

Russian border troops to leave Armenia-Iran border checkpoint from January 2025



Armenia - A cargo terminal at a border crossing with Iran, November 29, 2018. (Photo by the State Revenue Committee of Armenia)

From January 1, 2025, the border guard troops of the Armenian National Security Service will also participate in the protection of the Armenia-Iran and Armenia-Turkey state borders. The agreement was reached during the meeting between Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister’s Spokesperson Nazeli Baghdasaryan said in a Facebook post.

The service at the checkpoint on Armenia-Iran border will be carried out exclusively by the forces of the Border Guard troops of the Armenian National Security Service.

Prime Minister Pashinyan thanked President Putin for the service carried out by the Border Guard troops of the Russian Federal Border Service at the border control point between the Republic of Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran since the independence of the Republic of Armenia.

During the meeting with the Russian President, Prime Minister Pashinyan presented the details of the “Crossroads of Peace” project, handed over the brochure of the project to the Russian President, and voiced concern about the expressions and vocabulary used by a number of Russian officials on regional issues, Baghdasaryan said.

She said a wide range of issues were discussed during the meeting, concrete agreements related to the energy, educational and humanitarian spheres were reached.

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Pashinyan, Putin discuss different aspects of cooperation



On the sidelines of the CIS Heads of State Council meeting in the Kremlin, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State.

"We are very happy to welcome you all to Moscow and hold a bilateral meeting as part of the work of the CIS leaders," Putin said as he welcomed the Armenian Prime Minister.

Referring to issues, the Russian President said: "Trade and economic relations are developing very vigorously and successfully. Trade turnover reached \$7.4 billion last year, and in the first half of this year it grew two and a half times, exceeding \$8.3 billion. If we continue at this pace, this means that trade turnover this year could reach \$14-16 billion. This is a record figure."

"Russia is the leading foreign investor

in the Armenian economy, with about four billion dollars in accumulated investments, and what is happening both within the intergovernmental commission and within the business council is yielding correspondingly good results," he said.

He attached importance to the aspect of humanitarian cooperation, as well.

PM Pashinyan noted, in turn, that over the past few months the bilateral political dialogue has been fairly active. "Deputy Prime Minister Overchuk came to visit us in Yerevan. Not only did a meeting of the intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation take place, but we also had a fairly substantive discussion on virtually all issues on our agenda," he said.

"A meeting of the EAEU Intergovernmental Council took place in Yerevan in early October. On the sidelines of this council, we had a rather substantive discussion of our cooperation and the agenda of the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation with the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation Mikhail Vladimirovich Mishustin," the Armenian PM added.

He emphasized that the meeting is a good opportunity to somehow summarize these discussions.

Mirzoyan highlights Armenia-Azerbaijan relations at CIS foreign ministerial meeting

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan participated in the session of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow on October 7, ahead of the CIS Heads of State Council session.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, agenda issues regarding CIS activities were discussed during the session held in both narrow and extended formats.

According to the outcomes of the session, Armenian Foreign Minister Mirzoyan addressed the decision to grant the honorary title of "Cultural



Capital of the CIS" to the city of Meghri in 2026, highlighting the city's rich cultural heritage.

Referring to the events planned for 2025 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War, the Armenian Foreign Minister emphasized the contributions of the Armenian people in the fight against fascism, racial discrimination, and intolerance.

According to the source, issues related to regional stability and security were discussed at the meeting.

FM Mirzoyan addressed the key recent developments regarding the regulation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, particularly the signing of a peace treaty.

No territorial claims against Azerbaijan in Armenia's Constitution - Pashinyan

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan participated in the regular session of the CIS Council of Heads of State in Moscow.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan addressed the current situation in the peace process between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as Yerevan's vision for further development.

In his speech, the Prime Minister reiterated

that the Government of the Republic of Armenia is firmly committed to establishing peace in the South Caucasus as soon as possible and promoting stable and predictable development in the region, taking into account the interests of all countries involved.

"This year, we have made tangible progress in the process of demarcation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani state border, and in particular, on the basis of the 1991 Alma-Ata declaration, border demarcation



was carried out in three sections of the border between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, and in those sections the inter-republican administrative border of the Soviet period has already been reproduced as a demarcated interstate border. This is undoubtedly an example of success," said Pashinyan.

The PM noted that another important event took place on August 30 of this year, when the regulation on the joint activity of the commissions on the demarcation

of the state border between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan was signed.

"In Armenia, the process of internal state procedures for the adoption of this document is coming to end, and during this month the Armenian parliament will discuss the issue of ratification of this document. It is important to note that the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia has already confirmed the compliance of the signed

regulation with the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, which means that the recognition of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the basis of the Alma-Ata Declaration, which implies the entire territory of Soviet Azerbaijan, is in line with the Constitution, which in turn means that there are no territorial claims to Azerbaijan or any other country in the Constitution of Armenia," said PM Pashinyan.

Armenia didn't join two statements at CIS Council of Foreign Ministers meeting



Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan on October 7 refused to sign up to statements by his Russian and other ex-Soviet counterparts implicitly denouncing Western sanctions against Russia and calling for a "multipolar" international security architecture.

They adopted the statements at a meeting in Moscow held on the eve of

a summit of the leaders of ex-Soviet countries making up the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The press office of the CIS Secretariat in Minsk said one of the documents deplores "unilateral restrictive measures" taken by unnamed nations or blocs for the purpose of "forcing another state to change its policy." It singles out the freezing or confiscation of that state's assets or restrictions on its citizens' freedom of travel. Such sanctions violate international law and the UN Charter in particular, according the statement.

The other statement lays out "the principles of cooperation in ensuring

security in Eurasia." According to the CIS Secretariat, it emphasizes the "inadmissibility of imposing rules, standards and norms in international relations, in the development of which the equal participation of all interested states was not ensured."

In a clear jibe at the West, the statement says that CIS countries "strongly condemn any attempts at forcible diktat aimed, among other things, at undermining the processes of integration and equal cooperation in Eurasia." They stand for "adaptation of the Eurasian architecture of interaction in the areas of security, economics, culture and other spheres to multipolar realities."

Armenia never agreed to the involvement of third countries in ensuring the security of communications - PM

The issue of unblocking all transport and economic connections is another important aspect of establishing stability in the South Caucasus. In this regard, we offer concrete solutions, which are reflected in the 'Crossroads of Peace' project developed by us, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the narrow-format meeting of the CIS Heads of State Council.

"The essence of this project is as follows: Armenia is ready to ensure the passage of vehicles, cargo, passengers, pipelines, cables through its territory: from Georgia to Iran and vice versa, from Turkey to Azerbaijan and vice versa, etc. We are ready to ensure the passage of vehicles, cargo, passengers, pipelines, cables between the main part of Azerbaijan and

the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.

Responding to our proposals, Azerbaijan emphasizes that if Armenia does not want to open regional communications, Azerbaijan will use the opportunities provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran to connect with Nakhichevan. Of course, we do not object, because this is a matter of relations between the two sovereign countries. But I want to emphasize once again that Armenia wants the opening of regional channels and that we are ready to provide transport communications through our territory on the same terms as provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Moreover, we are ready to make certain simplifications in border control procedures within the framework of respect

for the principles of reciprocity, equality, sovereignty and jurisdiction of the parties," the Prime Minister said.

In this context, Pashinyan emphasized that the Republic of Armenia is ready to fully ensure the safety of passage of goods, vehicles and people through its territory.

"This is our desire, our commitment, and we guarantee it. By the way, all statements that Armenia has somehow agreed that third countries will ensure the security of communication in its sovereign territory, or that this is stipulated by some document, are simply not true. Ensuring security in its territory is the sovereign obligation of any country. That's our job, and we guarantee to do it," said Pashinyan.

EU monitoring mission brought transparency to the region, says Armenian Security Council Secretary



The EU civilian monitoring mission in Armenia has brought transparency to the

region, Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan has said.

Speaking at the Crossroads of Peace, Combining Security and Democracy conference, Grigoryan once again highly appreciated the EU mission's work.

"I'd like to mention something that is important also in context of the Armenia-EU relations. The purpose of the mission is not about changing the Armenians' perception of the EU, but the EU mission has done that," Grigoryan said, highly

appreciating the added value.

"This mission is also bringing transparency to the region, which is also highly important. Before 5 April of this year [Armenia-EU-US high level meeting], Azerbaijan and many media outlets were accusing us of attempts to escalate the situation, bring new forces to the border. The EU mission played an important role and by ensuring transparency it showed what was happening in the region and refuted those false accusations," Grigoryan said.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Vahan Kostanyan participated in the Berlin Climate and Security Conference

On October 8, in Berlin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Vahan Kostanyan participated in the round-table discussion entitled "Climate change impacts on crisis management and mediation" at the Berlin Climate and Security Conference, which was organised under the auspices of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

According to the foreign ministry, touching upon the normalisation process

of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, the Deputy Foreign Minister reiterated Armenia's readiness to finalise the Peace treaty with the already agreed-upon text in the shortest timeframe.

In this context, Vahan Kostanyan underscored Armenia's commitment to foster confidence-building measures between the two countries. Armenia's decision to withdraw its bid to host COP29 is a vivid testimony of this commitment.

Underscoring the utmost priority of human rights, the Deputy Foreign Minister highlighted the importance of civil society's involvement in the climate and security dialogue.

In his remarks, the Deputy Minister touched upon the regional issues, emphasizing the importance of a positive agenda in the context of developing bilateral relations with neighboring countries.

Germany supports Armenia's aspirations to establish good-neighborly relations with countries of the region – Steinmeier

Germany supports Armenia's aspirations to establish good-neighborly relations with its neighbors and will make all possible efforts to establish final peace in the South Caucasus region, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said as he welcomed Armenian counterpart Vahagn Khachaturyan at the Presidential Palace.

"Germany is interested in promoting the development of both intercultural ties and economic relations with Armenia, and I am aware that our interest is mutual. I also hope that in the near future it will be possible to fulfill my wish to visit Armenia," Steinmeier said.

Expressing his gratitude for the reception, President Vahagn Khachaturyan said, "We highly value the close cooperation between Armenia and Germany in various directions, and Germany's presence in our reality is significant and significant

in various fields."

"We appreciate Germany's continuous support and contribution to the implementation of democratic reforms in Armenia. I am confident that in the near future our cooperation will continue to expand in the fields of economy, energy, culture, education and other directions, for which there is a bilateral desire and considerable potential," the Armenian President said.

Referring to the situation and developments in the region, President Khachaturyan emphasized that Armenia is firmly moving towards achieving stable and lasting peace in the region, and for this purpose has launched the "Crossroads of Peace" program.

Referring to the Armenia-Turkey relations, the President noted that the Armenian side stands for normalization

of relations without preconditions, and certain steps have been taken towards the creation and restoration of border infrastructure.

Vahagn Khachaturyan stressed that Armenia's position is to have good-neighborly relations with all neighboring states, which is in the interests of all countries of the region.

"It is clear to us that without peace, stability and neighborliness, it is not possible to have the expected development in our region and, in general, in the whole world," the president said.

During the conversation, the parties exchanged ideas on a number of issues on the agenda of cooperation between Armenia and Germany. Reference was made to a number of regional and global issues.

Armenia ready to sign the peace treaty this month, and this is our official position - Pashinyan

We hold the firm conviction that peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan is not only possible, but also within reach, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the meeting of the CIS Heads of State Council in a narrow format.

"Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have announced in recent months that the draft agreement "On the establishment of peace and interstate relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan" has been agreed upon by at least 80 percent. Recently, in the level of the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, an agreement was reached to activate the work towards the completion of the approval of the draft peace treaty.

In principle, we can act according to the following logic, which is what we propose to Azerbaijan: to sign what has already been agreed, thus having not only de facto, but also de jure peace, and continue working on all other issues. In any case,



it is impossible to develop such a peace treaty that will answer all questions and regulate all aspects of bilateral relations. Whatever the peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan is, there will inevitably remain important, fundamental issues that must be agreed upon, resolved, and new treaties must be signed," said the Prime Minister.

Moreover, in the presence of a signed and ratified peace agreement, the solution of other issues will be much easier, because a completely different situation will prevail in the region.

"And at this stage, we have to make a decision on a number of fundamental issues that can become a solid basis for the establishment of peace between our countries. It is about mutual recognition of each other's territorial integrity. I am talking about the obligation to confirm the absence of territorial claims towards each other and not to present such claims in the future. I am talking about maintaining the principle of non-use of force and threat of force, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, establishment of diplomatic relations and creation of bilateral mechanisms for the fulfillment of obligations assumed by the parties within the framework of the peace treaty.

The wording of all these issues has already been agreed by the parties in the draft agreement "On establishment of peace and interstate relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan", and we are ready to sign this document already this month, and this is our official position," said Pashinyan.

'Our aim is to transform Armenia into an advanced high-tech hub,' U.S. Ambassador



USAID empowers Armenia's tech

sector and drives economic development, the U.S. Embassy in Armenia said in a press release.

USAID sponsored the DigiTec Expo 2024 through the Economic Foundations Activity.

"We remain dedicated to building economic resilience, and a thriving high-tech industry is key to that goal. Our aim is to transform Armenia into an advanced

high-tech hub that drives development not only within the country but also across the region and globally," the embassy quoted U.S. Ambassador Kristina Kvien as saying.

"Events like DigiTec Expo 2024 play a crucial role in fostering innovation and sustainability within the high-tech community. Let's keep pushing the boundaries of innovation together," the embassy said.

Armenia, Germany agree on 2025 defense cooperation plan

On October 9-10, Bilateral Defense Consultations between the Republic of Armenia and the Federal Republic of Germany were held in Berlin. The Armenian delegation was led by Levon Ayvazyan, Head of the Department of Defense Policy and International Cooperation of the Armenian Ministry of Defense.

During the meetings held at the Federal Ministry of Defense of Germany, within the Departments of International Security Policy and International Cooperation, various issues concerning international and regional security were



discussed, alongside the prospects for the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Levon Ayvazyan provided an overview of the political-military situation surrounding Armenia and its ongoing developments, highlighting in particular the

Crossroads of Peace initiative developed by the Government of Armenia, as well as the transformation of the Armenian Armed Forces.

The parties reviewed and commended the progress of bilateral defense cooperation in 2024, underscoring its significant potential for further development. As a result of the discussions, the 2025 cooperation program in the field of defense was agreed upon, including a range of activities related to exchange of experience, education, and training, as well as other areas of mutual interest.

Armenia eyes South Korea's K2 main battle tank adapted for mountainous terrain - Army Recognition

Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan visited South Korea in September to explore the possibility of acquiring K2 Black Panther main battle tanks developed by Hyundai Rotem, reported Army Recognition, citing the South Korean media outlet Chosun Biz.

The Armenian minister also attended the 2024 high-level meeting on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence (REAIM), organized by South Korea's Ministry of National Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 9 and 10.

Papikyan also used this visit to initiate discussions on the supply of South Korean weapons, with a particular interest in the K2 tank.

The K2 main battle tank, currently used by the South Korean Army, features a



semi-active pneumatic suspension system, an advanced technology that is especially

well-suited to mountainous terrains

PM Pashinyan chairs the second session of the Science and Technology Development Council of Armenia

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan chaired the second meeting of the Science and Technology Development Council of Armenia under the Prime Minister of Armenia today.

According to a readout issued by the PM's office, Hakob Arshakyan, Vice President of the National Assembly, member of the council, presented the work done by the executive committee, based on the agreements reached during the previous session.

In particular, the work carried out by 8 working groups was reported, the vision of which is the development of the scientific and technological sphere in Armenia, making it an innovative and industrially developed state.

According to Hakob Arshakyan, about 70 specialists were involved in the works, including entrepreneurs in the field of science, reputable persons from Armenia and the Diaspora.

Details were presented on plans and proposals for the development in 5 sectors that have the components of education, science and industry: artificial intelligence and machine learning, microelectronics, advanced robotics, quantum technology,



biotechnology and sciences.

It was emphasized that the programs related to scientific and technological development and the recommendations presented by the working groups are included in one document.

It was noted that there was a proposal by all the working groups to have centers of excellence, which would include a scientific council for attracting talent, laboratory infrastructures, carry out work related to the formulation of modern problems, scientific work and printing, educational programs for educational institutions, etc.

"The consolidation of about 7 dozen scientists and entrepreneurs of the technological community is about bringing a

true qualitative change in Armenia and offering qualitatively new programs. This is also the reason for this new qualitative proposal: to go in the direction of centers of excellence. This can also serve as a basis for the cooperation of the Science and Technology University of the Academic City," said Hakob Arshakyan.

At the meeting, reference was also made to the monitoring of the implementation of the strategy.

An exchange of ideas took place, the participants of the meeting referred to the creation of a mechanism for discussing the package of proposals prepared by the working groups with the government.

In that framework, activities related to the involvement of working groups, implementation of monitoring of program implementation and presentation to the council, continuous study of global experience and provision of consultation will be carried out.

In this context, the Prime Minister noted that it is necessary to establish criteria for the selection of experts and to decide with which legal organizational mechanism it will work best.

Armenia advancing in technological development - Rodrigo Messi

Armenia is advancing in terms of technological development, Rodrigo Messi, the brother of world-famous Argentinian football player Lionel Messi said.

He praised Armenia's progress in technological development during his speech at the World Congress on Innovation and Technology (WCIT2024/DigiTec). The event was also attended by Armenia's Minister of High-Tech Industry, Mkhitar Hayrapetyan.

Messi expressed his gratitude for the invitation, saying, "I thank Armenia and the Armenian people for the warm welcome. I see how Armenia continues to advance in the field of technology." He also shared his satisfaction with both the



conference and his visit to Yerevan.

He also said that the development of Armenia in terms of technology would be continuous.

After the speech, Rodrigo Messi and his team will have meetings with the Minister of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, Mkhitar Hayrapetyan

to discuss future cooperation plans and opportunities.

Rodrigo Messi is the director of Lionel Messi Management and a special advisor at Play Time Ventures.

In 2022, global football superstar Lionel Messi founded a holding company with the primary goal of investing in sports, media, and technology worldwide.

San Francisco-based Play Time Sports-Tech HoldCo LLC is Messi's main investment vehicle. It is managed by Razmik Hovakimyan, a partner at Graph Ventures, who conveyed Elon Musk's greetings to the conference participants during the WCIT2024/DigiTec panel discussion.

SADA provides all services that prepare companies for AI, says CTO Miles Ward



SADA, An Insight Company, a global cloud consulting and professional services market leader providing solutions powered by Google Cloud, was among the renowned companies participating in the WCIT2024/DigiTec in Yerevan.

SADA provides various services that prepare companies for artificial intelligence (AI). If customers do not have an efficient development platform, data platform, or security system, SADA helps the companies be prepared for what is next in AI.

The company has built hundreds of AI applications together with its customers, SADA CTO Miles Ward told "Armenpress" during the WCIT2024/DigiTec.

Ward presented details on SADA's activities, how the company is incorporating AI into businesses, its challenges, the company's participation in WCIT, and the global delivery opportunities of the SADA Armenia office.

Miles, thank you for this opportunity and we are happy to welcome you to Armenia.

Thank you so much.

How do you like it here and the atmosphere at WCIT 24 and DigiTec?

The energy is very high. There are a lot of creative people working hard to build what's next in technology. Everyone is excited and interested, just like me. I really enjoy events like this, so we can all learn about what everybody's working on.

-Artificial intelligence (AI) continues to reshape industries and your panel is dedicated to incorporating AI into businesses. What do you see as the biggest challenge for businesses when adopting AI into their workflows?

I think for many businesses, there's

a long history of trying to become more efficient with their data. AI makes data so much more powerful, so much more useful, and therefore so much more valuable. Maybe there's been a little delay for some companies, they don't quite have all that they want. It's not as easy to get through their data warehouse to find the information that they need. That was pretty important last year. It's really important now, as all of their users, all their employees can be so much smarter if the AI has access to those important data dashboards.

As Google Cloud's leading partner for generative AI solutions, SADA's expertise includes Infrastructure Modernization, Cloud Security, Data Analytics, and other areas. How do you help your clients integrate Cloud AI services for more efficient operations?

Just like we were talking about data, all the different services that SADA provides, prepare companies for AI. If you don't have an efficient development platform, AI will be hard. If you don't have an efficient data platform, AI will be hard. If you don't have an efficient system for security, for financial operations, for all the tools you need to make this stuff reliable, you are going to have a hard time with AI. SADA builds the prerequisites; the necessary first steps needed, and is there to meet you when you are ready to take it to what is next in AI. We have built hundreds of AI applications together with our customers, and it turns out it is much easier to do that when you have a stable foundation.

What about the ethical aspect of leveraging AI? How should businesses act when it comes to balancing innovation and AI with ethical considerations and data privacy?

I think privacy is very critical. You think about how complicated these technologies are and how much work it takes to get technical systems to assemble into something useful.

Think about a car. You could buy tires from this company and a steering wheel

from that company and body panels from this company, and maybe they wouldn't quite fit.

Google Cloud has a whole stack. All of the different systems were designed to work together. SADA is familiar with the entire solutions stack, so you don't have to imagine or figure out how to get them to work together. Our expert teams optimize all of that to help businesses keep their data private. If you have one little body panel that doesn't fit maybe that's where the leak comes from. Our systems are hermetically sealed is the technical term for it, to be able to make businesses safe. It would be an existential risk to Google's global brand if they were to have a problem with data. Everybody knows that Google interacts with and organizes and makes useful all of the world's data. If you don't have the best privacy controls in the world, how can they be confident as a business?

We take great pride in working with Google. I feel much safer making promises to my customers about privacy because of how sophisticated Google's tools are.

Let's talk about the SADA Armenia office. What are the global delivery opportunities of the Armenian office and what can it offer to the Armenian and regional tech companies?

We built the Armenia team to be a copy of all of the different technical skills that we offer in our business regions globally. Solutions architects, data engineers, software developers, application designers, AI consultancy, all those different skills are present right here in Armenia and they cross-train with engineers in the United States working together on projects in both locations and globally. If my Armenia team needs help from the United States, they have access to that. If the U.S. team needs help, they can access talent here in Armenia. No matter where customers are in the region, they have access to a great local resource that's in the same time zone, easy to interact with, has all of the right skills to excel.

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We're growing our global team over time to make sure that as new technologies become available, that we keep pace with all of this innovation.

SADA CEO Tony Safoyan has a strong connection to Armenia. SADA, among other things, was also well-known here as a company which was founded by an Armenian immigrant family. We were saddened to hear about his retirement. Will there be any changes following these developments and how will the SADA Armenia office continue to operate moving forward?

Tony built an incredible business that I'm proud to be a part of. His legacy will last a lot longer than his 24 years of service in this company. Nothing will change in SADA's Armenia vision and investment as we try to help companies in this region be successful. Our team is committed to growing in this business and helping businesses all over the region to be successful, in part because of the technical skills that are available here in Armenia.

Is there anything that you would like to add?

I think every employer, every business has to imagine how big of a change AI will make. An easy way to think about that change is to imagine that each of your employees gets a promotion tomorrow.

They get to do what their bosses do. My junior developers start to feel like senior developers. My junior marketers feel like senior marketers. My camera operator feels like a film director. They have access to tools, solutions and data that will make them better at their jobs. That change isn't something that many businesses are really ready for. They haven't imagined every one of their employees getting a little better.

So I want to encourage them to embrace their imagination and think about what's next. We can help them with that. Happy to give examples from other customers, but it's critical that it's unique to each company how this technology will move them forward.

Thank you very much. Thank you for this opportunity and again we are happy to welcome you to Armenia.



Thank you, I appreciate it.

As Chief Technology Officer at SADA, an Insight company, Miles Ward leads SADA's cloud strategy and solutions capabilities. His remit includes delivering next-generation solutions to challenges in big data and analytics, application migration, infrastructure automation, and cost optimization; reinforcing our engineering culture; and engaging with customers on their most complex and ambitious plans around Google Cloud.

Previously, Miles served as Director and Global Lead for Solutions at Google Cloud. He founded the Google Cloud's Solutions Architecture practice, launched hundreds of solutions, built Style-Detection and Hummus AI APIs, built CloudHero, designed the pricing and TCO calculators, and helped thousands of customers like Twitter who migrated the world's largest Hadoop cluster to public cloud and Audi USA who re-platformed to k8s before it was out of alpha, and helped Banco Itaú design the intercloud architecture for the bank of the future.

Before Google, Miles helped build the AWS Solutions Architecture team. He wrote the first AWS Well-Architected framework, proposed Trusted Advisor and the Snowmobile, invented GameDay, worked as a core part of the Obama for America 2012 "tech" team, helped NASA stream the Curiosity Mars Rover landing, and rebooted Skype in a pinch.

Earning his Bachelor of Science in Rhetoric and Media Studies from Willamette University, Miles is a three-time technology startup entrepreneur who also

plays a mean electric sousaphone.

SADA, An Insight company, is a global cloud consulting and professional services market leader providing solutions powered by Google Cloud. Since 2000, SADA has helped organizations in healthcare, media, entertainment, retail, manufacturing, and the public sector solve their most complex digital transformation challenges.

SADA has offices in North America, India, the UK, and Armenia, providing sales, customer support, and professional services. In addition to being Google's leading partner for generative AI solutions, SADA's expertise includes Infrastructure Modernization, Cloud Security, and Data Analytics.

A 7x Google Cloud Partner of the Year award winner with 10 Google Cloud Specializations, SADA was recognized as a Niche Player in the 2023 Gartner® Magic Quadrant™ for Public Cloud IT Transformation Services. SADA has been named to Inc. Magazine's Best Workplaces four years in a row.

In 2021, SADA announced the opening of a Global Delivery Center (GDC) in Yerevan, Armenia. The initial goal of the SADA GDC in Armenia is twofold: to provide additional delivery and support services to companies around the world that are adopting Google Cloud and to develop the technical capabilities of aspiring IT workers in a rapidly growing region becoming a popular European technology hub.

Davit Mamyan

Published by [Armenpress](https://armenpress.am/en/article/1201916), original at <https://armenpress.am/en/article/1201916>

Freedom House presents evidence of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno Karabakh



At Warsaw Human Dimension Conference on Tuesday, October 9, the Freedom House presented evidence from its fact-finding mission about Nagorno-Karabakh, which concluded that the forced displacement of ethnic Armenians was intentionally coordinated and committed by the Azerbaijani government.

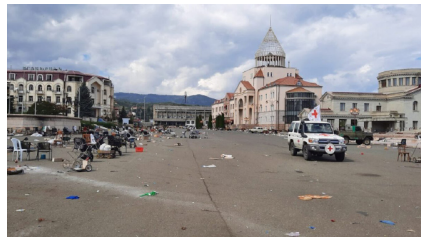
The Freedom House called the attention of the OSCE ODIHR and participating States to the treatment of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, whereby they were intentionally subjected to years of regular attacks, intimidation, deprivation of basic rights, and ultimately forced displacement by the Azerbaijani state in September 2023. The process was both gradual and methodical, and the Azerbaijani state intentionally created conditions for the ethnic Armenian population that made it impossible for them to stay and survive in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Freedom House said “these conclusions are the result of an intensive international fact-finding effort by Freedom House, International Partnership for Human Rights, Democracy Development Foundation, Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly – Vanadzor, Protection of Rights without Borders NGO, Law Development and Protections Foundation, and Truth Hounds.”

“This factfinding, which included hundreds of witness interviews and analysis of open-source data, concludes that the Azerbaijani state acted upon a comprehensive, methodically implemented strategy to empty Nagorno-Karabakh of its ethnic Armenian population and historical and cultural presence. An analysis of the actions and rhetoric of Azerbaijani authorities in conjunction with the lived experiences of the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh provides reasonable

grounds to conclude that their forced displacement was intentional. Persistent defiance against international norms and continued violations, despite international condemnations, also indicate the premeditated intent of the Azerbaijani government to displace the ethnic Armenian population,” the organization said.

The fact-finding effort concludes that the documented actions of the Azerbaijani state meet the criteria for ethnic cleansing as understood in the context of the UN Commission of Experts’ analysis on IHL violations in the former Yugoslavia. “We have documented extrajudicial executions, torture, arbitrary arrests and detention, restrictions on the access to food and life-saving medication, forcible removal, displacement and deportation of civilian population, deliberate military attacks or threats of attacks on civilians



and civilian areas, and wanton destruction of property. The fact-finding mission has determined that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that these practices constitute crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including Article 7 (crimes against humanity), and Article 8 (war crimes), and align with the definition of deportation or forcible transfer of population.”

According to the Freedom House, the evidence, coupled with the lack of prosecution on the national level in Azerbaijan, underscore the urgent need for additional international legal scrutiny and accountability. It recommends that the ICC ensure a thorough investigation and potential prosecution of those responsible for these egregious acts. In addition: Freedom House calls on OSCE participating States to:

- Invoke the Moscow Mechanism to investigate violations commit-

ted against ethnic Armenians displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh by the Azerbaijani state.

- Advocate within the UN Human Rights Council for the establishment of a country mechanism and a Special Procedure on the human rights situation in Azerbaijan to investigate systemic human rights violations and report them to the Human Rights Council, General Assembly, and other UN bodies.
- Support international efforts to prosecute crimes against humanity and war crimes committed against the ethnic Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, including for states party to the Rome Statute to make a referral to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate these violations, as well as implementing and supporting targeted sanctions.
- Call upon the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to:
 - Provide secure access to Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh to visit their homes and collect their belongings, as well as to uphold the right to return for Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh under international observations.
 - Provide access to international monitoring initiatives to investigate the state of cultural monuments in Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent territories.
 - Abstain from violence-inducing rhetoric against Armenians.

Freedom House calls on OSCE ODIHR to:

- Encourage and facilitate comprehensive documentation and reporting of human rights abuses committed by Azerbaijan, ensuring that all violations are systematically recorded and analyzed for future accountability efforts.

Dutch Parliament panel calls for release of Armenian prisoners, protection of cultural heritage in Nagorno Karabakh



The Dutch Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee has adopted two important resolutions aimed at supporting the Republic of Armenia and promoting cultural preservation in Artsakh. Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp participated in the sitting.

During the session The first resolution, authored by MPs Isa Kahraman (NSC) and Don Ceder (ChristenUnie), emphasizes the urgent need to protect the cultural heritage of Artsakh.

The resolution notes: "Considering that the Azerbaijani army attacked Nagorno-Karabakh in September 2023, leading to the near-total displacement of the population to Armenia, with many still unable to return to their homes, and recognizing that Azerbaijan is destroying Armenian cultural heritage in that region, we call on the government to advocate for the protection of Armenian cultural heritage within the frameworks of both the EU and the 1954 Hague Convention of UNESCO."

The Dutch Foreign Minister expressed support for the call to protect Armenian cultural heritage. The resolution was passed by a large majority in Parliament. The second resolution, co-authored by MPs Ceder (ChristenUnie), Boswijk (CDA), Stoffer (SGP), Piri (GroenLinks-PvdA), Van der Berg (VVD), Paternotte (D66), De Roon (PVV), and Kahraman (NSC), highlights a rare opportunity for peace between

Armenia and Azerbaijan after three decades of conflict.

It also stresses the importance of acknowledging ongoing obstacles, including Azerbaijan's continued detention of Armenian prisoners of war. The resolution calls on the Dutch government, in collaboration with other European countries, to exert pressure on Azerbaijan to secure the release of all Armenian prisoners of war (POWs).

The Foreign Minister reiterated the government's commitment to supporting peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan and pledged to address the issue of releasing detainees, including Armenian prisoners. According to the minister, the release of prisoners of war following the conclusion of armed conflict is an obligation under international humanitarian law. The second resolution also passed by a majority vote.

Azerbaijan prolongs peace process with Armenia and increases uncertainty by refusing to sign agreement, says Spanish legislator

Azerbaijan's refusal to sign an interim peace agreement with Armenia until all outstanding issues are resolved prolongs the peace process, increases uncertainty and shows that Baku wants to push for further concessions from Armenia, Member of the Congress of Deputies of Spain Jon Iñarritu has said.

"Azerbaijan's rejection of Armenia's proposal is, unfortunately, not surprising. This decision likely stems from Azerbaijan's more authoritarian approach to both politics and negotiations," Iñarritu told Armenpress.

In his UN General Assembly speech, PM Nikol Pashinyan reiterated his offer made to Azerbaijan to sign the agreed-upon articles of the peace treaty and leave the outstanding parts for further discussions.

"Its refusal to sign the already agreed points of the peace treaty could be a move to maintain control over unresolved issues and push for further concessions from Armenia," the Spanish legislator said.



Iñarritu warned that even if Azerbaijan signs the agreement, it won't necessarily guarantee its adherence to it.

"It's also important to recognize that even signing an agreement doesn't necessarily guarantee Azerbaijan's adherence to it. We've seen this before, particularly with the trilateral agreement signed on November 9, 2020, which Azerbaijan has repeatedly violated. The aftermath of this breach included the ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh and the continued illegal detention of civilians and leaders from the Republic of Artsakh in Baku, used as bargaining chips in negotiations and as a form of humiliation against Armenia,"

he said.

Jon Iñarritu added that Azerbaijan's refusal to advance a partial agreement could have serious consequences.

"This tactic prolongs the peace process, increases uncertainty, and raises the risk of renewed clashes or border incidents. It signals a lack of commitment to prioritizing stability or addressing the humanitarian needs of those affected by the conflict, potentially undermining any progress toward a peaceful resolution. This stance also underscores the fundamental difference between Armenia's democratic values, which seek to resolve conflicts through peaceful and diplomatic means, and Azerbaijan's authoritarian regime, which has historically relied on force and coercion in its dealings with Armenia. Azerbaijan's reluctance to commit to even partial agreements suggests that it is more focused on maintaining leverage than on achieving a lasting peace," he said.

EU recognizes pivotal role of Crossroads of Peace project

The EU recognizes the pivotal role of Crossroads of Peace project in Armenia's efforts to normalize regional relations and supports the opening of transport links, guided by the principles of sovereignty, equality, and reciprocity, Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia Vassilis Maragos has said.

"It is a pleasure and an honour to address you today at this important conference focusing on Armenia's initiative on "Crossroads of Peace" presented almost one year ago by Prime Minister Pashinyan and welcomed and supported by the European Union," Ambassador Maragos said at the Crossroads of Peace, Combining Security and Democracy conference attended by PM Nikol Pashinyan and other officials.

"As we have stressed at our Partnership Council meeting last February, "the EU welcomes the policy direction of the Government of Armenia aimed at working towards peace and normalisation in the region, including the opening of regional transport links under the countries' sovereignty and national jurisdiction, as well as according to the principles of equality and reciprocity, which also underpin Armenia's 'Crossroads of Peace' project". Since October last year (after the meetings in Granada, the speech of the Prime Minister in the European Parliament, and the tasking of the European Council to make proposals on 'how best to strengthen EU-Armenia relations in all their dimensions') we have been working relentlessly together, EU and Armenia, to strengthen our partnership, explore new opportunities, and identify the tools and the mechanisms which will bring us closer. I am very proud that these joint efforts and commitment are based on very solid foundations: our common values, our commitment to a rules-based international order and to human rights, the rule of law, and democratic governance. I



wish also here to stress that the European Union supports Armenia's institutions, economy, resilience and sovereignty," he added, emphasising that regional connectivity and peace normalisation are key elements of their commitment.

"The new EU-Armenia Partnership Agenda (which is currently under negotiation) embodies the substantial progress in our relationship, setting more ambitious objectives for cooperation that can unlock the full potential of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement. The EU's support for Armenia's reform agenda in areas such as justice, governance, and human rights not only strengthens Armenia's institutions but also lays a solid foundation for long-term stability and democratic resilience. In laying out the future vision, the Resilience and Growth Plan announced by President von der Leyen on 5 April in Brussels will mobilise € 270 million in grants over the next 4 year and is expected to play a critical role in strengthening Armenia's resilience and bringing Armenia closer to Europe. I wish here to stress in particular connectivity, business development and promotion of sustainable economic growth. These are essential pillars for achieving a sustainable vision of peace and prosperity in the region. Under the Economic and Investment Plan we have already invested more than € 600 million in infrastructure and private sector development. More is to come and

we have created an investment platform to coordinate efforts. I want also to stress that our work on nuclear safety and aviation safety is also significant and is already bringing very concrete results. Last but not least, we are also focusing on the plight of Karabakh Armenians. Assistance committed by the EU and its member states amounts to more than 100 million Euros so far. A couple of weeks ago we paid to

the government under our budget support programme EUR 13 million for the socio-economic integration of refugees. The latest decisions of the Council of Ministers of the European Union taken this July (in particular the opening up of the European Peace Facility and the launch of the Visa Liberalisation Dialogue) are key steps which will give a new quality in our partnership. They will have a significant and positive impact on Armenia's reforms, Armenia's resilience and also when it comes to visa liberalization will also enhance people-to-people contacts," the EU Ambassador said.

He added that the partnership between the European Union and Armenia is grounded on shared values and commitment to fostering peace, stability, and prosperity in Armenia and the broader South Caucasus region.

"I would like to underscore the importance of Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" initiative. The EU recognizes its pivotal role in Armenia's efforts to normalize regional relations and supports the opening of transport links, guided by the principles of sovereignty, equality, and reciprocity. I am convinced that with our joint efforts we will be able to transform this shared vision into reality," Maragos said.

This article has been updated with the transcript of the EU Ambassador's full speech.

Jerusalem's Armenian Patriarchate wins lawsuit to recover its vast properties in Turkey



Jerusalem's Armenian Patriarchate has won the lawsuit filed in 2021 to recover its vast properties in Turkey confiscated decades ago, California Courier's Harut Sassunian informs.

After going through various legal maneuvers in Turkey for years, the Patriarchate finally won a major victory last week.

Turkey's General Directorate of Foundations (GDF) confiscated the Jerusalem Patriarchate's properties in 1973, describing the Mar Yakoup Armenian Church Foundation, established during the Ottoman Empire, as no longer functional.

Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem Nourhan Manougian's 2012 lawsuit was initially rejected by both a lower court in Ankara and the court of appeal. The Patriarch then appealed to the Constitutional Court of Turkey, the highest court in the country, which decided that the lower court had violated the rights of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The lower

court then reversed the frozen status of the Armenian Patriarchate's properties.

Ali Elbeyoglu, the Turkish lawyer of the Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate, told *Agos* newspaper that the Patriarchate now has two options. It will either appoint a Turkish citizen as its representative in Turkey to manage the properties, as it was before their confiscation, or they will be managed from Jerusalem.

Over the years, most of the Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate's confiscated properties were sold to third parties without any compensation to the Patriarchate.

Patriarch Manougian has never made a public announcement over the years about the lawsuit he filed in Turkey. The only media reports were about his multiple visits to Istanbul for undisclosed reasons. Even though attorney Elbeyoglu told *Agos* that the Jerusalem Patriarchate has over 100 properties in Turkey, Patriarch Manougian, in an exclusive interview, told me in 2019 that the Patriarchate owned 1,200 properties in Istanbul alone and dozens more throughout Turkey. The Patriarch also informed me that a very large and valuable property owned by the Jerusalem Patriarchate in Yalova, Turkey, formerly a part of Istanbul, was sold by a Turkish-Armenian in the 1950s to a Turk who then fled to the United States. The Patriarch said he is interested in filing a lawsuit against the heirs of that Turkish-Armenian.

Attorney Elbeyoglu told *Agos* last week that the Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate owned a highly valuable "mansion in Kuzguncuk [Istanbul], the title of which was transferred to the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, was then demolished." The attorney also said that there are "21 properties seized from the Armenian Patriarchate Foundation in Altunizade [Istanbul], [the prominent] Istiklal Boulevard of Istanbul, the Fatih [region of Istanbul] and the City of Adana."

It remains to be seen what the Jerusalem Armenian Patriarchate will do with the recovered properties and the compensations it will receive for the properties sold long ago to third parties.

The anticipated return of these properties is a very positive development, since the Turkish government has rarely agreed to give back to their Armenian owners the properties it confiscated decades ago. In 2011, the Turkish government announced that real estate confiscated from Armenian, Greek and Jewish charitable foundations would be either returned to them or they would be paid compensation for the value of the properties if they have been sold to third parties.

However, after a number of properties were given back to these minorities, the government halted the process, even though some court cases are still pending.

Second Armenia-UAE Business Forum held in Abu Dhabi

On October 9, the second Armenian-Emirati Business Forum was held at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce.

Ahead of the forum, a meeting took place between H.E. Mr. Haykaz Nasibyan, Secretary General of the Ministry of Economy of Armenia, and H.E. Humaid bin Salem, Secretary General of the UAE Chambers. Both sides celebrated the impressive growth in trade between Armenia and the UAE, which has now exceeded 4.2 billion US dollars.

The meeting was also attended by H.E. Juma Mohamed Al Kait, Assistant Undersecretary for International Trade



Affairs at the UAE Ministry of Economy, Mr. Ahmed Khalifa Al Qubaisi, CEO of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, H.E. Mr. Karen Grigoryan,

Armenian Ambassador to the UAE, and H.E. Dr. Nariman Al Mulla, UAE Ambassador to Armenia.

During the forum, Mr. Haykaz Nasibyan delivered a speech, followed by a presentation from Mr. Armen Deroyan, Manager of Investment Promotion at "Enterprise Armenia," highlighting Armenia's favorable investment climate.

The forum also featured B2B meetings between business representatives from both countries, spanning sectors such as tourism, construction, real estate, food industry, agriculture, IT, and more.

'The Chosen's' Elizabeth Tabish stars in film based on true story about Armenian refugee family

Pinnacle Peak and StoryLight Productions announced the film "Between Borders," starring "The Chosen's" Elizabeth Tabish and "Black Adam" star Patrick Sabongui, will release on January 26, 2025 through Fathom Events in US theaters, [Asbarez](#) reports.

"Between Borders" shares the true journey of an Armenian refugee family escaping persecution and racial discrimination in Azerbaijan and Russia, who are desperately seeking asylum in the United States.

The Armenian Film Society hosted the festival premiere of "Between Borders" at the 2024 Armenian Film Festival, where Armenians in Los Angeles got a first-look at the indie drama.

Based on real events that took place in the late 1980s during the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, which amassed hundreds of thousands of refugees, "Between Borders" follows the perilous journey of Violetta (Tabish) and Ivan Petrosyan (Sabongui), and their two young daughters, and the challenges they face in their search for a place to call home, and aims to capture the desperation and resilience at the heart of the refugee experience.

"If there ever was a film for Armenians everywhere to rally behind, this is that film," said Armen Karaoghlanian, Founder & CEO, Armenian Film Society.



"'Between Borders' is a film that explores the strength of family, the power of faith, and the journey of overcoming life's challenges with your loved ones by your side."

"This is a film that will resonate with Armenians around the world, as well as anyone who has ever chased a dream," he added.

"Between Borders" was co-written and directed by Mark Freiburger ("Dog Days of Summer," "The Trial"), and also features Elizabeth Mitchell ("Lost," "Sound of Hope"), Michael Paul Chan ("Major Crimes"), Stelio Savante ("Nefarious," "Ugly Betty"), and Ana Ularu ("Emerald City").

"'Between Borders' is not only about the Armenian experience, but that of the modern-day refugee as well. This film tells a story of hope, of perseverance, and the belief that our greatest days are still ahead," said Freiburger. "Making this film has been a powerful experience that I will never forget."

In a crumbling Soviet Union, the

Petrosyan family finds themselves as outcasts—wherever they go. Their Armenian heritage marks them for discrimination, first in Azerbaijan and then in Russia. After finding their eternal hope through a church planted by American missionaries, the hostility of everyday life pushes them to seek refuge in the United States. In the shadow of exile, hope became their home. Based on a riveting true story of faith and hope set amidst great oppression, "Between Borders" is only in theaters January 26 to 28, 2025.

"Between Borders" was filmed earlier this year in and around Bucharest, Romania. The film was written by Adam Sjoberg, Isaac Norris, and Mark Freiburger, and produced by Isaac Norris, Jude S. Walko ("Rumors of War"), Mark Freiburger and Ken Carpenter ("Finding You," "The Shift"). Rogier Stoffers ("Redeeming Love," "School of Rock") was Director of Photography.

"We're not just telling a story; we're bringing to life the incredible journey of a family that represents hope, strength and the power of faith," said producer Isaac Norris. "The Petrosyans' resilience and grace throughout their harrowing journey challenges us all. Their faith shines in circumstances that many of us will never understand."

Romania celebrates the Day of Armenian Language, Alphabet and Culture

Romania celebrates the Day of the Armenian Language, Alphabet and Culture annually on October 12. The day has been chosen to coincide with the Feast of the Holy Translators, which honors Mesrop Mashdots, the founder of the alphabet, and Catholicos Sahak Partev, who translated the Bible together with some of their students in the first half of the 5th century.

The draft law on the establishment of October 12 as the Day of the Armenian language, alphabet and culture was initiated by MPs Varujan Vosganian (ALDE) and Varujan Pambuccian (UAR, national minorities). The law was approved by

the Romanian Senate and the Chamber of Deputies passed the legislation in 2019. President Klaus Iohannis signed it into law on October 10, 2019.

According to the law, the celebration of this day "can be organized by central and local authorities, by the institutions under their subordination or coordination, as well as by civil society. It stipulates that cultural, educational, artistic, social or scientific events, devoted to the promotion of the Armenian language, alphabet and culture can be organized to mark the day.

On October 15, 2024, on the occasion of the Day of the Armenian language,

alphabet and culture, an extraordinary piano recital by Ilinca Dumitrescu will take place at the Great Hall of the Romanian Academy, starting at 7:00 p.m. Works by Armenian composers Arno Babageanian, Komitas, Suren Zakarian, Karen Ananian, Aram Khachaturian will be performed. The event is organized by the George Enescu Philharmonic in collaboration with the Armenian Union of Romania and the Armenian Archdiocese of Romania, according to the official website of the Armenian Union of Romania, [Agepress](#) reports.

In a message to WCIT 2024, Elon Musk shares plans to launch Starlink in Armenia



At the WCIT 2024 closing ceremony in Yerevan, Armenia, SpaceX and Tesla CEO Elon Musk shared a special message with attendees, expressing excitement about

future projects in the country.

Initially expected to deliver a video address, Musk instead provided an exclusive statement that was read out on October 7

by Armenian-American entrepreneur Razmig Hovaghimian, reports Zartonk Media.

In his message, Musk said: “Hello everyone, I’m sorry I can’t make it to Yerevan this time, but hopefully next time in person. Excited about bringing Starlink to Armenia and working with the local tech community on some exciting projects – from space exploration to developing open and transparent AI that pushes the boundaries of human understanding.”

Musk confirmed that he is hoping to launch Starlink soon in Armenia, a move that is expected to significantly improve internet connectivity in remote areas. The high-speed satellite internet access from Starlink has the potential to revolutionize connectivity, especially in rural regions, helping to bridge the digital divide in the country.

Lionel Messi’s brother Rodrigo visits TUMO center in Yerevan

Rodrigo Messi, brother of Lionel Messi and director of Leo Messi Management, paid an exciting visit to TUMO today—bringing with him a special gift: an Argentine national team jersey, signed by Messi himself.

He was joined by Razmig Hovaghimian, a tech entrepreneur and founder of Play Time Ventures, a company created with Messis that invests in



sports and technology. Together, they explored how TUMO’s educational model empowers teens to become the next generation of techies, creators, and innovators.

“TUMO is a catalyst for change. You’re creating unprecedented opportunities for young people,” Rodrigo said, reflecting on TUMO’s global mission.

Plácido Domingo performs in Yerevan to standing ovation

Opera legend Plácido Domingo performed in Yerevan with the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Armenia to standing ovation.

The concert was held in the “Aram Khachaturyan” concert hall, within the framework of the 16th Yerevan International Music Festival. Armenian soprano Juliana Grigoryan, the first prize winner of the Operalia 2022 World Opera Competition, performed

alongside Domingo.

Minister of Education, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan made a speech of welcome and awarded Juliana Grigoryan with the gold medal of the Ministry.

Arias, duets and preludes from famous operas, zarzuelas, as well as popular world melodies were performed at the concert. The concert took place with the support of Yerevan Municipality and the Ministry



of Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

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The publisher: NT Holding LTD
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող՝
ՆՏ Հորիզոն ԲԻՐԸ

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՝
03ԱՑՑ8368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.
Registration certificate and the date:
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

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