

De-occupation of territory of former NKAO to brought forward during negotiations – Armenian PM



Armenia -- Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan speaks in the Armenian parliament, Yerevan, April 14, 2021.

There is future in Armenia and Artsakh. The Armenian people have future, and together we will build that free, happy and strong future, Armenian Pashinyan said, speaking at the National Assembly.

“We must speak about the future, and the most important part of this future is the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict,” he said.

The Prime Minister stressed that the issue of de-occupation of the area of the former Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO) should be brought during the negotiations.

“We must formulate this as a diplomatic issue, not as a military

one. And we must consistently continue to implement the “cessation for salvation” formula for Artsakh,” Pashinyan stated.

Referring to the recent opening of the “trophy park” in Baku, the Prime Minister described it as something “inconceivable.”

“We must use all platforms to draw everyone’s attention to the fact that a museum of sufferings and victims of war can open in a country at all, and this is the most important demonstration of Armenophobia.

“This is the most solid basis for us to demonstrate the importance of the “cessation for salvation” principle to the international community, and this should be the axis of future negotiations on the issue,” the Prime Minister stated.

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Azerbaijan consolidating its position as a global center of intolerance and xenophobia – Armenia MFA



On April 12, with the participation of the President of Azerbaijan a “park” dedicated to Artsakh war was opened in Baku, where along with the Armenian military equipment the mannequins of the servicemen of the Armenian armed forces, personal belongings of the soldiers of Armenia and Artsakh and the helmets of killed Armenian servicemen were displayed.

“The opening ceremony of the “park” and the remarks of the President of Azerbaijan demonstrate that the above-mentioned action is aimed at publicly degrading the memory of the victims of the war, missing persons and prisoners of war, violating the rights and dignity of their families,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“At a time when the consequences of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh haven’t been fully addressed, when numerous Armenian prisoners of war are being held in Azerbaijani captivity, with the organization of such an “exhibition” wrapped in the elements of marauding, Azerbaijan is finally consolidating its position as a global center of intolerance and

xenophobia. Such anti-human behavior of the Azerbaijani high-ranking leadership is more vocal than any statement or PR-campaign on peace, tolerance and multiculturalism,” the Ministry added.

“On one hand, the Azerbaijani leadership is making observations about possible revanchism on the part of Armenia, and on the other hand, with such exhibition, attempts to perpetuate the revanchism, inhumanity and interethnic hatred. Such steps manifest how far the Azerbaijani leadership stands from its own declarative statements on the post-conflict situation, regional peace and reconciliation,” the Foreign Ministry concluded.

Only a negotiated solution determining the status of Artsakh can be seen as a final settlement – Armenian FM

The Co-Chairs clearly mention that it’s time for a comprehensive and sustainable settlement of the conflict based on the principles and elements well known to the parties, Armenian Foreign Minister Ara Aivazian said during a Q&A session at the National Assembly.

In this regard, the Foreign Minister reminded of Armenia’s principled stance that “only a negotiated political solution that will take into consideration everyone’s rights and will determine the status of Artsakh based on realization of the right to self-determination, can be considered a final settlement of the conflict.”

The Co-Chairs mention that not all provisions of the November 9 trilateral statement have been implemented, and urge to take steps to ensure the return of all POWs and other detainees in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law, the exchange of all data necessary to conduct effective demining of conflict re-



gions; the lifting of restrictions on access to Nagorno-Karabakh, including for representatives of international humanitarian organizations; the preservation and protection of religious and cultural heritage; and the fostering of direct contacts and co-operation between communities affected by the conflict as well as other people-to-people confidence building measures.

According to the Foreign Minister, this is another call by the international community to Azerbaijan to fulfil the commitments undertaken under the trilateral statement of November 9 and international obligations

and refuse from destructive stance that can jeopardize the full implementation of the statement.

Referring to the Co-Chairs’ call to resume the high-level political dialogue, the Foreign Minister said Armenia has never refused from meetings, but for those meetings to take place, it’s first necessary to create conditions for minimal trust and form a clear agenda.

“With its non-constructive, belligerent and Armenophobic statements Azerbaijan prevents the creation of such an environment, and I reiterate that strong co-chairmanship can contribute to trust-building,” he said.

“We keep in contact with the Minsk Group co-chairing countries on the high level and on the level of Ambassadors, and Armenia is ready to host the Co-Chairs within the framework of a regional visit,” he stated.

Armenia, Iran discuss defense cooperation

Chief of the General Staff of the Armenia’s Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Artak Davtyan received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Armenia Abbas Badakhshan Zohouri and Military Attaché of the Embassy, Colonel Bahman Sadeghin.

During the meeting, issues related to

the Armenian-Iranian cooperation in the defense sphere were discussed. reference was made to maintenance and development of friendly relations between the two countries.

The interlocutors also referred to regional issues.



Military alliance with Russia the axis of Armenia's external security – PM

The Armenian-Russian military alliance reinforced by several dozen international agreements of a strategic nature and mutual allied obligations is the axis of ensuring the external security of the Republic of Armenia, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the National Assembly.

“The Armenian-Russian joint military grouping and the joint Armenian-Russian air defense system in the Caucasus Collective Security Region are of practical importance for Armenia's security. By the logic of the agreements formed by these two systems, an attack on Armenia means an attack on Russia, the two countries must jointly face external challenges,” the Prime Minister stated.

In this context, he said the large-scale process of reforms in the Armed Forces of

Armenia has started, which will include structural and substantive reforms.

“In the strategic perspective, we look to seriously discuss the transition to a professional army, and we should be able to significantly change the structure of military service or conscription.”

“We hope to discuss the issue of enriching the capabilities of the Russian 102nd military base in Armenia. We have quite effective discussions with our Russian counterparts on the establishment of a base in Syunik region. The Minister of Defense has already stated. Russian border guards also take part in the protection of the state border of Armenia in a number of parts of Syunik region,” he said.

“In the strategic perspective, we envis-

age that the protection of the parts of the state border of Armenia, which are carried out by the Armenian Armed Forces, will be assigned to the border guards, and the army units will deal exclusively with issues of combat readiness and combat effectiveness,” Pashinyan added.

The Prime Minister noted that the Defense Army will continue to protect the security of Artsakh together with the Russian peacekeeping forces, and there will not be much change in this respect.

“The armed forces must be in their permanent locations during non-war situations. They must be engaged exclusively in combat training 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all working days of the month,” Nikol Pashinyan stated.

Minsk Group Co-Chairs call on parties to resume high-level political dialogue

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stephane Visconti of France, and Andrew Schofer of the United States of America) released the following statement on April 14.

The Co-Chairs note with satisfaction the consolidation of the ceasefire, and are closely monitoring the implementation of the agreement reached by the parties on 9 November 2020. The Co-Chairs welcome the significant achievements with regard to the return of the remains of the deceased, and the ongoing progress with regard to the resettlement of those displaced by the conflict, provision of humanitarian assistance and adequate living conditions, as well as constructive discussions aimed at unblocking transportation and communication lines throughout the region.

The Co-Chairs remind the sides that additional efforts are required to resolve remaining areas of concern and to create an atmosphere of mutual trust conducive to long-lasting peace. These include issues related to, inter alia: the return of all POWs and other detainees in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian



law, the exchange of all data necessary to conduct effective demining of conflict regions; the lifting of restrictions on access to Nagorno-Karabakh, including for representatives of international humanitarian organizations; the preservation and protection of religious and cultural heritage; and the fostering of direct contacts and co-operation between communities affected by the conflict as well as other people-to-people confidence building measures.

Having in mind the terms of their OSCE mandate and the aspirations of all the people of the region for a stable, peaceful, and prosperous future, the Co-Chairs stress that special attention should be paid to the achievement of a final comprehensive and sustainable settlement on the basis

of the elements and principles well-known to the sides.

In this respect, the Co-Chairs call on the parties to resume high-level political dialogue under the auspices of the Co-Chairs at the earliest opportunity. They reiterate their proposal to organize direct bilateral consultations under their auspices, in order for the sides to review and agree jointly upon a structured agenda, reflecting their priorities, without preconditions.

The Co-Chairs also express their strong support for the continuing activities and possible expansion of the mission of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chair-in-Office (PRCiO) and call on the sides to provide full access and support to its efforts. The Co-Chairs underscore their readiness to resume working visits to the region, including Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas, to carry out their assessment and mediation roles. In this regard, the Co-Chairs remind the sides of the requirement to provide unimpeded access and maximum flexibility of movement with regard to the Co-Chairs' travel itineraries, in accordance with their mandate and previous practice.

It's impossible to ensure regional stability without fair solution of Artsakh issue – President Sarkissian

Armenia attaches great importance to friendship and cooperation with neighboring Georgia, President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian said in a statement following meeting with Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili, emphasizing that the Armenian-Georgian relations date back centuries ago.

“I can confidently say that strengthening relations with Georgia is one of the key preconditions for security and development for both our countries and the entire region”, Sarkissian said.

He said that a wide range of issues were discussed with the Georgian counterpart, touching upon transport, energy, tourism, agriculture, education and culture, and other spheres. According to the Armenian President, there is a great potential for cooperation in the fields of modern technologies, artificial intelligence, biotechnol-

ogies, cyber security, food security.

“We also referred to regional security and stability issues, considering the new realities caused by the Azerbaijani aggression against Karabakh actively and openly supported by Turkey. I presented the approaches and positions of the Armenian side on NK issue to my Georgian counterpart. I specially emphasized the fact that it's impossible to establish lasting peace and ensure stability in the region without a fair solution to Artsakh issue. I also referred to the opportunities and the necessity for restoring the peace process in the sidelines of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs. I emphasized the huge humanitarian problems caused by the war”, President Sarkissian said, focusing on the issue of returning of POWs, hostages and other detainees kept in Azerbaijan.

Armen Sarkissian emphasized that it's



inadmissible to speculate over the post-war situation by Azerbaijan and leading a policy of violating national dignity. “This policy cannot foster the establishment of an atmosphere for dialogue”, Sarkissian said, expressing concerns also over the preservation of the Armenian historical-cultural heritage that have appeared under Azerbaijani control as a result of the war.

At the end of the speech President Sarkissian thanked Salome Zourabichvili for the warm reception, hoping to see her in Armenia in the near future.

Former Army chief urges Parliament probe of Karabakh war

Onik Gasparyan, Armenia's former top general controversially replaced last month, called on April 16 for a parliamentary inquiry into the political and military authorities' handling of last year's war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In a letter to the leadership of the Armenian parliament posted on Armlur.am, Gasparyan cited the need to answer “many questions” about the outcome of the six-week war and ease political tensions in the country.

The appeal came two days after Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan blamed former Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Robert Kocharyan for Armenia's defeat in the war stopped by a Russian-brokered ceasefire on November 10.

Addressing the National Assembly, Pashinyan also attacked Gasparyan, who was sacked as chief of the Armenian army's General Staff after initiating a February 25 statement by the army top brass that de-



manded the government's resignation.

The embattled premier denied Gasparyan's December claims that three days after the outbreak of the 2020 hostilities he warned Pashinyan that Armenia and Karabakh are heading for defeat and that the fighting must be stopped as soon as possible. He insisted that Gasparyan made a statement to the contrary at a September 30 meeting of his Security Council.

Gasparyan stood by his claims and accused Pashinyan of “shamelessly distorting facts.”

Andranik Kocharyan, the pro-government chairman of the Armenian parliament

committee on defense and security, spoke out against the formation of an ad hoc parliamentary commission proposed by the general.

Kocharyan argued that the commission would have no time to conduct such an inquiry because the current parliament is expected to be dissolved in June. Only the next National Assembly can properly investigate all circumstances of the war, he said.

One of the two parliamentary opposition parties, Bright Armenia (LHK), already demanded such a probe in December. The parliament's pro-government majority objected to the idea.

During Wednesday's parliament debate, LHK leaders accused Pashinyan of trying to dodge responsibility for the outcome of the war which left at least 3,600 Armenia soldiers dead and led to sweeping Azerbaijani territorial gains.

International organizations cannot remain silent on Baku's "park of barbarism" – MEP Nikos Androulakis



Greek Member of the European Parliament Nikos Androulakis has criticized the opening of the "trophy park" in Baku,

which displays the helmets and dummies of Armenian soldiers martyred in the Karabakh war last year.

In a post on social media, MEP for the Movement for Change, Nikos Androulakis, denounced the country's president and stressed that

he "insults the memory of the Armenian soldiers" by establishing a "monument to barbarism."

"International organizations cannot remain silent to these medieval practices, which is a shame to humanity," he said.



Canada cancels all arms export permits to Turkey, cites use of technology against Armenian forces

Canada on April 12 scrapped export permits for drone technology to Turkey after concluding the equipment had been used by Azerbaijani forces fighting Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, said Foreign Minister Marc Garneau.

"This use was not consistent with Canadian foreign policy, nor end-use assurances given by Turkey," Garneau said in a statement, adding he had raised his concerns with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

Last fall, in line with our robust export control regime, the Government of Canada suspended export permits for military goods and technology to Turkey pending the results of an investigation into allegations that Canadian technology was being used by Azerbaijan in the military conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Those suspensions followed the decision to suspend the issuance of new export permits to Turkey in the fall of 2019, following its military incursion into northeastern Syria.

"Global Affairs Canada,



in consultation with the Department of National Defense, has since conducted a thorough review of all suspended and valid export permits for all military goods and technology destined to Turkey," Marc Garneau said.

"Following this review, which found credible evidence that Canadian technology exported to Turkey was used in Nagorno-Karabakh, today I am announcing the cancellation of permits that were suspended in the fall of 2020," the Foreign Minister stated.

He noted that "this use was not consistent with Canadian foreign policy, nor end-use assurances given by Turkey."

"This morning, I spoke with Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs, to reiterate Canada's concern and to initiate a dialogue mechanism between

Canadian and Turkish officials to build mutual confidence and greater cooperation on export permits to ensure consistency with end-use assurances before any further permits for military goods and technology (Group 2) are issued," the Canadian Foreign Minister said,

"Turkey is an important NATO ally and applications related to NATO cooperation programs will be assessed on a case-by-case basis," he concluded.

Earlier on Monday, Turkey said Cavusoglu had urged Canada to review the defense industry restrictions.

The parts under embargo include camera systems for Baykar armed drones. Export licenses were suspended in 2019 during Turkish military activities in Syria. Restrictions were then eased, but reimposed during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Turkey's military exports to Azerbaijan jumped sixfold last year. Sales of drones and other military equipment rose to \$77 million in September alone before fighting broke out in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, data showed.

Construction of new Armenia-Georgia border bridge launched



Armenian and Georgian government officials discussed on April 16 final preparations for the repeatedly delayed construction of a new bridge on the Armenian-Georgian border designed to facilitate travel and commerce.

The “Friendship Bridge” is to be built over the Debed river flowing through the main border crossing at Bagratashen-Sadakhlo. It currently has a single narrow bridge constructed in Soviet times.

The Armenian and Georgian governments signed a deal on the new bridge in late 2014 two years after the European

Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) pledged to finance the project with a loan extended to Armenia.

Work on the bridge was originally due to start in 2017 and last for two years. However, the Armenian government completed an international tender for the right to build the bridge only in 2018. An Iranian construction firm, Ariana Tunnel Dam, won the tender with a \$9 million bid.

The Armenian Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures announced the impending start of the construction on Friday after a virtual meeting of a Georgian-Armenian task force dealing with the project.

A ministry statement said the working group gave final approval to the architectural design of the planned bridge which is due to be 386 meters long and have two sections with a total of four traffic lanes. It also approved a “simplified procedure” for construction workers’ access to the border

area.

The new bridge will be used for Armenia’s trade with not only Georgia but also Russia, its number one trading partner. Much of Russian-Armenian trade, worth almost \$2.2 billion in 2020, is carried out by heavy trucks passing through the Bagratashen-Sadakhlo crossing.

Armenian passport control and customs facilities at Bagratashen were expanded and modernized in 2016 as part of a \$65 million program mostly financed by the European Union.

The session of the Georgian-Armenian task force coincided with President Armen Sarkissian’s official visit to Tbilisi. Meeting with Georgian parliament speaker Archil Talakvadze, Sarkissian said the two neighboring states should “encourage the implementation of joint projects” now that their economies are reeling from recessions caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Armenia to appoint a Trade Attaché to Iran

Armenia will appoint a Trade Attaché to Iran. The Armenian government adopted a relevant decision on April 15.

The establishment of an Armenian trade attaché in Iran will allow to more effectively represent the economic interests of the Republic of Armenia in various spheres related to economic cooperation, to facilitate the implementation of trade and economic cooperation by Armenian-Iranian economic entities, as well as to support the activation of business initiatives between the two countries.

The creation of a post of trade attaché will enable him to receive more operative information on the economic situation in



Iran, the legislation regulating the sphere of foreign economic activity, as well as to provide similar information about Armenia to the interested bodies of Iran.

One of the main responsibilities of the trade attaché is to participate in business forums organized on the ground, to present the business environment in Armenia,

to provide relevant information to Iranian entrepreneurs interested in investing in Armenia, to companies, etc.

According to the RA Statistical Committee, Armenia’s trade turnover with Iran in 2020 amounted to \$ 400.2 million. Exports from Armenia to Iran amounted to \$ 84.8 million, and imports from Iran to Armenia amounted to \$315.4 million.

The issues of establishing a joint ventures or branches of Iranian companies in Armenia are currently being discussed by both sides.

In these processes, it is important to eliminate transport barriers and take joint steps to facilitate financial transfers.

Deputy PM rules out ‘Zangezur corridor’ discussion at trilateral task force

Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan has ruled out any discussion on a “Zangezur corridor” at the trilateral working group on the unblocking of economic and transport communications – one of the terms of the Karabakh armistice.

“The word ‘corridor’ is commonly used as in transportation route, but I am stressing in this regard that no such issue will be discussed even as a transportation route,”

Grigoryan told reporters in response to observations that Azerbaijan is making statements on a “Zangezur corridor”.

He said that the trilateral working group is discussing options of unblocking transport communication, the legal regulations of which will be carried out exclusively upon the CIS legal framework, treaties and conventions which are in force and to which Armenia is a signatory of. “I don’t

have a discussion in any other format in that platform.”



EBRD and GCF expand green finance in Armenia

Armenia's private sector will benefit from new resources for green financing thanks to a US\$ 6 million financial package put together by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which is contributing up to US\$ 1.5 million in concessional financing. The loan is expected to facilitate the country's transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

The financing is being provided to Inecobank under the EBRD's Green Economy Financing Facility (GEFF) for lending to local enterprises for investment in climate-change mitigation and adaptation technologies and services. Eligible projects include investments in technologies such as thermal insulation, photovoltaic solar panels, geothermal heat pumps and water-efficient irrigation systems.

The GEFF includes a comprehensive technical advisory package, co-financed by the GCF, which helps to originate and verify green investment opportunities. Companies interested in securing a loan for green technologies can also avail of investment incentives funded by the Climate Invest-



ment Funds (CIF). Businesses can identify green technologies commonly available in Armenia using the GEFF Technology Selector.

Dimitri Gvindadze, EBRD Head of Armenia, said: "Improving access to green finance is one of our key priorities in Armenia. Inecobank's solid client base helps to better reach private-sector players both in Yerevan and the regions. We are committed to helping firms and residents reduce their energy consumption and thus become more competitive."

Inecobank is one of the leading banks in Armenia, offering a full range of banking services to individual customers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Today, the bank serves more than 500,000 customers and has more than 250,000 on-

line users. Inecobank has developed and delivered industry-leading digital banking solutions with a view to introducing an entirely new culture of banking services to Armenia.

"We are honoured to continue our fruitful collaboration with the EBRD and once again confirm our commitment to the promotion of green financing in Armenia," said Aren Naltakyan, CEO of Inecobank.

The GEFF programme is helping to build a green economy in Armenia by supporting the expansion of green finance in accordance with the EBRD Green Economy Transition (GET) approach.

The EBRD is a leading institutional investor in Armenia. It has invested more than €1.5 billion in 187 projects in the country, supporting private-sector development and the transition to a sustainable, green economy.

Since 2006, the EBRD has committed more than €36 billion to projects in the regions in which it invests, furthering the transition to the green economy.

Iran, Armenia unveil Saint Thaddeus Church postage stamp

Iran and Armenia on April 11 unveiled a commemorative stamp of Saint Thaddeus Church on the sidelines of a joint online philatelic exhibition, [Tehran Times](#) reports.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by the head of Iran's Post Company Ramezan-Ali Sobhanifar, Armenian Ambassador to Iran Artashes Toumanian.

Iranian commemorative stamps of the Iranian New Year (Norouz) and a selection of Armenian stamps were put on display in the online event, which is co-organized by the Post and Communications Museum and Arch Bishop Ardak Manoukian Museum.

Also known as the Qareh Klise ("the Black Church"), the monastery is one of the oldest surviving Christian monuments

in the country. It is situated in Chaldoran county some 20 kilometers from Maku, adjacent to the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey.

The ancient Church shows off elaborate bas-reliefs of flowers, animals, and human figures on its façade and exterior walls. It bears verses of Old and New Testament in Armenian calligraphy as well.

Together with St. Stepanos Monastery and the Chapel of Dzordzor, Qareh Klise was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2008 under the name "Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran". All three sites are located in West Azarbaijan and are of high significance from historical



and cultural perspectives. They bear credible testimony to interchanges with the ancient regional societies in particular the Byzantine, Orthodox, and Persian.

UNESCO has it that the churches bear examples of outstanding universal values of the Armenian architectural and decorative traditions.

Azerbaijan's policy of Armenophobia must be condemned by the civilized world: PM Pashinyan receives EU Special Representative

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on April 15 received EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia Toyvo Klaar. Head of EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin was in attendance.

The Premier described the ongoing EU-Armenia partnership as quite effective, which has resulted in numerous important projects. Nikol Pashinyan appreciated the European Union's involvement in the infrastructure projects implemented in Armenia. In this connection, he advised that the Government has decided to launch the construction of the Sisian-Kajaran section of the North-South Road Corridor.



Touching upon the situation established following Azerbaijan's aggression against Artsakh, the Prime Minister noted that the repatriation of POWs, as stipulated in Clause 8 of the statement of November 10, 2020, is a key priority for the Armenian side. However, Azerbaijan is trying to misinterpret the clause and delay the repatriation of POWs, hostages or other detainees. Calling Toyvo Klaar's attention to this important humanitarian issue, Nikol Pashinyan stressed the need for international partners' involvement, including EU institutions.



The Prime Minister next referred to the policy of Armenophobia officially encouraged by Azerbaijan's top leadership as evidenced by the opening of the so-called Trophy Park in Baku, which is meant to glorify the war crimes committed by Azerbaijan, involving children in that process. Nikol Pashinyan strongly condemned Azerbaijan's behavior, considering it a serious challenge to regional peace and emphasizing that such a stance in the 21st century is inconceivable for a member state of the Council of Europe, which is at odds with the principles adopted by the civilized world.

The Premier considered it necessary for the international community to respond adequately to Azerbaijan's anti-human policies. He stressed that this is the most serious basis for applying the principle of "remedial secession" to Nagorno-Karabakh.

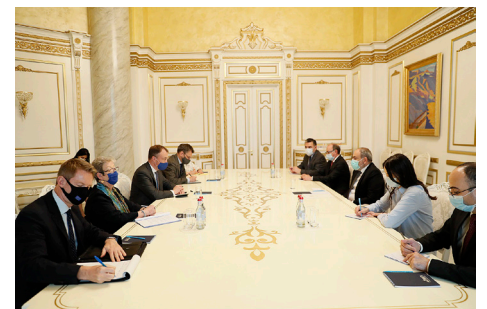
Noting that the European Union is eager to see regional peace reinstated in the South Caucasus, the EU Special Representative expressed deep concern over the challenges that can make it impossible to set up an appropriate confidence building atmosphere. Taking the opportunity, Toyvo Klaar shared with the

Prime Minister the impressions of his visit to Armenia's border regions and the meetings held with the locals. The importance of protecting the rights of population in border areas was emphasized on both sides.

Prime Minister Pashinyan drew the EU Special Representative's attention to Azerbaijani manipulations concerning foreigners' stay in Artsakh, which seeks to impede the implementation of humanitarian activities by international organizations in Nagorno-Karabakh. In this context, Nikol Pashinyan stressed the need for bringing Azerbaijan into a constructive field. In response, Ambassador Wiktorin assured that the EU will continue to implement humanitarian assistance programs in Artsakh.

The interlocutors discussed the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Prime Minister Pashinyan noted that the status of Nagorno-Karabakh remains unsettled, adding that Armenia abides by the position that the talks should continue in the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing format.

Nikol Pashinyan and Toyvo Klaar referred to other issues of regional significance, exchanged views on the opening of transport and economic infrastructure in the region.



Government to earmark AMD 7.5 billion in financial assistance for Artsakh citizens

The government amended one of its previous decisions to redistribute the state budget in an effort to address the aftermath of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan and provide financial assistance for the month of April to those households registered or actually residing in the Artsakh Republic. The amendment provides that 7,548,000 thousand drams shall be

allocated from the reserve fund of the 2021 state budget to 11,000,000 beneficiaries, including the pensioners domiciled in the Artsakh Republic, 68,000 drams each. Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Mesrop Arakelyan advised that nearly 33 billion drams have so far been provided to Artsakh residents under social assistance programs. “We have made a decision to earmark additional 22 billion drams under this program. In other words, the amount of assistance will make 55 billion drams altogether. More than 101,000 Artsakhis were supported last month through this program,” the Minister said.

The government approved the draft law On Amending the RA Law on Holidays and Remembrance Days. Accordingly, it is proposed to set January 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 as working days. Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan noted that according to the results of the assessment, in case of 5 additional working days in other equal conditions the volume of gross domestic product will increase by 88.6 billion drams, the volume of gross output will increase by 123 billion drams.

Prime Minister Pashinyan pointed out



that this issue had been discussed every year. “I would like to note that this is a long-standing topic with the difference that formerly it used to be discussed in the second half of December. Now we offer to discuss it today in order to understand what kind of public agreement we can form in this regard, considering that this is a delicate and important issue at the same time.”

The Premier suggested approving the bill, with follow-up discussions to be held on the matter. “The bill shall be circulated in the National Assembly. Before that, we are raising the issue to generate a certain public opinion in order to understand the public perception thereof,” Nikol Pashinyan said, noting that the bill is subject to amendment and may not be passed after all.

The government approved a set of measures to ensure self-development of young people, social entrepreneurship, create cultural and entertainment environments, as well as to establish innovation centers in the provinces.

Prime Minister Pashinyan noted that there are no such centers for young people operational in the region or in most of the regions. “We need such centers, especially

in the regions. A few centers were formed over time in Yerevan and Gyumri without the government’s intervention. And we decided to support the establishment of such centers in the provinces. There are individuals who have initiated such environments in a number of cities; we have successful experiences in this field. As a result, we decided to launch a grant

program by offering all those who have such initiatives in mind to submit them to the relevant tender committee and now we have winners. We thereby just support the latter to create such centers that will serve as a youth environment where content and communication is what matters most. Last year we announced a competition, there were winners, but the allocation of grant funds was postponed due to the war. We have now decided to resume this program, which means that we will allocate funds for implementing the short-listed projects,” the Prime Minister said

The meeting passed a decision “On establishing the office of Commercial Attaché of the Republic of Armenia in the Islamic Republic of Iran.” The government next approved a proposal to sign Amendment 15 to the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the United States of America on promoting a more competitive and diversified private sector. Submitted by USAID, the draft amendment provides for additional funding of USD 8,200,000 in support of Armenia’s infrastructure improvement programs.

Senator Menendez calls on U.S. Government to press Azerbaijan for releasing Armenian POWs

During the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) confirmation hearing on Thursday, April 15, 2021, of Ambassador Victoria Nuland to serve as U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, SFRC Chairman Bob Menendez (D-NJ) raised key issues relating to the Armenian people, including the Armenian prisoners of war still unjustly held captive by Azerbaijan and the need for robust humanitarian assistance, the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) informed.

Referring to the 44-day war launched by Azerbaijan, with the full and open support of Turkey, against the Armenian people in Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) on September 27, 2020 as an “unspeakable tragedy” and the “inexcusable” absence of top-level United States diplomacy throughout the war, Chairman Menendez stated that the “U.S. must press Azerbaijan to release the prisoners of war members that it has – which [Azerbaijan] is refusing to release them – in violation of international law.”

Amb. Nuland confirmed that the U.S. has to “get the prisoners released.”

“I’ve worked on Armenia, Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh issues for some 25



years, and the way things went down last year was absolutely tragic for so many in the region,” Amb. Nuland continued. During the afternoon hearing, Chairman Menendez also spoke about the significance and urgency of U.S. humanitarian assistance to Artsakh and the importance of “ensuring that the Armenians displaced from their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh get the assistance they need.”

Amb. Nuland replied in full agreement about committing to robust humanitarian assistance, including demining funds, and to ensuring the “sovereignty and territorial integrity of Armenia, and that it can make its own decisions.”

In reply to Chairman Menendez’s question about how to revitalize the OSCE Minsk Group, in order to create a more

sustainable peace process, Amb. Nuland discussed having conversations with Turkey.

“The Secretary [of State Antony Blinken] has spoken about needing to be clear-eyed regarding trends in Turkey,” said Amb. Nuland. “We’ve got a lot of work to do there in our bilateral relationship to make clear our concerns about not only what Turkey’s doing outside its country, but also what it’s doing inside its country.”

Amb. Nuland emphasized the importance of conveying “strong support for the Caucasus countries, being active diplomatically, getting high-level leadership there, and using all of our economic and humanitarian tools.”

“We commend Chairman Menendez’s ongoing leadership,” stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. “The release of the POWs is paramount as are the compelling humanitarian needs of the Armenian people. We continue to press forward on all fronts,” Ardouny added.

The Assembly strongly supports bipartisan legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives calling on Azerbaijan to immediately release and repatriate Armenian POWs and captured civilians.

PACE Migration Committee Chair urges return of Armenian POWs

Chairman of the Migration Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has expressed deep concern over the fate of alleged captives and missing persons from the recent conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“I am deeply concerned about the fate of the alleged captives and missing persons from the recent conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan,” Pierre Alain Fridez (Switzerland, SOC), Chair of the PACE Migration Committee said after an exchange of views on this issue in the Committee.

“This is all the more worrying in the context of the 16 March 2021 [press release](#) of the European Court of Human Rights, indicating that the Azerbaijani Government had failed “to respect the time-limits set by the Court for the submission of information on the individuals concerned and the rather general and limited information provided by them.” The Court identified 188 Armenians allegedly captured by Azerbaijan. Notwithstanding



that this number may have gone down since that date, there remain a very large number of persons of concern.

“It is incumbent upon Azerbaijan to fully co-operate with the Court, providing information on the whereabouts and fate of the remaining persons of concern on this list, and ensure that they are returned without delay in accordance with article 8 of the trilateral statement of 9-10 November 2020,” he said.

“I am also concerned about the overall issue of missing persons believed to have fallen in the recent conflict, as well as – in general – the fate of missing persons from the open conflict which took place

between 1991 and 1994. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan must co-operate without precondition, in good faith and with the aid of the ICRC, to find a solution to the issue of missing persons, and to organize the swift release of all current captives,” Mr Fridez said.

“The rising death toll from mines planted in the conflict region, where presumably Armenia holds most of the information and mine maps, is equally a matter of great concern. Information, where available, needs to be urgently disclosed, and I count on Armenia and Azerbaijan to co-operate in good faith and address this pressing issue to avoid ongoing death and injury.”

The Committee is ready to assist both countries in solving the humanitarian consequences of this tragic long running conflict. Its rapporteur, Mr Paul Gavan (Ireland UEL), is preparing a report on the issue of the “Humanitarian consequences of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan”.

Greek, Armenian Americans lobby against SpaceX's Turkey launch



Greek-American and Armenian-American organizations are lobbying U.S. authorities to block SpaceX's upcoming launch of a Turkish communications satellite on national security grounds, *Ahval* reports.

SpaceX plans to use its Falcon 9 Block 5 launch vehicle to send the Türksat 5B into orbit in June 2021. In January, the private space launch company had put into space an older Türksat 5A communication satellite from a base in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The Hellenic American Leadership Council and Armenian National Committee of America wrote to the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to block the plans, arguing that the communications satellite has dangerous military applications.

"In light of Turkey's open hostility to U.S. interests and allies, we call upon the FAA to reject the pending application for a Türksat 5B launch and to deny future license requests for any launches that contribute to Turkey's offensive military capabilities," they said in the letter, which

was sent over the weekend.

Protesters had previously opposed the deployment of the Türksat 5A on the same grounds.

The Türksat 5A and Türksat 5B are useful for both commercial and military purposes. Türksat Deputy General Manager Hasan Hüseyin Ertok told Defense Here last year that the two new satellites will "significantly increase" the Turkish military's communications capacity.

The letter from Greek-Armenians and Armenian-Americans points out that satellite communications could expand the range of the Turkish drone fleet, "locking in Ankara's ability to independently conduct military operations against U.S. and allied positions across nearly half the globe".

It highlights that Turkish drones have been used against the "indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh" and Turkey "has threatened their use against Greece and Cyprus".

In the last months of 2020, Azerbaijan retook the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh with Turkey's support, using Turkish and Israeli drones to cut through poorly-equipped Armenian forces.

Turkey has also used drones to devastating effect on the battlefield in Syria, northern Iraq, and Libya, and against Kurdish militants inside Turkey.

Satellite communications in particular

have played a role in expanding the range of Turkey's most advanced drones. The Turkish Embassy in Washington DC declined to comment on the issue.

The letter also mentions that the Turkish defense industry is subject to sanctions under the Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, or CAATSA.

The United States banned all exports of U.S. military hardware to and from the Turkish defense procurement agency SSB and imposed penalties on SSB officials in December 2020, in response to Turkey's purchase of a Russian-made S-400 missile system. However, sanctions attorney Matthew Tuchband was skeptical that CAATSA sanctions would specifically apply to Türksat.

"The CAATSA sanctions that were applied to SSB in Turkey and individuals in Turkey were about Russia and U.S. foreign policy towards Russia," said Tuchband, who served as deputy chief counsel at the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control and now works for the law firm Arendt Fox.

"They weren't intended to undermine the military capabilities of Turkey," he said. "I am sure SpaceX has good export control and sanctions counsel to make sure they're not falling afoul of that."

The Washington Post's publications on Armenian Genocide published in a two-volume book



The publications of The Washington Post on the massacres of the Armenian people and the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey during the period of 1890-1922 have been collected and printed in a two-volume book called "The Armenian Genocide: Prelude and Aftermath. As referred in the U.S. press". ARMENPRESS reports the books are compiled and

edited by father of the Mekhitarist Congregation of Venice, Reverend father Vahan Ohanyan and Ara Katibyan.

The two-volume book of the Washington Post's publications on the Armenian Genocide of the period of 1890-1922 contain huge valuable information for researchers and ordinary readers, Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Harutyun Marutyan said during the presentation of the book.

"The positive attitude of the U.S. Government and the people towards the Armenian Genocide survivors during those years and afterwards was also conditioned by the in-depth coverage of the Armenian massacres by the American press",

Marutyan said.

"What was said about Armenians in the US Congress was covered by the newspaper. It is noteworthy that in those years diplomatic and political secrets were not kept as strictly as they are now. There are many articles that contain letters from Washington to the US Embassy in Turkey", Ara Katibyan said.

The first volume, in particular, presents the publications of The Washington Post about the massacres in Turkey in 1890-1900.

The second volume contains 1,200 articles on the Armenian Genocide during 1916-1922, Armenians and Armenian topics.

USAID, WHO complete large project in support to Armenia's Ministry of Health for COVID-19 response

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and World Health Organization (WHO) handed 150 oxygen concentrators to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia to support the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and equip the frontline hospitals with essential medical equipment and supplies, ARMENPRESS was informed from the WHO Armenia office.

Oxygen therapy is an essential step for the treatment of COVID-19 patients with low oxygen levels. Due to their mobility and high-efficiency oxygen concentrators are vitally needed in hospitals serving patients with severe cases of COVID-19.

Lynne M. Tracy, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, Lena Nanushyan, RA Deputy Minister of Health, Egor Zaitsev, the WHO Representative in Armenia and Shombi Sharp, the UN Resident Coordinator visited the National Center of Providing Drugs and Medical Supplies SNCO to hand over the equipment.

"We are grateful for the continuous assistance and highly value the cooperation within the framework of COVID-19 response. Every contribution in the organization of healthcare for COVID-19 patients is important, and at this stage activities, aimed at disease prevention, in particular vaccination, are more important," said Lena Nanushyan with the hope that the desired result will be reached through vaccination.

"Since the pandemic began, USAID and the broader U.S. government have supported Armenia in its COVID-19 response efforts. Seeing the equipment here



today is an example of that collaboration. We are proud to join our efforts with the government and provide emergency funds to UNICEF, WHO, IFRC, and AUA to support Armenia's response efforts. Over the past year, the U.S. government has provided more than \$11 million in assistance to Armenia to combat COVID-19. This includes a recent additional \$1 million in funding to provide targeted technical assistance to support and ensure effective implementation of COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Armenia," said Lynne M. Tracy, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia. "Combining the efforts with our partners, we continue supporting Armenia with a multi-faceted approach to respond to the pandemic. Our activities are aimed at helping strengthen the healthcare system, assisting frontline hospitals to provide adequate care and supporting people who are bravely fighting the virus," added Egor Zaitsev, the WHO representative in Armenia. The delivery of the shipment is a part of a larger assistance package to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the country that was focused on strengthening 2 main pillars of COVID-19-response: timely and effective testing and management of COVID-19 patients. As

a part of the joint project that is coming to its end, USAID and WHO have provided 3 digital portable x-ray units and 3 ultrasound machines, which were distributed to dedicated COVID-19 hospitals to help hundreds of patients. To increase the testing capacity in the country, lab supplies, sample collection and extraction kits for 40,000 PCR tests have been provided to national laboratories. Laboratory supplies included a total of 313,320 pieces of different items, needed for PCR testing such as disposable supplies, testing tubes, micropipettes, and others that were of quite a high deficit because of an extremely high global demand for the COVID-19 critical supplies.

Besides procurement of a large number of critical items, the program was also focused on strengthening case management and laboratory capacities at the national level. Such activities included implementation of external quality evaluation program for all laboratories, carrying out PCR testing; assessment of national and subnational PCR laboratories, using WHO tools and development of a set of recommendations for further strengthening interventions; workshops and seminars for national lab experts on topics of interest, such as maintenance of biosafety cabinets, new SARS COV-2 variants of concern; reinfection and other topics of interest; national-level consultations to ensure rational use of antibiotics during the management of COVID-19 patients; timely translation and adaptation of national guidance on COVID-19 case management to include the latest evidence.

Poland sends 3 tons of humanitarian aid to Artsakh's displaced citizens

The Government of Poland sent 3 tons of humanitarian aid to Armenia, which will be provided to the displaced citizens of Artsakh that reside in Armenia, 1st Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia Tatevik Stepanyan said at Zvartnots airport, noting that there are nearly 1000 citizens of Artsakh residing in state shelters in Armenia.

According to Tatevik Stepanyan, the citizens displaced from Artsakh are provided with all necessary stuff, while the

humanitarian aid sent by Poland will be a supplementary assistance.

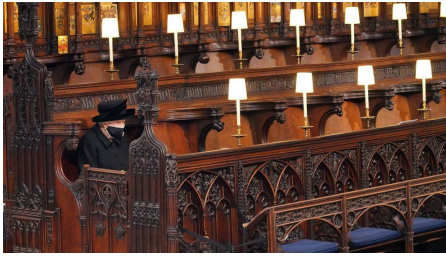
Ambassador of Poland to Armenia Paweł Cieplak reminded that on March 31, 2021 Foreign Minister of Armenia Ara Ayvazian had called for humanitarian assistance, which was rapidly responded by Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

"The aid is for the citizens who have lost their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh. We sent first aid kits for refugees – medical

thermometers, pressure gauges, etc", Ambassador Cieplak said.



Prince Philip laid to rest at Windsor Castle funeral



The Duke of Edinburgh has been laid to rest in an intimate funeral at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, the [BBC](#) reports.

The Dean of Windsor paid tribute to Prince Philip's "kindness, humor and humanity" during the ceremony. The congregation wore masks and was socially distanced in line with Covid rules, with the Queen seated alone. The duke's children walked behind his coffin in a funeral procession, followed by a national minute's silence. More than 730 members of the armed forces took part in the event, but there was a limit of 30 mourners inside St George's Chapel, under coronavirus rules.

His coffin was carried the short distance to St George's Chapel on a modified Land Rover, which the duke himself helped to

design. The funeral procession was headed by the Band of the Grenadier Guards, the Major General's party, and military service chiefs.

Princess Anne and Prince Charles made up the front row behind the vehicle, followed by Prince Edward and Prince Andrew.

Prince William and Prince Harry walked either side of their cousin Peter Phillips.

The brothers sat on opposite sides of the aisle but were seen chatting together after they left the service. Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence and the Earl of Snowdon also walked behind the coffin, trailed by members of the duke's household staff.

The Queen, 94, travelled with a lady-in-waiting in the state Bentley at the end of the procession.

A ceremonial gun fire at nine locations across the UK and in Gibraltar marked the start and end of the national minute's silence.

No planes landed or took off at Heathrow for six minutes to coincide with the silence and all major sporting events

were rescheduled to avoid a clash with the funeral.

The funeral service was conducted by the Dean of Windsor, with the Archbishop of Canterbury pronouncing the blessing.

The Dean paid tribute to Prince Philip's "kindness, humor and humanity" and the "many ways in which his long life has been a blessing to us".

"We have been inspired by his unwavering loyalty to our Queen, by his service to the nation and the Commonwealth, by his courage, fortitude and faith," he said during his bidding.

Buckingham Palace said the funeral plans had been modified to take into account public health guidelines.

The funeral took place entirely within the grounds of the castle and the public were asked not to gather there or at other royal residences.

But the ceremonial aspects of the day and the service remained in line with Prince Philip's wishes and reflected his military affiliations and personal elements of his life.

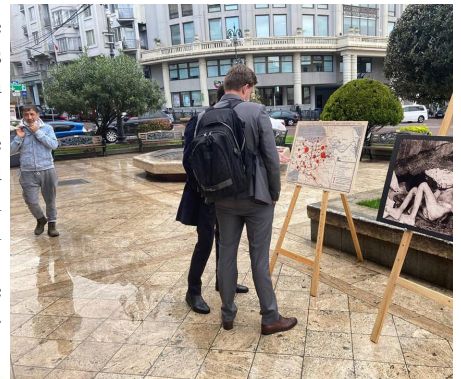
Tbilisi hosts photo exhibition on Armenian Genocide



An exhibition of paintings entitled "The Armenian Genocide" was held in Tbilisi's Freedom Square, the Armenian Embassy in Georgia informs.

The exhibition featured paintings of the Armenian Genocide, the pogroms in Baku and Sumgait, as well as Armenian cultural monuments that fell victim to Azerbaijani vandalism in Artsakh and Nakhichevan.

The exhibition was organized by the "Armenian Community of Georgia" non-governmental organization.



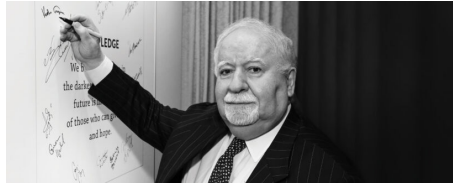
Aurora Co-founder Vartan Gregorian dies aged 87

Co-Founder and member of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee, an outstanding Armenian-American humanitarian, scholar, author, educator and mentor Vartan Gregorian passed away on April 16 aged 87, Aurora Humanitarian Initiative informs.

Born in Tabriz, Iran, Vartan Gregorian overcame countless challenges he faced as a young immigrant to the United States and went on to build a remarkable career that spanned several decades and crossed the lines of academia, philanthropy, and culture within and beyond his adopted country. He was an ardent advocate of education and enlightenment, seeing books as “stations of hope, education and better future.”

In 1956, he enrolled at Stanford University, where he majored in history and the humanities, graduating with honors in 1958. Vartan Gregorian was awarded a Ph.D. in history and humanities by Stanford in 1964 and received the Danforth Foundation’s E.H. Harbison Distinguished Teaching Award in 1969. In 1972 he joined the University of Pennsylvania faculty and was appointed Tarzian Professor of History and professor of South Asian history. He was founding dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania in 1974 and four years later became its twenty-third provost until 1981.

In 1981–1989, Vartan Gregorian served as President of The New York



Public Library and was widely credited with restoring the status of the library as a cultural landmark. In 1989, he was appointed president of Brown University. Brown became both more global, more academically competitive, and more financially secure under his leadership: during his tenure, he led a campaign that raised over \$500 million, bringing the institution’s endowment past the \$1 billion mark. Since 1997, Dr. Gregorian served as the twelfth president of Carnegie Corporation of New York. In 1998, he was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Clinton, and in 2004 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civil award of the United States, by President Bush.

Vartan Gregorian was a man of great inner strength, a reservoir of compassion and infinite wisdom. He was awarded numerous fellowships, including from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, and the American Philosophical Society. In addition, he has received scores of honorary

degrees and has been decorated by the French, Italian, Austrian, and Portuguese governments.

In his lifelong mission to achieve global prosperity and peace, Vartan Gregorian always spoke up on behalf of the most destitute and disenfranchised. Committed to the eradication of genocide, discrimination and persecution, he has become a mentor and a beacon of hope for all inspired by his empathy and determination. He guided the younger generation with kindness and acuity, changing lives and constantly leading by personal example of selflessness and commitment.

A prolific author, Vartan Gregorian published several books, including *The Road To Home: My Life and Times*, *Islam: A Mosaic, Not a Monolith*, and *The Emergence of Modern Afghanistan, 1880-1946*.

In 2015, together with Noubar Afeyan and Ruben Vardanyan, he co-founded the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors. The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and its flagship program, the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, seek to transform this experience into a global movement by addressing on-the-ground humanitarian challenges around the world with the focus on helping the destitute.

Lithuanian translation of Grigor Narekatsi’s Book of Lamentations published

On the initiative of the Armenian Embassy in Lithuania, the second expanded edition of the Lithuanian translation of Grigor Narekatsi’s (Gregory of Narek) poem “Book of Lamentations” has been published. The publication is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of Armenia-Lithuania diplomatic relations.

The poem has been translated by renowned Lithuanian poet and playwright Sigitas Geda. The book contains twelve miniatures of separate parts of the poem taken from the medieval manuscripts provided by the Mesrop Mashtots Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts and the Treasury-Museum of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

Attached to the publication there is an 12-hour audio book. The chapters of the poem are read by three famous Lithuanian actors Vladas Bagdonas, Vytautas Rumshas, Aldona Bronislava Dausienne, to the accompaniment of medieval Armenian music.

During the presentation of the book at the Armenian Embassy on April 15, Ambassador Tigran Mkrtchyan presented the life and



work of Grigor Narekatsi, the uniqueness and universal value of the poem “Book of Lamentations.” He noted that in 2015, Pope Francis awarded Grigor Narekatsi the title of Doctor of the Ecumenical Church, which has been awarded to only 36 great saints and theologians during the 1700-year history of the Catholic Church.

Ambassador Mkrtchyan mentioned that in 2018 the bronze statue of Gregory Narekatsi was solemnly unveiled in the Vatican Gardens, and added that by the decree of Pope Francis, February 27 will henceforth be commemorated as St. Grigor Narekatsi Day. The Ambassador concluded that Grigor Narekatsi could become another “very strong bridge” between the Armenian and the Lithuanian peoples who cherish their historical and religious heritage.

The Ambassador mentioned that the messages of the “Book of Lamentations” are universal and eternally relevant. He expressed hope that the Lithuanian reader would enjoy this book.

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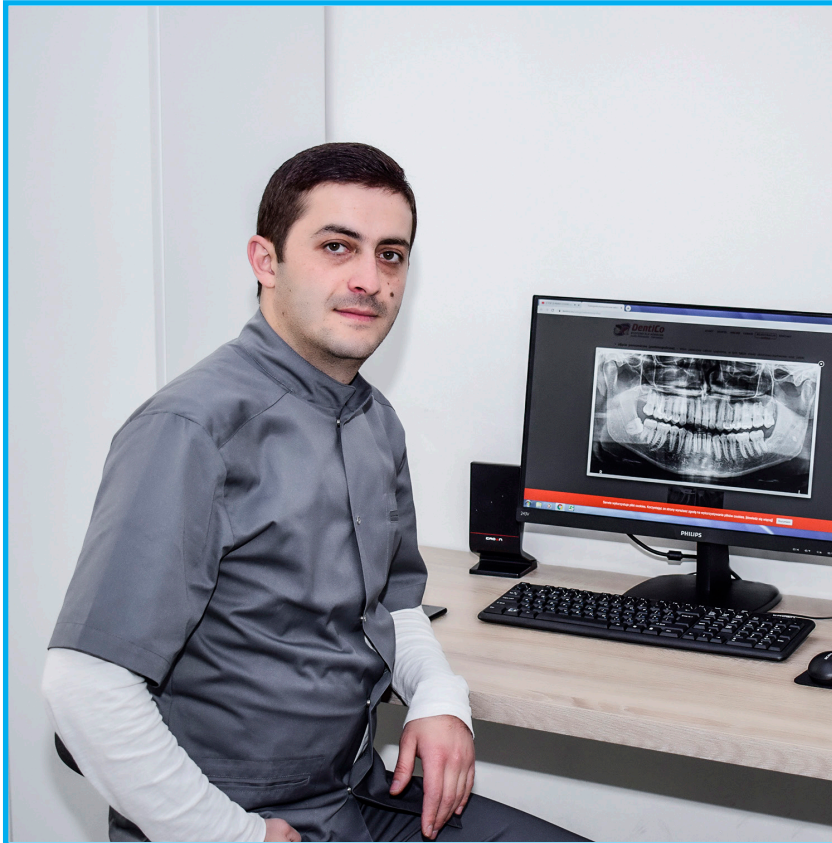
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