

## Second humanitarian ceasefire collapses



Hopes for a humanitarian ceasefire were dashed when Azerbaijan committed multiple violations of the truce agreement in the hours immediately following its commencement.

This is the second time that Azerbaijan has violated a ceasefire agreement established between Armenia and Azerbaijan and mediated by an OSCE co-chair country within the past week.

The ceasefire, brokered by France and announced Saturday evening, was meant to begin on October 18 at midnight local time. The announcement followed the collapse of an initial humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 10 for the purpose of exchanging prisoners of war and the bodies of deceased soldiers.

“Once again, Azerbaijan and Turkey have demonstrated that they continue to consider agreements on humanitarian truce, and negotiations in general, exclusively in the context of a military solution of the conflict,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Artsakh stated in response to the ceasefire violations.

At 12:04 AM, four minutes after the official start of the ceasefire, the Azerbaijani military began to fire artillery shells in the northern direction of the Line of Contact (LoC) until 2:45 AM.

Between 2:20 AM and 2:45 AM, it launched rockets in the southern direction. The situation along the LoC remained relatively calm for the remainder of the night until the morning, when the Azerbaijani armed forces initiated military offensives in the northern direction and in two positions in the southern directions of the LoC, precipitating intense fighting. The Azerbaijani military was successfully pushed back in the north and in one position in the south by the Artsakh Defense Army.

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## Prime Minister receives Greek Foreign Minister

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on October 16 received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic Nikos Dendias and his delegation.

The Prime Minister welcomed the Greek Foreign Minister's visit to our country, which is a strong support for Armenia, the Armenian people in this crucial moment.

"Our peoples are bound by deep-rooted ties of friendship and shared values. Armenia prioritizes the continuous strengthening and development of relations with Greece, which is especially important in today's complicated regional and geopolitical situation. I wish to thank Greece, the Greek people for supporting Armenia and the Armenian people," Nikol Pashinyan said.

With reference to the war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh, the Premier slammed Turkey's direct involvement and its steps to destabilize the region.



The Greek Foreign Minister conveyed warm greetings and words of support on behalf of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Nikos Dendias said that the two nations and countries are bound by centuries-old strong friendship, and Greece and the Greek people will stand by the Armenian people in this difficult situation. He noted that Greece is in favor of an immediate cessation of hostilities in Na-

gorno-Karabakh, as violence is not the way to resolve the issue.

Nikos Dendias stressed that his country condemns any such foreign intervention as may add fuel to the fire, adding that Greece backs the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs' call to observe the ceasefire and resume the peace process.

The Armenian Premier and the Greek Foreign Minister talked about Turkey's destabilizing expansionist policy, which is being manifested in different parts of the globe. Highlighting the inadmissibility of such policies, Nikol Pashinyan and Nikos Dendias exchanged views on the possibility of joint counteraction.

Prime Minister Pashinyan asked to convey warm greetings to his Greek counterpart. On behalf of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Nikos Dendias invited Nikol Pashinyan to visit Greece at any convenient for him time.

## Nikol Pashinyan, Justin Trudeau talk over the phone

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan continues to hold phone talks with his foreign counterparts. On October 13 Prime Minister had a telephone conversation with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan gave details of the ongoing hostilities in Artsakh and briefed his counterpart on the overall situation in the region. He called Prime Minister Trudeau's attention to Turkey's destructive involvement in hostilities and the unac-



ceptable aspiration to impose its influence

in the South Caucasus.

Nikol Pashinyan thanked Canada for suspending the export of military goods to Turkey. The fundamental importance of ensuring free exercise of the right of nations to self-determination in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was emphasized during the talks.

Deeply concerned about the recent developments in the conflict zone, the Prime Minister of Canada stressed the need for an exclusively peaceful settlement of the conflict.

## Artsakh's President receives member of the State Duma Vitaly Milonov

Artsakh's President Arayik Harutyunyan received on October 17 Vitaly Milonov, member of the State Duma of the Russian Federation from the ruling United Russia faction.

The parties discussed the situation created in the region in the aftermath of the Azerbaijani – Turkish – terrorist aggression.

They emphasized the inadmissibility of



actions undermining the stability of the region, including the involvement of foreign and terrorist forces.

In a private conversation, Arayik Harutyunyan thanked Mr. Milonov for his visit and interest, as well as highlighted the important role the Russian Federation played in settling the conflict and establishing a lasting peace.



## Russia ‘keeps trying’ to stop Karabakh War

Russia keeps pressing Armenia and Azerbaijan to work out a “verification mechanism” that would ensure their compliance with ceasefire agreements reached by them, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on October 19.

“In order for the ceasefire to work -- we have seen that after two documents that were adopted but did not allow to radically change the situation on the ground -- [it is necessary] to create a mechanism to verify compliance with the ceasefire regime,” Lavrov told reporters in Moscow.

“We, including our Defense Ministry, are actively working on that, with colleagues from Azerbaijan and Armenia in the first instance,” he said, according to the TASS news agency. “I hope that such a mechanism will be agreed on in the very near future.”

Lavrov made a case for such a mechanism after an Armenian-Azerbaijani ceasefire



agreement brokered by Russia on October 10 failed to stop hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. He said Moscow is ready to deploy “military observers” to the conflict zone as part of such an arrangement. Azerbaijan reportedly objected to the idea.

According to a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, the Russians tried unsuccessfully to organize a meeting of Armenian and Azerbaijani military officials last week. She said representatives of the Armenian Defense Ministry flew to Moscow but the meeting did not take place

because their Azerbaijani counterparts did not show up.

Lavrov again spoke with his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts on Saturday. The separate phone calls were followed by the announcement of another Armenian-Azerbaijani truce agreement which was reportedly brokered by France. Fighting in Karabakh continued even after that deal, which the warring sides accusing each other of not respecting it.

Lavrov on Monday also urged the sides as well as “international players” to tone down their “confrontational rhetoric.” “The next absolutely necessary step ... is a halt to the hostilities and strikes on civilian areas,” he said.

Earlier in the day the Armenian Foreign Ministry insisted that Yerevan remains “faithful” to the truce agreements. It claimed that Baku “does not want or is unable to implement” them.

## Armenian, Azerbaijani leaders announce readiness to meet



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and president of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev spoke about the readiness to meet in Moscow under Russian mediation.

Both Pashinyan and Aliyev told that they

are ready to meet to find ways for a solution, Russian media reports.

Armenian PM Nikol Pashinyan: “I already said that we have always said that Nagorno Karabakh conflict must be solved through

exclusively peaceful means. Unfortunately, Azerbaijan does not want it. Our position is that Nagorno Karabakh conflict must be settled peacefully. And I am ready to make all necessary efforts for achieving that result, including to go, meet and talk. But we all must understand that the solution must be based on mutual concessions, not the capitulation of one of the sides, but mutual concessions. By the way, if the opposite side has no readiness for mutual concessions, we are ready to struggle until the end for the rights of our people of Nagorno Karabakh, the right of our compatriots. This is the position of the the Government of Armenia, people of Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora. And I think this is a fair and constructive position”.

Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev: “Baku is ready for negotiations with the Armenian side over Nagorno Karabakh in Moscow or any other place. We are always ready to meet in Moscow or any other city to put an end to this confrontation and find ways for a settlement”.

## Pashinyan says Russia has legitimate right to conduct anti-terrorist campaign in NK conflict zone

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan says Russia has legitimate right to carry out anti-terrorist campaign in Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone, since the militants of Syrian terrorist groups fighting against Nagorno Karabakh from the Azerbaijani side are a direct threat for Russia, ARMENPRESS reports PM Pashinyan said in an interview with TASS, referring to the question that Russia has raised concerns over the reports of deployment of militants from the Middle East, particularly Syria and Libya.

“Following the outbreak of Nagorno Karabakh war and the reports that those mercenaries participate in the war against Nagorno Karabakh, there have been reports, including from Arabic media, that some of those groups have been crushed in the battlefield and have spread in different directions. For me it’s clear that those Syrian militants, those who survived just head to Russia, because I think they consider Russia an enemy like Nagorno Karabakh or Armenia. The issue is how this process will continue. Will Russia wait for all those elements to move to Russia and carry out an anti-terrorist campaign there” I don’t know. Maybe the Russian Government or the special services are thinking of the possibility of initiating an anti-terrorist campaign just in the hotbed?”, Pashinyan said.

“Including in Nagorno Karabakh?”, asked the reporter.

“Including in Nagorno Karabakh. Russia conducted anti-terrorism campaign in Syria, which is quite far from Russia, because the actions of the Syrian militants and terrorists were a direct threat to the



national security of Russia. Now already the Russian experts say that they are just 80 km away from the Russian border, of course, I cannot assess the correctness of those assessments. This is totally another situation. And I think Russia has legitimate right and grounds to react to this situation”, the PM Said.

*Azerbaijan, directly backed by Turkey, unleashed war against Artsakh on September 27. Turkey, in addition to various types of assistance to Azerbaijan, including using its own air force against Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia, deployed thousands of mercenaries and terrorists in Azerbaijan to fight against Artsakh.*

*On October 6, President of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) Arayik Harutyunyan had called for an establishment of a new international anti-terrorism coalition.*

*“Today Artsakh and Armenia have appeared in the frontline of fight against international terrorism in the true sense of the word. But in our case, the difference is that this enemy threatening the global civilization has challenged our Motherland hidden under the flag of a UN member state, together with the regular army of that country and very often instead of that regular army. In the modern world there is nothing that can be hidden from anyone,*

*everyone has seen and recorded the infiltration of the international jihadist terrorist network into Azerbaijan. No country in the world has any more doubts that the target of this monstrous terrorist network are the civilians of Artsakh and Armenia, our cities and villages, our right to live free and decide or fate.*

*Turkey, that continuously nourishes and controls this network, with the consent of Azerbaijan’s opportunistic leadership, uses Azerbaijan as a tool for creating a new hotbed of international terrorism in the South Caucasus region. I am confident that any participant of the global politics, be it a state or international organization, well understands the dangerous consequences of such developments. We still remember the consequences of the aspiration of the jihadist gangster groups to create a state-like entity in Iraq and Syria. All countries of the world have their share of responsibility of making Turkey’s plan to make Azerbaijan a terrorist hotbed in the South Caucasus region a failure.*

*Armenia and Artsakh are today in the frontline of the struggle, because they accepted the challenge with dignity. And we will struggle until the final victory. But this is not only the problem of Artsakh and Armenia.*

*As a President of a country struggling for its independence, I call on the civilized world to have an active participation in this struggle.*

*Creation of an effective coalition against international terrorism is an imperative”, Harutyunyan said on October 6.*

## Trump Praises Armenians On Campaign Trail



(RFE/RL - Yerevan)- U.S. President Donald Trump has lavished praise on Americans of Armenian descent and said his administration is “working” to address their concerns.

Trump reacted to a supportive chant from an Armenian American woman as he spoke at an election campaign rally in Nevada on Sunday. “We are working on some things,” he said without elaborating.

“Armenians, they are good people,” Trump went on. “They are great business-people too, you know ... Where I just left there were some many Armenians with beautiful flags. We’re working on some

things.”

“People from Armenia, they have a great spirit for their country. Thank you very much,” he added.

Trump spoke after being greeted in neighboring California by Armenian American supporters who waved Armenian flags and urged the U.S. administration to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh and help stop Turkey’s military support for Azerbaijan.

Trump has still not publicly commented on the hostilities in and around Karabakh that broke out on September 27. But U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has repeatedly called for an end to the fighting.

On Thursday Pompeo also criticized Turkey’s involvement in the conflict. “We now have the Turks, who have stepped in and provided resources to Azerbaijan, increasing the risk, increasing the firepower that’s taking place in this historic fight,” he told broadcaster WSB Atlanta.

“We’re hopeful that the Armenians will be

able to defend against what the Azerbaijanis are doing, and that they will all, before that takes place, get the ceasefire right, and then sit down at the table and try and sort through this,” Pompeo said in remarks criticized by Azerbaijan.

The United States, Russia and France have long been leading international efforts to end the Karabakh conflict through the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security Organization in Europe.

Moscow brokered an Armenian-Azerbaijani ceasefire agreement on October 10. Hostilities in the conflict zone have continued since then, however.

Former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, Trump’s Democratic rival in the November 3 presidential election, last week expressed deep concern over the “collapse” of the ceasefire and accused the Trump administration of being “largely passive and disengaged.”



## If the only solution to the current conflict is the recognition of Karabakh, there is no need to hesitate. Mayor of Paris



Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo spoke in favor of Artsakh's self-determination, *Nouvelles d'Arménie Magazine* reports.

"If the only solution to the current conflict is the recognition of Karabakh, there is no

need to hesitate. I am personally in favor of self-determination. We must support Armenia in this ordeal and struggle", said Anne Hidalgo.

## Armenia MFA: Azerbaijan once again demonstrated total absence of willingness to adhere to its commitments

On October 17, the Foreign Ministries of Armenia and Azerbaijan simultaneously issued a statement on the declaration of a humanitarian truce, which was achieved through the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and through the personal mediation of the President of France. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on Monday noted this in a statement.

"However, as in the previous time, when an agreement was reached in Moscow, Azerbaijan once again demonstrated its total absence of willingness to adhere to its commitments.

All this was accompanied by statements of the representatives of Azerbaijani political and military leadership that Azerbaijan will not cease the hostilities until the "victorious end" of the war. Notably, similar statements were made in Turkey.

Minutes after the announcement of the



humanitarian truce, the Azerbaijani armed forces resumed hostilities, and on the morning of October 18 launched a large-scale offensive on the southern front.

In fact, this is the second ceasefire agreement that Azerbaijan does not want or is unable to implement, at the same time deceiving the international community and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries, in particular.

We remain faithful to commitments set out in the Moscow Joint Statement of Oc-

tober 10 and the Statement of October 17, with the primary goal of establishing a sustainable ceasefire maintained through verification mechanisms.

In this respect, we reiterate those statements, which gave a practical expression to the statement of the leaders of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries on October 1, as well as to the statement of Foreign Ministers of the Co-Chair countries on October 5.

We are committed to a settlement exclusively through peaceful means – through the negotiation process.

By adhering to the agreements reached, the Republic of Armenia maintains its right to undertake all necessary measures to resolutely reject Azerbaijan's intention to resolve conflict by military means," the Armenian MFA statement also reads.

## French city of Limonest recognizes the independence of Artsakh

On October 15, the Municipal council of the French town of Limonest unanimously voted for the recognition of the independence of Artsakh.

The document, in particular, contains the following message: "Recognition of the Republic of Artsakh by France as a guarantee for the security of its population, as well as regional and global stability".

Thus, Limonest has become the second city in France after Alfortville, and the first in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region to recognize the independence of Artsakh.



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**Editor's note:**

Since its very establishment, Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator and its Founding General Manager, a role model citizen, manager, businessman and benefactor Ralph C. Yirikian has been contributing significantly to strengthening of **OUR BELOVED HAYRENIQ.**

So, what remains to say?! Only...

**WE'LL WIN !!!**



## Erdogan is arming Azerbaijanis because he wants another genocide” – Prime Minister’s interview to Corriere della Sera

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan gave an interview to Corriere della Sera, one of the largest Italian newspapers. Below is an article by Corriere della Sera based on Prime Minister Pashinyan’s interview.

**“Pashinyan points out: “Erdogan is arming Azerbaijanis because he wants another genocide.” Then he continues: “He sent Syrian jihadists here to fight: we have evidence.”**

**“Turks in Vienna? It can happen again.” While the Moscow-brokered truce with Azerbaijan is marking time with “loud noise,” Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan uses hyperbole, but immediately gets to the point.**

The former journalist and charismatic opposition figure were elected prime minister two years ago after street protests. Pashinyan is just back from the frontline, where he visited the Armenian soldiers.

Fighting on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan has not stopped since September 27, with air-raid sirens constantly sounding in the skies of Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. A very fragile ceasefire agreement was reached a week ago, but it did not stop shelling, bombings and drones, nor did it curb the bellicose rhetoric. The Armenian side has suffered more than 660 casualties among both the military and civilians.

**Corriere della Sera: Baku accuses you of attacking Ganja again, you accuse Azerbaijanis of shelling Stepanakert and nearby villages. Both sides keep talking about crimes against humanity. Where is the truth?**



**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan: Turkey is pushing ahead with the same strategy in the South Caucasus as in the Mediterranean against Greece and Cyprus or in Libya, Syria and Iraq. This is an expansionary policy. In the midst of the ceasefire talks, Turkish President Erdogan said he did not want Azerbaijan to halt hostilities. This conflict would not have started without Turkey’s direct intervention. It was Turkey that prompted Azerbaijan to attack Artsakh. Turkish troops are attending the attacks. But not only that. Azerbaijanis uses jihadist militants brought in from Syria. These are terrorists sent by the Turks.**

**Corriere della Sera: Do you have any evidence of the use of such fighters?**

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan: Yes, we have propaganda videos of jihadists geolocated at the site of hostilities. There are also dead bodies of some of them. There is no doubt about that. All evidence has already been published. The videos were processed and analyzed mediating special software and the relevant specialists found out where they had been filmed. It has been established that they were transferred to the frontline during the fighting. The Syrian terrorists themselves shot those videos, after which they posted them on the**

Internet.

This evidence is officially recognized by Russia, France and other countries. And the goal is clear: Turks want another genocide of the Armenian people. I ask myself and the international community: What kind of ceasefire can we sign with these terrorists? We came under attack, and we must defend ourselves like any people threatened with extermination.

**Corriere della Sera: What steps should the European Union take to end the conflict?**

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan: There is only one way to end the hostilities: international recognition of Artsakh based on the principle of “remedial secession.” There is no other option. Otherwise, all Armenians in the territories controlled by Azerbaijan will undergo ethnic cleansing just because the Armenians are the last obstacle for the Turks on their path of expansion to the north, east and south.**

**Corriere della Sera: A group of Italian intellectuals, athletes and politicians signed a declaration of solidarity with Armenia. Is that enough?**

**Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan: Several foreign journalists came here, but we did not see representatives of foreign diplomatic missions. I expect Italy to acknowledge that Turkey has transferred mercenaries and troops to Azerbaijan. But not only that. The population of Nagorno-Karabakh is facing a grave humanitarian crisis, which the international community and Italy should take into consideration, because not a single Armenian will be saved, if the Azerbaijani troops return to the region.”**

## We will not let the enemy trample on our land: PM Pashinyan meets reservists bound for the frontline

Today we are building not only our present day, but also our future a thousand years ahead, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in an address to reservists bound to leave for the frontline.

“We will not back down, we will not retreat, we will not give up, we will stand up for the defense of our homeland,” the Prime Minister said.

Below are Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s full remarks:

Brethren, I would like to address you today and say that stability, peace has been reinstated in our homeland and that the homeland no longer needs your frontline service, and instead we need your civil service again. But that would not be true: we all are here today because our homeland, yes, needs the service of each of you.

Today we are in a situation where each of us must forget his previous civil status; we must get enlisted in the army to defend the homeland. But I want you to know exactly what you are going to do hundreds of miles away from your homes, hundreds of miles away from your children, hundreds of miles away from your relatives.

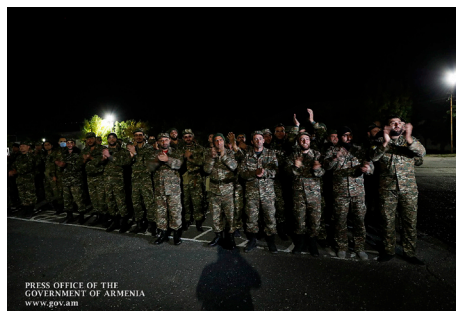
You are going to stand up for your children, your relatives, your wives, your parents, your doorstep, your home. Wherever you go, you may not see any familiar tree, or any familiar shrubs around, but in fact you will be standing in front of your children’s bedroom, in front of your own bedroom, in front of your children’s schools as you are going to defend the homeland. You are going to protect your bedrooms, your bedrooms’ doorsteps, your homes, and your own quarters. And we say we will not let the enemy trample on our land, our homeland, our borders.

In the spring of 2016, I was standing right where you are. In 2016, when I decided that I should go to defend the homeland as a volunteer, it happened just in a moment. When I woke up in the morning and saw my daughter who was less than a year old, asleep, I said that I should go and protect

her peaceful sleep and die, if necessary.

We will not back down, we will not retreat, we will not give up, we will stand up for the defense of our homeland.

I wish we could state clearly and talk about the situation in the world. Many are asking today if we have any friends in the world. I want



to assure you, yes, we have many friends in the world, but those friends cannot make a decision for us. But I want to say that those friends, our international friends will support our choice. If we decide to be losers, they will defend our choice to lose. If we decide to be winners, they will support our decision to win. And I am convinced, I know, that we, as a millennial people, have the will to make that most difficult decision today – the decision to be on the winning side!

I am asking you, I call on you, I demand that you leave with the victory in your heart, the victory in your mind, the victory in your soul.

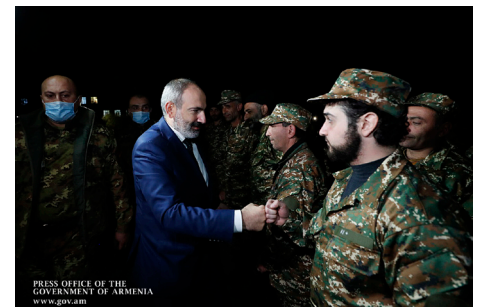
Please remember that you are fighting for your children, that you are defending your homes, your bedrooms, your neighborhoods, your buildings, your identity, your dignity, your manhood and you will triumph.

The Armenian people must exist on the planet earth forever. We have survived owing to the victories forged by our ancestors throughout many centuries at the cost of their own deprivation. Today we are



building not only our present day, but also our future a thousand years ahead. Please remember that it is up to you to complete that noble mission as you are going to leave your imprint in history.

I want to say again that the future of Armenia, the Armenian people depends on one person, and you are that one person. Should each of us approach our mission in this way, we will be invincible; we will win if each of us understands that Armenia’s future depends on one person, and each of us



can be that one person.

I love you all, I am proud of all of you, I bow to all of you, I believe in you and in each of you, I believe that you are heroes, I believe that you are winners, I believe that you will defend the future of your children with dignity.

And therefore,  
 Long live freedom!  
 Long live the Republic of Armenia!  
 Long live the Republic of Artsakh!  
 Long live the Armenian Diaspora!  
 Long live the Armenian Army!  
 Long live the victory of the Armenian people!  
 May you be blessed with glorious service to the Homeland! Thank you all!”



# Recognize Artsakh: Armenians holding protest outside US Embassy Yerevan



Multiple citizens in Armenia are holding a protest outside the US Embassy in Yerevan, trying to draw the US attention on the



van, trying to draw the US attention on the

ongoing atrocities committed by the Turkish-Azerbaijani forces, Syrian mercenaries against Artsakh, urging the US Ambassador or any representative of the Embassy to visit Artsakh’s capital Stepanakert, Shushi or other cities to see the results of these



atrocities. They are also calling on to recognize the independence of Artsakh.

Education expert Anahit Bakhshyan stated in particular: “Today Armenia together with Artsakh is fighting against terrorist Turkey, Azerbaijan and Syrian ter-



rorists. You cannot stay indifferent to this; you just have no right for it”. She stressed that if these atrocities are not stopped, the terrorists will reach also the United States.

The protest participants call on to stop the Turkey-backed Azerbaijani aggression, recognize Artsakh, stop another genocide.

They are delivering remarks both in Armenian and English, urge any representative of the Embassy to come and meet with them, to react to their call.

The Embassy agreed that three of the protest participants can meet with their representative.

## A protest action took place near the UN Office in Armenia

A protest action with the general question “Where is the UN? Why is it silent?” took place near the UN Office in Armenia. The march started from the Matenadaran.





## Azerbaijani military forces beheaded an Armenian soldier - Human Rights Defender

The Human Rights Defender on October 19 received an alarming call certifying that Azerbaijani military forces beheaded an Armenian soldier several days ago.

The initiated proceedings have revealed the following data:

On 16 October, at around 13PM a member of the Azerbaijani armed forces called the brother of an Armenian soldier and said that his brother is with them; they beheaded him and were going to post his photo on the Internet. Afterwards, several hours later, the brother found the photo of on his killed brother's social media page.



The conviction is that these were members of Azerbaijani army who posted the Armenian soldier's photo on his social media page. There were two phone calls with Azerbaijani soldiers who used hate

speech with intention to humiliate the Armenian killed soldier's brother. As the latter informed the Human Rights Defender, the calls were made from the Armenian soldier's phone number.

These are cruel and terroristic methods. The Human Rights Defender of Armenia has recorded other cases of torture and atrocities; these activities are ongoing.

All data is duly documented and will be presented to relevant international bodies. Perpetrators of such criminal actions should be punished by all means of international criminal law.

## CoE Secretary General highlights need of respecting human rights in conflict zone

Marija Pejčinović Burić, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, highlighted the necessity of peacefully settling the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, reports TASS.

"Armenia and Azerbaijan are members of the Council of Europe. Both countries have assumed obligations before our organization to peacefully settle the conflict. And both countries are obliged to observe the European Convention on Human Rights.



Respecting human rights is a very vital and

legal obligation in this territory", she said.

She added that regardless of politics, people living in conflict zones should rely on the same standards of human rights, democracy and rule of law as anyone in Europe.

The CoE Secretary General added that the solution of conflicts and territorial disputes is not within the powers of their organization. Nevertheless, she stressed that the settlement of the issue of human rights in that territories is among her priorities.

## Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard calls for U.S. to work allies in removing Turkey from NATO

In a strongly worded resolution introduced this week condemning Turkey's attacks on American forces and citing Ankara's ongoing support for terrorists, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) called for the U.S. to work with allies in removing Turkey from NATO, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) reported.

Several of the resolution's clauses address Turkey's hostility and aggression against Armenians:

-- Whereas Turkey has escalated its involvement in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh, previously offering political support for Azerbaijan's position, but now providing direct military support;

-- Whereas Turkey maintains a closed border with the Republic of Armenia, a country with friendly relations with the United States, and has repeatedly issued



threats against the Republic of Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh, and Armenian communities in other parts of the world, at times thinly veiling its threats with references to the genocide of Armenians in Turkey that took place in the early 20th century;

-- Whereas reports indicate that Turkey has sent Syrian fighters, many of whom have been associated with Al Qaeda and ISIS, to fight against the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh;

-- Whereas it has been reported that Turkey has participated in or taken outright control of Azerbaijan's air command and military offensive against Nagorno Karabakh and that its F-16 fighters have been engaged in attacks against both Nagorno Karabakh and the Republic of Armenia;

-- Whereas NATO has called for the immediate cease-fire to hostilities in Nagorno Karabakh in response to Azerbaijan's military attack on Nagorno Karabakh while Turkey has contradicted NATO's position by publicly supporting and assisting with Azerbaijan's continued military aggression;

-- Whereas in response to Canada's decision to suspend arms exports to Turkey in response to its involvement in Azerbaijan's military offensive, Turkey cited the NATO relationship as the reason for its disappointment in Canada's decision, associating NATO with its actions in the Caucasus.



# Joe Biden pledges to recognize Armenian Genocide, push for lasting peace in the region



*Asbarez* – The campaign of Vice-President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris on Thursday issued a position paper delineating what they said Biden had done on Armenian issues, and outlining what a Biden-Harris administration would accomplish.

This announcement comes two days after both Biden and Harris, in separate remarks, addressed the Karabakh conflict and called for its peaceful settlement.

The complete text of the campaign statement entitled “Joe Biden’s Support for the Armenian People” is presented below.

### Joe Biden’s Support for the Armenian People

*“I stand...with all Armenians and the Armenian-American community, which has contributed so much to our nation, in remembering and honoring the victims of the Armenian Genocide.”*

**Vice President Joe Biden, April 24, 2020.**

#### What Joe Biden Has Done

- As a U.S. Senator, Joe Biden led congressional efforts to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Last year, Joe Biden endorsed bipartisan legislation in Congress that officially recognized

and established an ongoing U.S. commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

- This year on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, he called for the genocide to be fully acknowledged and pledged support for its recognition. He stated then that “[i]f we do not fully acknowledge, commemorate, and teach our children about genocide, the words ‘never again’ lose their meaning.”
- The Obama-Biden administration provided U.S. assistance to Armenia and humanitarian support for Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh). With the Vice President’s leadership, the United States was a full partner in the OSCE Minsk Group peace process to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.
- When the conflict reignited in September 2020, Joe Biden called for the Trump administration to more actively engage in seeking a peaceful resolution and to demand that other states, such as Turkey, stay out of the conflict.
- The Obama-Biden administration

pushed for the full normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia, including opening the border and resumption of trade.

#### What Biden Will Do

- Joe Biden will recognize the Armenian Genocide and make universal human rights a top priority for his administration so that such a tragedy can never again occur.
- Joe Biden will strengthen the U.S.-Armenia partnership to improve the lives of the Armenian people.
- Joe Biden will push for lasting peace in the region, reinvigorating U.S. engagement in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as he did in office, including seeking additional international observers to monitor the ceasefire. He will also work to prevent interference by third parties, including nation-states like Turkey, and foreign mercenaries paid to commit crimes against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Joe Biden will fully support U.S. aid to Armenia to strengthen democratic governance and promote economic growth, and review our security assistance to Azerbaijan to ensure it is not being repurposed for offensive means.
- He will continue the long-time U.S. de-mining and humanitarian assistance in Nagorno-Karabakh — which President Trump has tried to end.
- He will condemn hate crimes committed against Armenian American communities and strengthen protections for faith communities, including by expanding security grants to faith-based organizations and establishing a new law enforcement program in the Department of Justice dedicated to preventing attacks against faith communities.

## Ankara's actions in the Caucasus could also pose a threat to the EU, President Sarkissian told POLITICO

### Armenian president wants NATO to explain Turkish involvement in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Famous analyst Ben Judah conversed with the President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian. He referred to that interview in POLITICO and published an article on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and present situation. Its abridged and translated version is presented below. Armen Sarkissian says Ankara's actions in the Caucasus could also pose a threat to the EU.

Armenia's president is demanding answers from NATO over the involvement of Turkey in the Nagorno-Karabakh war. Armen Sarkissian says he's ready to travel to Brussels to confront the transatlantic alliance over Ankara's actions in the Caucasus and warn the European Union of the threat they pose to the bloc's security.

"If I go to Brussels," he said in an interview with POLITICO, "I would like to speak to the NATO leadership as to why this very strange situation is taking place where Turkey, a full NATO member, is involved in a war that has nothing to do with NATO. How on earth is it that a NATO member is acting as freely as a cowboy and NATO does nothing? Does this mean they have a green light from NATO?"

Turkey threw its weight behind traditional ally Azerbaijan when the frozen conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh reignited last month. The fighting has cost hundreds of lives, with both sides accusing each other of killing civilians.

Armenia is accusing Turkey of sending fighter jets and Syrian mercenaries to Azerbaijan. Ankara has denied this, though several media reports have documented the presence of Syrian fighters and F-16s. Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has acknowledged Turkish F-16s are present in the country but claimed they were not used in the fighting.

Sarkissian said he wanted to visit NATO's Brussels headquarters to "get explanations" as to why "Turkish weapons, drones and F-16 are involved in the process of bombing Armenia and Armenian civilians in huge numbers. These are NATO-made weapons: the engines from Austria, the avionics are from Canada and the parts of the rockets are from Britain and so on."

Sarkissian said he was also ready to travel to Paris, London and Berlin to make Armenia's case to European leaders. "I am ready to tell [Angela] Merkel," he said, "that I understand that Europe is busy with other things and everyone is busy with COVID-19, but dear Madam Chancellor what you



are probably not seeing clearly is that there is another disaster coming from the Caucasus to you that is not a biological virus but the virus of instability and war."

Sarkissian said he wanted the German chancellor to understand that "the war of Turkey and Azerbaijan risks creating another Syria. Or making Turkey the creator and the ruler of an energy crisis to Europe." (Pipelines crucial to the EU's energy supply pass close to Nagorno-Karabakh.)

In contrast, he does not feel the need to remind French President Emmanuel Macron about the conflict's potential geopolitical ramifications. "I think that Macron understands that instability in the Caucasus is going to hit the larger region and then it will affect Western Europe," Sarkissian said. "He understands that the Turkish presence in Azerbaijan will make Southern Europe and Central Asia all dependent on Turkey and Turkey will emerge as a regional superpower and that is what [Turkish President Recep Tayyip] Erdoğan wants to achieve."

France, home to a sizable Armenian minority, has seen a bill introduced to the parliament to recognize the Republic of Artsakh or Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has said he expects France to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh but a measure actually passing remains highly unlikely.

Sarkissian said he would be "very happy" if France recognized the breakaway region. "As Armenians, we have always believed that a solution has to be reached through peaceful negotiations and in order not to make things worse, this has restrained us from recognizing the Republic of Artsakh until now." He added: "But of course if we don't see light at the end of the tunnel, we will recognize Nagorno-Karabakh."

Armenia is seeking to present the war to Brussels as part and parcel of Turkey's growing assertiveness, which has brought Ankara into conflict with EU member countries across the region. In Libya, Turkey has intervened on behalf of the U.N.-backed government against France-backed militia leader Khalifa Haftar and in the Eastern

Mediterranean, Turkish ships are searching for energy resources in waters claimed by Greece and Cyprus.

"You get the impression," said Sarkissian, "that Erdoğan is creating instability and breaking the status quo all around. In this sea of instability, Turkey feels quite calm and is swimming as it gives them a chance to play with everyone."

Sarkissian said that Europe's and NATO's seeming inability to influence Ankara risked their credibility.

"I am calling on everybody in Brussels to put pressure on Turkey. But first, they have to decide what is acceptable as these Turkish actions are going to hurt NATO, its prestige and the very idea [that] it is an alliance that is there to defend against an enemy."

He stressed that he believed Turkish intervention would permanently reshape the geopolitics of the South Caucasus by turning Azerbaijan into a springboard for Turkish influence across the wider region and its crucial pipeline network.

He also warned that Syrian mercenaries could prove a long-term destabilizing factor in the region: "They will create another zone of instability there menacing Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia and Iran."

Beyond Europe, Sarkissian lamented that countries were busy with other things, such as the upcoming U.S. election.

Russia – a treaty ally of Armenia that has in the past also delivered weapons to Azerbaijan – has so far opted not to back Yerevan militarily. The Kremlin has, however, been the lead diplomatic force in the conflict in recent weeks, negotiating a failed cease-fire.

"I appreciate what President [Vladimir] Putin and Foreign Minister [Sergey] Lavrov are doing," said Sarkissian.

Armenian officials have repeatedly said they view the conflict not merely as a clash over disputed territories but as a continuation of the 1915 Armenian genocide, which saw as many as 1.5 million Armenians killed by the Ottoman Empire.

Sarkissian claimed Turkey wanted to "not only to teach a lesson to Armenia and tell Armenia what happened 105 years [ago] but say 'why don't you shut up, Armenians' as you will have another genocide in 2020 and this will happen under the eyes of [the] international community."

Turkey and Azerbaijan say Baku's war is about ending the occupation of territories that are internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

Yet Sarkissian insisted: "They are fighting a war of ethnic cleansing to make a piece of land without Armenians."



# Opera and Ballet Theater: Artists Recording Masterpieces and Leaving for the Frontline ...

By  
**Gourgen James Khazhakian,**  
Chief Correspondent

As GM and Artistic Director of the Al.Spendiaryan National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater **Constantine G. Orbelian**

**Aram Khachikoglyan** is now there. Mr Orbelian stressed that the entire staff of the Theater is involved in organizing assistance to the front, for example, **Artur Grigoryan** (ballet) sheltered a family of refugees from Artsakh in his house, and other ballet dancers such as **Grigor**

ing on the world's best opera stages, also sheltered a family from fighting Artsakh, and **Vahagn Zakaryan** from the marketing department sheltered refugees as well. Constantine Orbelian said that “*all the theater employees help with whatever they can. They collect everything they need to send to the Victorious Armenian Army...*” And... “*...On the frontline, as the volunteers, children of many of our employees are fighting, including participants in the April 2016 war*” “... This author would like to highlight two of them: The first is **Harutyun Dokhoyan**, son of the Chief Accountant of the Theater **Korrun Dokhoyan**. This seemingly fragile and intelligent guy hit six enemy armored vehicles, and also a TOS salvo fire unit, while receiving a serious arm wound. During a regular television briefing, representative of the RA Ministry of Defense universally expected (and beloved) Lt.-Col. **Artsrun Hovannisyanyan** invited the young Hero, in his words, “a Giant having child face and thin” to tell a multimillion audi-



said in an interview with The Highlights, today, in the very difficult times for the entire Armenian nation, the artists and the staff of the Theater could not stay away from the sacred cause of defending the Motherland. So, according to Maestro Orbelian, stage



machinist **David Arakelyan** was the first volunteer who left for the frontline, and others followed his example.

Today the leading opera tenor, performer of many arias of the repertoire, Honored Artist of the Republic of Armenia, father of the three **Sargis Aghamalyan** and bass **Zohrab Zohrabyan** fight in Artsakh. And ballet dancer **David Grigoryan** who left for the frontline as a volunteer, recently returned from Artsakh, and another member of the ballet troupe



**Grigoryan, Artur Gasoyan, Edgar Samvelyan** are involved in collecting food, water, medicines, clothes and other items. Honored Artist of the Republic of Armenia **Liparit Avetisyan** who has been perform-



ence about his feat. The other one is **Sergey Aharonyan**, the Hero son of my friend **Hrayr Aharonyan**, an employee of the Opera

Theater, a participant of the 92-94 War, who, deceiving his parents, left for the frontline on 29 September as a volunteer. In the hot battle of 9 October, in fact, he saved the crew of the blindage, while he was wounded by a mine – multiple shrapnel in the head, the left shoulder, in the right hand and in the leg ... After surgery, he is recovering now...

Let us mention that Sergey is also a participant of the 2016 April four day way, and was awarded the “Garegin Nzhdeh” medal.

Glory to you, guys, and let the All-Mighty God bless and save all our Heroical Warriors !!!



## The All-Armenian fundraiser exceeded \$ 130 million

The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund raised more than \$ 130 million. The Fundraising is carried out under the slogan “We are, our borders”.



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## Phone conversation of Foreign Minister Mnatsaknayan with Borrel, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

On October 18, Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsaknayan held a phone conversation with Josep Borrel, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Vice-President of the European Commission.

Minister Mnatsaknayan comprehensively informed his interlocutor on the damages caused to the civilian population and civilian infrastructure of Artsakh, the use of weapons prohibited by international conventions by the Azerbaijani armed forces during the hostilities unleashed since September 27, as well as on the large number of displaced people as a result of these atrocities. The Minister also drew his in-

terlocutor's attention that Azerbaijan practices torturing, humiliating treatment and murders towards the civilian population of Artsakh and prisoners of war who appeared under his control.

Touching upon the agreement of October 17 on the establishment of a humanitarian truce in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone and the following situation, the Foreign Minister told the High Representative that Azerbaijan, once again demonstrating its treacherous stance and violating the agreement, does not renounce the strategy of military aggression against Artsakh and resolving the issue by military means.

The Foreign Minister of Armenia noted

that this aggression of Azerbaijan is carried out with the direct involvement of Turkey, which is expressed in the deployment of foreign terrorist fighters by the latter, which is a serious threat to regional and international security.

Zohrab Mnatsaknayan expressed deep concern over the vague position expressed by some actors of the international community, emphasizing that such policy is viewed by Azerbaijan as a permissiveness to continue its aggression accompanied by violations of international law.

The interlocutors stressed the need to implement the ceasefire agreements reached.



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The publisher: NT Holding LTD  
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող  
ՆՏ Հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ

Ծավալը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպաքանակը՝ 1500  
Circulation: 1500 print copies and  
15600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

President of the NT Media Holding:  
**TIGRAN HARUTYUNYAN**  
Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:  
**GAYANEH ARAKELYAN**  
Director of the weekly:  
**MARINA HARUTYUNYAN**  
Chief Correspondent: **GOURGEN KHAZHAKIAN**  
Computer Design: **Ashot Khalapyan**

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ.Հարությունյան

**ISSN 1829-0604**

Գրանցման վկայականի համարը՝  
03ԱՑՑՑ668, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.  
Registration certificate and the date:  
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: [contact@nt.am](mailto:contact@nt.am)  
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