

## November 22 declared a Day of Remembrance of fallen soldiers

President Armen Sarkissian held a meeting with His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians on November 13.

The President and the Catholicos made a call to declare next Sunday, November 22, the Day of Remembrance of the heroes who fell for the defense of the Motherland in the Artsakh Liberation War, to hold a memorial service in all Armenian churches around the world.

## “I am the number one official who bears entire responsibility for this all” – Pashinyan



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan reiterated that he personally bears entire responsibility for the latest developments in Artsakh, but at the same time he highlighted the need to explain all circumstances to the society.

“There is no doubt that I am the number one official who bears responsibility for what happened. I realize that due to this fact – perhaps this will sound harsh – I will stand before our people’s trial, but in this case the people must be able to make conclusions, they must know all circumstances of the case. Hearing out the very troops, the opposition and the government is an inseparable part of this process. I find it important that the developments that took place should be understandable,” Pashinyan said during an online news conference.

The PM also elaborated on the past negotiations process. He said that as of May 2018, the NK negotiations process had crossed the point of no-return when the issue had entered the “territories in exchange for nothing” logic. Pashinyan reminded that during those days, many Republicans were voicing their predictions, claiming that difficulties and surrender of territories will happen in Artsakh.

“There are three options in this case: Either these people are prophets, or the government and I are conspirators, or they knew back then on what point the negotiations process on Karabakh had stopped and where it had reached. My policy in this context was the following – to try and not agree to this all and to attempt to change the logic. And essentially, we

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## Armenian FM, UN chief discuss developments after Karabakh ceasefire

Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres have discussed the developments following the joint statement of the Armenian Prime Minister, the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Russia on ending the war and deployment of Russian peacekeepers.

Minister Mnatsakanyan stressed the need to hold discussions on all issues related to the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process exclusively within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship. In this regard, the UN Secretary General reaffirmed his support



for the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

Zohrab Mnatsakanyan comprehensively presented the humanitarian crisis created in Artsakh due to the Turkish-Azerbaijani aggression and the steps taken by the Artsakh and Armenian authorities to address

it. The interlocutors also referred to the involvement of the relevant UN bodies in addressing the consequences of the humanitarian crisis in Artsakh.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs stressed the need to protect and restore the rights of the displaced Artsakh Armenians, and the important role of the UN in that process within the framework of the international mandate entrusted

to it.

The sides stressed the need to preserve the Armenian historical and cultural heritage endangered in Artsakh due to the Azerbaijani occupation.

## President Sarkissian, AGBU's Berge Setrakian discuss developments around Artsakh



President Armen Sargsyan had a telephone conversation with Berge Setrakian, President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

They exchanged views on the latest developments around Artsakh and the situation in the country in that context.

The interlocutors stressed the significance and importance of the settlement of the Karabakh conflict for the whole nation.

Noting that, due to the situation, all Armenians are in great pain today, they agreed that they should be able to maintain the country's stability and national unity.

The interlocutors noted that Artsakh has huge humanitarian problems today, and each of us must contribute to their solution so that we can overcome all difficulties together.

## Armenian, Russian FM's discuss future activities over Nagorno Karabakh

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held a telephone conversation with Armenian FM Zohrab Mnatsakanyan on November 15. ARMENPRESS reports, citing the statement issued by the Russian MFA, the Ministers discussed the implementation process of the November 9 declaration signed between the leaders of Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, including the issues of the deployment of the Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone.

Sergey Lavrov informed about the plans



of the Interdepartmental Center for Humanitarian Response established by the instruction of the Russian President on

November 13.

The Foreign Ministers stressed the importance of establishing cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNESCO, the United Nations Development Program, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other multilateral organizations for easing the situation of civilians in the conflict zone and preserving religious and cultural sites.

## PM chairs meeting on provision of social security guarantees to families of killed soldiers



A meeting chaired by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan covered issues of provision of social guarantees for the families of servicemen killed in the war and persons with disabilities.

“One of the important directions of our future activities should be the issue of social guarantees for the families of servicemen killed during the war, as well as for servicemen with disabilities,” the Prime Minister said.

“Today we have gathered to discuss the situation around the Soldiers’ Insurance Fund, that is, to see what we have and what needs to be done to ensure the full opera-

tion of the fund. We also need to discuss what additional tools we have in order to make the fund’s activities more stable and comprehensive,” he added.

The activities carried out within the framework of the Soldiers’ Insurance Fund to ensure social guarantees, the mechanisms of lump sum and monthly payments, the measures envisaged to expand the fund’s resources were presented.

Haykak Arshamyan, Executive Director of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, presented information on the funds raised within the framework of the “We are our borders” campaign, the directions of their use and goals.

Reference was also made to the implementation of social assistance programs for our compatriots in Artsakh.

The Prime Minister instructed the officials to carry out work in the above-mentioned directions in the most organized, purposeful and targeted manner.

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can say that unfortunately we didn’t succeed, because we were facing a situation when there was an international consensus that the territories must be returned to Azerbaijan without preconditions. And we, indeed, were unable to change this logic, and perhaps we didn’t accurately assess the possibilities for changing them. On the other hand, if we didn’t accurately assess it, then what should we had done? Adapt with that reality? I couldn’t adapt with that and I tried to increase Armenia’s resistibility regarding this issue. I tried to do everything in order to increase the level of capabilities of the Armenian military,” he said.

Pashinyan said the accusations in his address are contradicting one another. He said on one hand there are accusations for signing a document on surrendering territories, and on the other hand there are accusations on why it wasn’t done earlier.

“Our army, our military fought and resisted for as long as it had a concrete strategic and tactical purpose and meaning. On the other hand, we are again accused in contradicting things. We are accused for the victims of war; we are accused that we took that step-in order to avoid victims and not allow the blockade of 20-35 thousand people. I bear entire responsibility for this all, but to bear it fully I find it necessary for all circumstances to be explained to the public,” Pashinyan said

## Armenian National Security Service prevents assassination of the Prime Minister and plot to seize power

The National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia has prevented the assassination of a statesman by a group of persons with prior consent, attempts to seize the powers of the Government of the Republic of Armenia through violence, as well as cases of illegal acquisition and possession of weapons, ammunition, explosives by a group of persons for that purpose.

In particular, the NSS says, a resident of Syunik region identified as A. M., disagreeing with the foreign and domestic policy pursued by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Prime Minister, took advantage of the presence of weapons and ammunition in the conflict zone during the hostilities unleashed against the Artsakh Republic on September 27, 2020, entered into a preliminary agreement with a group of people, illegally transported a large amount of weapons, ammunition, explosives, explosive devices and stored them in



one of the buildings in the city of Sisian, Syunik region.

“Moreover, during the hostilities and immediately after they ended, the mentioned person reached agreements with leaders of parties operating in Armenia and the Artsakh Republic, politicians with anti-government views, and their supporters to seize power by using illegally possessed weapons and ammunition as a tool of crime, assassinate the Prime Minister and take over the powers of the Government of the Republic of Armenia,” the NSS said, adding that the names of possible candi-

dates to replace the Prime Minister had also been discussed.

The particularly serious crimes being prepared were revealed and thwarted by the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia.

The leader of the “Hayrenik” (Homeland) Party A. V., former MP, head of the Republican Party of Armenia faction V. B., member of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation A. A., as well as the commander of the Sisian volunteer detachment A. M. have been arrested on suspicion of being involved in the conspiracy. Investigative actions are under way to reveal other members of the group, to prevent and neutralize their criminal activities.

*The NSS reminds that a person suspected or accused of an alleged crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty in accordance with the RA Criminal Procedure Code by a court judgment that has entered into force.*

## Statement on ending the war in Karabakh not a political document on conflict settlement – Armenian PM



The statement on ending war in Nagorno Karabakh is not a political document on conflict settlement, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in an interview with

Public TV.

According to him, there are terms and sentences in the statement that need to be interpreted and become a political content.

“Actually, the discussions are yet to start, and this discussion is going to be of diplomatic nature. And that discussion, I think, will take a very long time. Because, I want to draw the attention of all of us to the fact, that this is a document on the cessation of hostilities,” the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister also noted that the document is not just about, or at least not just about handing over, but keeping lands. Because, he says, it was created in a situation when the lives of about 30 thousand of our soldiers were at risk.

“The cornerstone factor that led to the signing of that statement was the fact that the city of Stepanakert had actually been left defenseless after the fall of Shushi. Then automatically Askeran, Martakert, that is, 20-30 thousand of our soldiers, depending on the scenarios, would be under siege,” PM Pashinyan said.

## Putin, Macron discuss situation in Nagorno Karabakh

During a phone conversation on November 16 Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron have discussed the development of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Kremlin said.

Vladimir Putin informed his French counterpart about the active mediating efforts undertaken by the Russian side, “which made it possible to stop the bloodshed and avoid new casualties,” as well as the deployment of the Russian peacekeeping contingent along the contact line and the Lachin corridor.



It was noted that the Statement of the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Russia and the Prime Minister of Armenia of November 9 is being implemented, the situation in the region has generally stabilized.

Expressing their readiness to coordinate within the framework of the OSCE Minsk

Group co-chairmanship – Russia, France and the United States – the leaders emphasized the importance of resolving urgent humanitarian issues, including the return of refugees to their places of permanent residence, ensuring conditions for the normal life of the population, restoring infrastructure, preserving Christian churches and monasteries. In this regard, the President of Russia announced the creation of a Russian Center for Humanitarian Response.

Some issues of bilateral cooperation were touched upon, including in the field of joint fight against terrorist threat.

## Pompeo calls Turkey’s recent actions “very aggressive”

The U.S. administration and Europe need to work jointly on addressing actions led by Turkey in the Middle East over the past few months, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told French daily newspaper Le Figaro, reports Reuters.

“France’s president Emmanuel Macron and I agree that Turkey’s recent actions have been very aggressive,” Pompeo said, citing Turkey’s recent support to Azerbai-

jan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as well as military moves in Libya and the Mediterranean.

“Europe and the U.S. must work together to convince Erdogan such actions are not in the interest of his people,” Pompeo said, referring to Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan.

Pompeo said increased use of Turkey’s military capability was a concern.



## The battle can be lost, but it is inadmissible to lose as a nation – President Sarkissian addresses

President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian addressed the nation, noting that only through unity we will be able to straighten our backs that have bent under the burden of defeat.

The address runs as follows,

“Dear compatriots in Armenia, Artsakh and Diaspora,

The world-spread Armenian nation is now living one of the most decisive periods of our millennia-old history.

The goals we were striving for all together after the long-awaited independence of the motherland have been shaken.

We lost the war that was imposed on us, both on the battlefield and in the diplomatic and international arenas.

I once again extend my condolences to the families and relatives of the victims and wish the injured a speedy recovery.

We are the offspring of the people who survived the Genocide and overcame it.

The battle can be lost, but it is inadmissible to lose as a nation.

The house burned down with one’s own hands, the lost homeland can be restored in only one way, rediscovering our victory, building a state of which we will all be truly proud.

And we can definitely do it, soberly assessing the situation, learning from the mistakes made, and being consolidated for a national revival.

No matter how different our assessments can be for the past, the fact is that we are all facing unprecedented problems.

Artsakh is seriously injured.

We have a turbulent society.

The vulnerable economy is overwhelmed by huge social problems.

There is a humanitarian catastrophe as a result of the large flow of people from Artsakh to Armenia.

The situation is extremely complicated also considering the pandemic.

Finally, the Armenian spirit is pierced in any corner of the world.

Our country today is no longer the country we had on September 26; it is not even what we had on November 8.



We cannot ignore this reality and continue living our normal lives.

During the last few days, in line with the imperative of the moment, I held dozens of political consultations, meetings with parliamentary and extra-parliamentary forces, various non-governmental organizations and individuals. I have had telephone conversations with our compatriots from different structures of the Diaspora.

The absolute majority of the participants of the meetings share the same opinion - the resignation or termination of powers of the Prime Minister in accordance with the Constitution - early parliamentary elections.

It is obvious that despite the cessation of the war, the Republic of Artsakh, the Republic of Armenia and the entire Armenian people are entering a period of new challenges where every mistake can have catastrophic consequences.

In this situation, there is no alternative for the Armenian people than to be united.

These days, each of us, especially politicians, government officials, must demonstrate high sense of responsibility and restraint, focusing our efforts exclusively on finding ways to overcome the crisis.

In this situation, I want to address the law enforcement bodies.

You have a great responsibility today, first of all to ensure discipline in our country, to be strong, determined, but at the same time, every time, on every occasion, remembering that in front of you is your sister or brother.

Any deviation, any violation of the law, is unacceptable and unforgivable. I call on you to uphold and protect the law and legality.

My observations based on meetings and consultations are as follows:

Given the current situation and the imperative to overcome it with dignity, listening to the public demand, it is obvious that in order to keep the country from shaking, early elections to the National Assembly will be inevitable.

In this context, in my opinion, the only responsible approach may be the objective assessment of the potential of the government and the ruling political force, to present a roadmap in a short period of time, which will provide deadlines for initiating relevant constitutional processes, as a result of which it will be possible to hold extraordinary parliamentary elections, and the state administration will be handed over to a highly qualified National Accord government during that period.

My above-mentioned observations aimed at overcoming the crisis for the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Artsakh and the whole Armenian people living in different countries of the world in these difficult days are based exclusively on national interests.

I hope that all the political forces will realize the responsibility of the moment, will fulfill their part of the historical mission with dignity.

I would like to remind you that today everyone is carefully watching Armenia, both our friends and our enemies.

We have no other duty but to strengthen our country.

We have no choice but to unite the people, ignoring any step or speech that threatens to divide the society.

Only through unity we will be able to straighten our backs that have bent under the burden of defeat, to present ourselves and future generations and the world community as the children of a nation that is impossible to defeat.

I am confident that the Armenian people will overcome the difficult situation with honor and victory.

God bless us all”.

## Arsen V. Ghazaryan: If the Right Program is Developed, We'll Have Economy Growth, Inspite the Pandemic and the War

The guest of the Radio Liberty is the President of the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia Mr. Arsen V. Ghazaryan

- Mr. Ghazaryan, yesterday the representatives of the government published in the National Assembly main figures on the Armenian economy, in particular, it was mentioned that this year the Armenian economy will have 6% decline, and the Minister of Finance did not rule out that it will be 6.8% decline. And, about a week ago the Chairman of the Central Bank spoke on even higher indicator, - about 7%.

*So what can you say, what do these numbers mean, what is the current situation in the Armenian economy in the opinion of our businessmen?*

- First about the figures.

Since March, as the Covid19 pandemic emergency situation has been declared, plus a month we've been in war, several times I myself, and members of our Union, have publicly said that this decline, as predicted by both the World Bank and our Central Bank, and the government reports - 6, 6.5, 7%, - they are quite tolerable figures for the current situation. I always remember the financial and economic crisis of 2008-2009, when our GDP fell to 14%, after which we were able to restore the economy and even provide some serious growth.

This year's losses, reasoned by various factors, do not mean catastrophe, not at all, for the further growth of the economy. See, we have been in war for a month, but Armenia's imports and exports figures not decreased significantly. In all the cargo complexes, when we monitor the number of cargoes every day, there is a one, two percent, three percent decrease. Exports, due to the unprecedented quantitative growth of the mining industry as well, do not have significant losses as well.

The most important thing we see in the economy today is that businessmen manage to keep their jobs. And see, the Prime Minister mentioned a few days ago that he was pleasantly surprised



that the budget revenues will be 48 billion drams more this year, because the businessmen have shown such a behavior. So, it is not only due that we understand situation, we are patriotic, we feel social responsibility, or we each want to show results...

That is the image of the real economy that gives an opportunity to have incomes. It is clear that in this 48 billion revenue growth, there is a significant reduction of the so-called «shadow» economy.

And I mentioned a few days ago that I also respect much my colleagues, as the image of (the great Armenian businessman and benefactor of the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century) Alexander Mantashov is step by step becoming a unique stance for them, and each of us understands that the power of society, the power for our victory, first of all, is in keeping a clean, healthy economy. is to keep. And what will happen next if we can analyze today's problems well and take a few steps?

First, new markets, working with the new markets, re-profiling of the economy. See, we have been talking for more than a month, we have also expressed our attitude towards Turkish products, their exclusion, ban, so we have a problem of working with other markets here as well. So if we can re-arrange ourselves correctly, learning from those hard 2020 results, in 2021 we will have growth rates again.

This is the analysis of all the branches of our **living** and **working** economy. If we put aside the sphere of tourism, hotel service, that suffers the biggest stroke from the pandemic, in other branches we have stable, manageable situation...

- Mr. Ghazaryan, if we try to summarize, what result do you see by the end of 2020, if we try to speak in numbers? You said the government, international organizations put the figure at 6 to 7 percent for the decline. Do you have a prediction of those figures ?

- As to the figures, we also accept those numbers as the real ones, but I do not consider it very significant, that 1-1.5% increase, I consider, first of all, stability of our banking financial system, the continuity of long-term contracts of my partners and the very important thing is the keeping jobs that is reducing of serious social tensions, and keeping jobs while implementing serious programs the next year, this is important, you see, the government has more than 24 tools to fight the pandemic sequenses, and today it has developed and implemented program for the aftermath of the war.

And we can clearly see some results, both for small and medium-sized businesses, and also for large businesses. And today, if to ignore in some extent some problems connected with financial streams, we did not have more or less serious losses due to both the pandemic and the war, we are fighting in the rear, providing everything for the front line, paying taxes, making the largest donations.

Tomorrow I am going to make the next appeal to my colleagues, whether our Union members or not, in general, to all the Armenian businessmen, to double the 1000 drams our employees has been donating the Military Servicemen's Insurance Fund at our expense, to become widespread, permanent, because with that we just strengthen that Fund twice. And that is not a great burden for an employer, I believe, and each of us must sign agreements with the mentioned Fund, and to double our employees' donation by the end of month.

**To be continued**

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## First refugees return to Artsakh



(RFE/RL) - First groups of ethnic Armenian refugees returned to Nagorno-Karabakh on Saturday four days after a Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement stopped the Armenian-Azerbaijani war.

According to authorities in Stepanakert, the six-week war displaced at least 90,000 Karabakh Armenian civilians making up around 60 percent of the territory's population. Most of them took refuge in Armenia.

The authorities urged the refugees to return home immediately after the entry into force of the truce. The Karabakh president, Ara Harutiunyan, assured them that the impending deployment of about 2,000 Russian peacekeepers in and around Karabakh will serve as an additional guarantee of their security.

Harutiunyan also said that his administration will act quickly to restore many homes and public infrastructures damaged during the fierce fighting.

On November 13 Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with senior Armenian government officials to discuss further aid programs for the Karabakh refugees.

"Our priority is to have them receive that aid in Artsakh (Karabakh)," Pashinyan said in his opening remarks at the meeting. "That is to say that it must be a program that will contribute to the return of our compatriots to Artsakh."

Yerevan Mayor Hayk Marutyan met, meanwhile, with Harutiunyan in Stepanakert. It was announced afterwards that Yerevan's municipal administration will

provide buses that will transport refugees from the Armenian capital to Karabakh free of charge on a daily basis.

About 200 refugees were bused to Stepanakert on November 14. Among them was Tatevik Hovakimyan, a resident of the Karabakh capital whose home was seriously damaged by Azerbaijani shelling.

"Never mind, we will somehow get by," Hovakimyan told RFE/RL's Armenian Service. "The main thing is to return home, to be in our land. We are used to difficulties. We will overcome this one as well."

"Whether or not it's dangerous, we must go back, we have no other option," said Inna Sarukhyan, another Stepanakert



resident.

Arevik Abrahamyan, another Karabakh Armenian woman, likewise chose to return to Askeran, a small town 10 kilometers east of Stepanakert, despite being wary of lingering security risks. "It's dangerous, but where else could we live if we don't go back?" she said.

## Lithuania provides 75 thousand euros for those affected by Nagorno-Karabakh conflict



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania has allocated 75 thousand euros to

provide humanitarian aid for those affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh armed conflict.

The funds will be transferred to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Since 1992, the International Committee of the Red Cross has been the only international organization in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Yerevan (Armenia) and Baku (Azerbaijan).

Since the beginning of the conflict, ICRC has registered the missing, sought

out their fate, visited the detainees and provided the necessary medical assistance to the wounded.

Furthermore, ICRC cooperates with both conflicting parties' representatives in finding solutions for civil protection and civilian as well as military object differentiation.

The allocated funds will contribute to the effective implementation of the previously mentioned activities. In 2020, Lithuania allocated more than 900 thousand euros for humanitarian aid.

## ANCC urges PM Trudeau to recognize Artsakh and ban all arms sales to Turkey and Azerbaijan

On November 13, 2020, the Armenian National Committee of Canada (ANCC) issued a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, regarding the latest developments in Artsakh and to express the Armenian-Canadian community's collective outrage regarding the destructive use of Canadian technology by Azerbaijan.

In the letter, the ANCC addressed the grievous peace agreement that was signed on November 9, 2020, by Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and urged Canada to go beyond just statements and take decisive action to save the Republic of Artsakh and permanently ban the destructive and irresponsible sale of arms technology to Turkey.

The letter, signed by ANCC Co-Presidents Hrag Darakdjian and Shahan Mirakian said "This disastrous agreement poses a very real threat to the long-term stability and security in the South Caucasus region. Moreover, the ramifications of this agreement will pose a significant danger to the national identity of Armenia and Artsakh, will de-stabilize Armenia's economic potential, threaten the demographic composition of the region, all the while paving the way for Turkey and Azerbaijan to continue their state-sponsored campaigns of ethnic cleansing and cultural appropriation in Artsakh and beyond."

The so-called trilateral peace agreement was signed outside the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship that since 1990's has been responsible for the mediation of the conflict.

The letter also addressed the complete absence of decisive action from Canada and the rest of the international community that allowed Turkey and Azerbaijan to continue their crimes with impunity.

"The international community and Canada not only failed in condemning Turkey and Azerbaijan, but they also weren't able to sustain the internationally accepted mediation process through the OSCE Minsk



Group, allowing rogue states such as Turkey to impose their will on the international community. This is the direct result of the international community's reluctance and refusal to properly condemn the aggressors and hide behind a negotiation process that they couldn't even impose." read part of the letter.

Moreover, the use of Canadian drone technology by Azerbaijan was strongly criticized, noting that without the use of such sophisticated technology, Azerbaijan would have not had the necessary strategic advantage over Armenia nor the ability to kill scores of innocent Armenians.

"Whatever the arrangements or ill-advised considerations may have been to grant these destructive exemptions, the government must come clean and realize that the Turkish Bayraktar TB2 drones, illegally transferred to Azerbaijan, equipped with their most essential feature – the WES-CAM target acquisition gear – is what gave the Azerbaijani Army the advantage over the less sophisticatedly equipped Defense Army of Artsakh. That very advantage has now led us to today's egregious peace agreement and the effective destruction of the Republic of Artsakh." said Darakdjian and Mirakian in the letter.

In late October, the ANCC had asked the government to dispatch diplomatic staff from the Moscow Embassy to Yerevan, in order to verify the evidence first hand and conclude the investigation. Despite many attempts, no action was taken.

"Canadians deserve answers as to why

and how these exemptions were made in the first place, given that in October 2019, the government placed a ban on all arms exports to Turkey. That very exemption not only has cost the lives of innocent Armenian civilians, it has had a very negative impact on Canada's international reputation as a peacemaking nation. This alone warrants a much stronger position that must be adopted by the Government of Canada against

the joint Turkish-Azerbaijani aggression." added Darakdjian and Mirakian.

To this effect, the ANCC urged the government to go beyond just statements and take decisive and swift action based on a number of policy suggestions that were listed in the letter.

The policy suggestions urge the government to; 1) Recognize the independence of the Republic of Artsakh to bring lasting peace and deter a second genocide of the Armenian people, 2) Enforce a permanent and unconditional ban on arms sales to Turkey and Azerbaijan in light of the irrefutable evidence that is now publicly available, 3) Publicly condemn the ongoing aggression from Turkey and Azerbaijan, 4) Establish a permanent Embassy in the Republic of Armenia, 5) Continue working with NATO allies to impose the necessary sanctions on Turkey and reconsider its membership. Apply similar sanctions on Azerbaijan, 6) Advocate for the peaceful and just settlement of the conflict within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship that recognizes and respects Artsakh's Independence and right to self-determination,

The ANCC is committed to working with government to continue advocating for the full and unconditional recognition of the Republic of Artsakh and for all other related matters to ensure the Armenian people's safety, security and right to independence and self-determination.



## Armenia defense ministry has not sold any weapon or ammunition to Turkey through any channel – spox



Armenian defense ministry's spokesperson Shushan Stepanyan has commented on the reports according to which the defense ministry of Armenia has sold weapons and ammunition to Turkey via a private company, and that weapons then appeared in the hands of pro-Turkish terrorists in Syria.

The spokesperson also commented on the reports relating to Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan, as well as the ministry.

Shushan Stepanyan stated on social media that Armenia's defense ministry has never sold any type of weapon or ammunition to Turkey through any channel.

"Since yesterday, a number of obvious and more likely directed fake claims are being widely spread by some media outlets and Facebook users, aimed at putting a shadow on the reputation of the Armenian defense ministry. Not so much going further on the goals and selection of the applied tools of that dirty information campaign and leaving it to the actions of the law enforcement agencies, we consider it necessary to respond to some provisions presented in that reports:

1. Armenia's defense ministry has sold weapons and ammunition to Turkey via a private company, from where it then appeared in the hands of pro-Turkish terrorists in Syria.

This is a total and brazen lie. Armenia's defense ministry has never sold any type of weapon or ammunition to Turkey through any channel. Most of the documents attached to the report are interpreted in a distorted way, and this disinformation is being formed based on this distortion.

By the way, having the fact of the actual leak of official documents of the state agency, it becomes very remarkable that the aforementioned documents have been confiscated by the National Security Service of Armenia for examination back in 2018.

2. It is allegedly presented that Armenia's defense ministry has lent 3.5 million USD to a private company for unknown reasons, and the head of that company has friendly ties with defense minister Davit Tonoyan.

This is a total and brazen lie. The defense ministry has provided that loan to that company to ensure the continuation of arms supply to Armenia from a third country. Moreover, at the moment of providing the loan, that company has already delivered a part of the ordered ammunition, the cost of which was more than the provided one. And the total cost of the deal was much more than the amount of the mentioned loan.

3. It is stated that at the beginning of the

war, some private individuals have proposed the defense ministry to purchase body armor from Russia at 300 USD, but the ministry rejected this offer and then acquired the same body armor at over 1000 USD through another private company.

This is a total and brazen lie. The defense ministry, in accordance with the respective contracts signed between Armenia and Russia, acquires Russian-made weapons, ammunition and armament at the Russian domestic prices. In this particular case, the aforementioned body armors, as well as respective armored helmets with a limited amount have been acquired exclusively for special divisions through the Russian state structures.

4. It is also stated that during the war launched on September 27 Armenia's defense minister Davit Tonoyan allegedly was in Maldives to attend a birthday party of one of his friends.

This is a total and brazen lie. At the beginning and the day before the war Davit Tonoyan has been in Kazakhstan for participating in the Caucasus-2020 multinational military drills, and a respective official news release has been provided. Upon the start of the war the minister returned to Armenia, but had to make his return through the territory of a third country, in particular Bulgaria due to the limited air communication caused by the coronavirus. This fact can be easily checked through respective inquiries", the spokesperson stated.

Armenia's defense ministry strongly condemns the spread of such kind of fake reports, viewing this as a criminal activity aimed at distorting the security grounds of the country and urges the media outlets spreading these reports to deny them. The ministry also expects an operative response from the law enforcement agencies in finding the authors who spread these documents and launching respective legal processes.

## World Council of Churches calls on UNESCO to protect holy sites in Artsakh



The executive committee of the World Council of Churches (WCC) has called on UNESCO to take all possible and appropriate measures to protect these sites.

“We join with His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, in praying for wisdom, unity and calm,” the Council of Churches said after the announcement of the trilateral agreement to end the war in Karabakh.

“We grieve with all those who have suffered terrible losses not only in the renewed fighting since 27 September, but throughout the long history of the struggle for self-determination in the region, entrenching antagonism more deeply with each precious life lost,” WCC said in a statement.

“We stand in solidarity with the Armenian communities that are threatened by the renewal of the genocide against their people, particularly in light of the egregious comments made by Turkish President Erdogan vowing to “fulfil this mission, which our grandfathers have carried out for centuries, in the Caucasus region” and in light of Turkey’s role in the current conflict. The WCC condemns any such threats, explicit or implicit, and the actions of those who have insinuated themselves in the conflict and exacerbated its violence, including by supplying internationally-banned weapons, sending mercenaries and jihadists from Syria and elsewhere, and seeking to turn it into a religious conflict,” the statement reads.

The WCC condemned the use of chemical weapons and cluster munitions, the targeting of civilians, hospitals and public infrastructure, and all other war crimes, beatings, torture and other atrocities wit-

nessed in the past weeks.

They also appealed for respect for the holy sites and cultural heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh, though the repeated shelling of the Ghazanchetsots Cathedral in Shushi on 8 October and the numerous reports being received of other more recent desecrations indicate a different reality. They also urged UNESCO to take all possible and appropriate measures to protect these sites.

“We call urgently upon all members of the international community to join in supporting efforts for the protection of such holy sites, for the return in safety and dignity of all refugees and displaced people, for protection of the Armenian people from the threat of genocide, for a lasting peace founded on justice and human rights for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh/Artsakh and the wider region, and to refrain from instigating or encouraging antagonism, conflict and injustice,” the World Council of Churches said.

“We lift up and accompany the continuing ministry and witness of the churches of the region, and pray that the church leaders may be given strength and wisdom to guide their people through this crisis,” the Council concluded.

## Armenian Ghazanchetsots Church in Shushi vandalized

The Armenian Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport has appealed to the relevant international bodies to immediately prevent cultural vandalism on territories occupied by Azerbaijan.

The Ministry is in constant contact with UNESCO and other international organizations dealing with the protection of cultural values to draw their attention to the issue that the Armenian historical and cultural heritage and archeological sites in Artsakh are endangered.



In the territories under the control of Azerbaijan, there are many structures of religious and civilizational significance,

monuments, various works of art, ancient sites, the preservation of which is jeopardized, the Ministry says.

Given the previous examples of deliberate destruction of Armenian cultural heritage by Azerbaijan, and the recent desecration of the Ghazanchetsots Church in Shushi, as well as cases of violation of UN and Council of Europe commitments, the Armenian Ministry calls on international organizations to adhere to the mission undertaken, to take immediate and decisive steps to prevent and condemn the manifestations of Azerbaijani vandalism.

## Baroness Caroline Cox visits Artsakh, meets Ombudsman

On November 13, the Ombudsman of the Republic of Artsakh Artak Beglaryan received a delegation led by member of the British House of Lords, Baroness Caroline Cox, who arrived in Artsakh together with the Ombudsman of the Republic of Armenia Arman Tatoyan. The Ombudsman presented the war crimes committed by Azerbaijan



from September 27 to November 9 as well as the results of the fact-finding mission carried out during the Azerbaijani aggression. He noted that during the war the Human Rights Ombudsman published 2 interim



reports on Azerbaijani atrocities, three non-public reports on the inhuman treatment of the Armenian prisoners of war and

dead bodies of servicemen, one report on the targeting of the Ghazanchetsots Holy Savior Cathedral in Shushi, and one report on the violation of children's rights, as well as a joint report with the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Armenia on the use of chemical weapons.

The recorded facts are more than enough for international human rights organizations, the international community in general, to take appropriate steps to properly condemn Azerbaijan's criminal behavior, Artak Beglaryan said.

Baroness Caroline Cox stressed that for many years she had been raising the issue of the rights of the people of Artsakh on international platforms, and during the war, called on the concerned structures to take

practical steps to protect the rights of the people of Artsakh.

The Baroness emphasized that she supports the fair struggle of the Artsakh people for their rights and freedoms, and the international community must pay decent attention to the current needs and problems.

Artak Beglaryan detailed the humanitarian catastrophe in Artsakh and pointed out the directions of international assistance that can be used to overcome the current hard situation.

After the meeting, the delegation, accompanied by the Ombudsman, visited a number of civilian buildings destroyed as a result of Azerbaijani aggression.



## Artsakh's President briefs Baroness Cox on Azerbaijan's large-scale aggression

Artsakh President Arayik Harutyunyan received Member of the House of Lords, Baroness Caroline Cox and her delegation.

The President thanked Baroness Cox for supporting the people of Artsakh at the most challenging times, for her humanitarian activity in Artsakh.

During the meeting the interlocutors touched upon the large-scale war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh, with direct involvement of Turkey and foreign mercenary terrorists, recent developments around the Azerbaijani-Karabakh



conflict, the November 10 statement by Armenia's Prime Minister, Presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan on complete ceasefire and termination of all hostilities in

Nagorno Karabakh and its provisions, as well as subsequent developments.

Baroness Cox briefed on the steps she undertook during the war to condemn Azerbaijani criminal conduct and raise awareness on various international platforms about the legitimate struggle of the Artsakh people for their rights and freedoms, underlined the imperative to take measures to address on ground the humanitarian crisis resulting from the Turkish-Azerbaijani aggression in Artsakh.

## Official text of Nagorno Karabakh armistice



The Armenian Prime Minister's Office has published the official text of the statement signed by Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin on ending the war in Nagorno Karabakh.

“Statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the President of the Russian Federation

10.11.2020

We, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin state the following:

1. We hereby declare that a complete ceasefire shall be established and all hostilities shall be stopped in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone as of 00:00 Moscow time on November 10, 2020.

The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, shall remain at their current positions.

2. Aghdam region shall be returned to the Republic of Azerbaijan until No-

vember 20, 2020.

3. Peacekeeping troops of the Russian Federation shall be deployed along the line of contact in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor, including 1,960 servicemen with firearms, 90 armored personnel carriers, 380 units of motor vehicles and special equipment.
4. The peacekeeping troops of the Russian Federation are being deployed in parallel with the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces. The peacekeeping troops of the Russian Federation shall stay there for a period of 5 years, with automatic extension for the next 5-year periods, if none of the Parties declares of its intention to terminate the application of this provision 6 months before the expiration of the preceding period.
5. A peacekeeping center shall be deployed to monitor the ceasefire with a view to increasing the effectiveness of control over the implementation of the agreements reached by the Parties to the conflict.
6. The Republic of Armenia shall return the Kelbajar region to the Republic of Azerbaijan by November 15, 2020, and the Lachin region by December

1, 2020. The Lachin corridor (5 km wide), which will provide for communication between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia and at the same time will not affect the city of Shushi, shall remain under the control of the peacekeeping troops of the Russian Federation.

The Parties have agreed that a plan for the construction of a new route along the Lachin corridor shall be determined within the next three years, providing communication between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, with the subsequent redeployment of Russian peacekeeping troops to protect this route.

The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee traffic safety for citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions along the Lachin corridor.

7. Internally displaced persons and refugees shall return to Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent areas under the control of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.
8. An exchange of prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons and bodies of the dead is to be carried out.
9. All economic and transport links in the region shall be unblocked. The Republic of Armenia guarantees the safety of transport links between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic with a view to organizing the unimpeded movement of citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions. Control over transport communication is exercised by the Border Guard Service bodies of the FSS of Russia.

The Parties agree that the construction of new transport communications linking the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic with the western regions of Azerbaijan shall be provided.”

## US must reengage in negotiations on Nagorno Karabakh – Rep. Katherine Clark

Congresswoman Katherine Clark released the below statement on the Nagorno Karabakh Peace Deal:

“My thoughts are with Armenians around the world during this difficult time. I too am devastated by the unjust terms of the ceasefire agreement forced upon the people of Armenia and Artsakh by Russia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan.

Under these terms thousands of Armenians would be displaced, the long-term security of Artsakh would be denied, and Azerbaijan’s unrepentant aggression



against Armenians would be rewarded.

The Trump administration should have used all diplomatic means at its disposal to meaningfully condemn Azerbaijani and Turkish human rights abusers, put an end

to the hostilities, and bring about a return to peaceful negotiations.

This failure of American leadership is unacceptable. Our inaction has put many lives at risk and jeopardized the path to peace. The United States must now reengage on negotiations for a lasting and fair settlement through the OSCE Minsk Group that allows for all displaced Armenians to safely return to their homes.

It is my hope that the next administration will do more to end U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan, hold Turkey to account for its involvement in the conflict, and support the people of Artsakh’s right to self-determination.”

## Putin tells Aliyev the Christian churches must be preserved



During Russian President Vladimir Putin’s regular contacts with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Prime Min-

ister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, practical aspects of the implementation of the agreements enshrined in the trilateral statement on Nagorno-Karabakh of November 9 were discussed, Kremlin’s press service reports.

They expressed satisfaction with the fact that the ceasefire is being observed, and the situation on the contact line is quite calm.

In a conversation with Ilham Aliyev, Vladimir Putin, in particular, drew atten-

tion to the fact that Christian churches and monasteries are located in the regions that are shall be handed over to Azerbaijan in accordance with the Trilateral Statement.

In this regard, he emphasized the importance of ensuring the preservation of those shrines and ensuring their normal functioning.

“The President of Azerbaijan showed understanding in this regard and said that the Azerbaijani side would act in this vein,” the Kremlin said.

## Macron reiterates readiness to help build lasting and acceptable political solution in Nagorno Karabakh

French President Emmanuel Macron held a telephone conversation with Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, the Elysee Palace reports.

The leader of France expressed readiness to contribute to finding a fair, stable and acceptable solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

“The President expressed his satisfaction over the cessation of military operations, reiterated his friendship with



Armenia and the Armenian people, as well

as expressed his readiness to find a lasting and acceptable solution for all sides of the NK conflict”, the statement says.

*Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a statement on a full ceasefire and cessation of all military actions in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone since 01:00 Yerevan Time on November 10.*

## Montevideo recognizes the independence of Artsakh

The Montevideo Departmental Council has approved a declaration in which it recognizes the independence of the Republic of Artsakh and denounces the agreement to end the war signed by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia, which, it says is a “consequence of the illegal use of force and not of authentic balanced negotiations as established by the UN.”

The resolution denounces the military attacks against the population of the Republic of Artsakh and Armenia by Azerbaijan with the support of the genocidal state of Turkey, noting that Turkey was involved in transferring mercenaries to fight against Artsakh, violating the Minsk Group Agreements and the ceasefire for all conflicts declared by the UN during the



COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, Montevideo conveyed its greatest solidarity with the entire civilian population (Armenian and Azerbaijani), the main victims of numerous destabilizing attacks and violations of international law, the people of Artsakh and Armenians who continue to fight for their survival, con-

fronting the continuation of the genocide perpetrated in 1915.

Montevideo also declared that “the agreement signed by Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia is the consequence of the illegal use of force and not of authentic balanced negotiations as established by the UN, representing a forced transfer of historical heritage and territory populated by Armenians for millennia.”

Finally, the Montevideo Departmental Council announced its “recognition of the Republic of Artsakh, calling on the international community to respect its status as an independent state, this being the true path for a peaceful solution and granting lasting peace for Artsakh and Armenia.”

## Anti-Government Protests Continue in Yerevan Amid Fury Over Karabakh Deal

Armenian opposition groups are continuing their protests to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan over the terms he agreed to in a Russian-brokered accord with Azerbaijan that ended more than six weeks of fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh.



Several thousand protesters marched through the streets of Yerevan, shouting anti-Pashinyan slogans such as “Traitor, go away!”

They also went to the National Security Service building where over a dozen leaders of the protest are kept mainly on charges of organizing mass disorders.

The protesters described these leaders, including Prosperous Armenia Party chairman Gagik Tsarukyan, Homeland Party leader Artur Vanetsyan, Dashnaktsutun’s Ishkhan Saghatelian and others, as political prisoners and called for their release.

Human rights activist Avetik Ishkhanyan compared the situation to Stalin-era purges. He challenged one of the grounds for detentions – martial law, under which political gatherings are banned in the country. “What martial law are you talking about after surrender?” he said.

Protesters then gathered again in Liberty Square in the evening to stage a rally at which speakers, including members of Prosperous Armenia and Dashnaktsutyun, again demanded Pashinyan’s resignation. They said protests will be continued on Friday.

Separately, supporters of the opposition group Sasna Tsrer held a rally in central Yerevan but canceled a planned march in the city after police told them to disband, citing martial law.

A number of demonstrators who refused to leave the area were detained by security forces.

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