, it remains defining — while the long shadow of the genocide creates a burden for young Armenian Americans, discouraging them from taking

up their culture.”

The project began as producer/co-director Stephanie Ayanian, a Penn State graduate, took the idea of making a film about Armenians in America to her filmmaking partners, Joseph Myers and Tom Keiter, also Penn State alumni. According to Ayanian, they decided to make a film that grappled with the long shadow of the Armenian genocide but was also forward-looking, one that would examine what brought Armenians to America, what they have accomplished since they have been here, and the

bright path that lies ahead in their future.

The film was co-written by McDermott and Greg Feinberg.

“Stephanie is a dear friend from my Temple MFA cohort,” McDermott explained. “Before working on this documentary, I thought I was aware of the many accomplishments of Armenian Americans thanks in part to our very long friendship. I also

thought I knew about the horrors of the Armenian genocide. But I realized after working on this project for over a year that I had previously known only a little about the trauma and hardships Armenians endured.”

“This film has deepened my appreciation and respect for Armenian Americans — for their indomitable strength — as well as for the people of Armenia,” McDermott added. “I find the people in this documentary and their work incredibly inspiring.”

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