## President of Poland: We imagine quite well which country really wants peace, which doesn't want



Poland - Polish President Adrzej Duda meets Armenian parliament speaker Alen Simonyan, Warsaw, July 4, 2023.

The President of Poland Andrzej Duda received the delegation led by the RA NA President Alen Simonyan in Warsaw, Armenian parliament's Press office reports.

Thanking the President of Poland for the meeting, the RA NA President noted that democratic values are of priority for our country, and its strengthening is of core issue.

Alen Simonyan noted that the European Union (EU) remains the main partner of Armenia in establishing democratic institutes and supporting the reform agenda and, despite the difficulties that our country faced during recent several years, the positive dynamics of Armenia-EU high level political dialogue, by signing a number of agreements the legal field had been further strengthened.

The RA NA President reminded the President of Poland that Armenia asked the EU to provide technical assistance to

Armenia through European Peace Facility-EPF. "The European Union provides support through that mechanism to Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. Unfortunately, the request of Armenia was denied, quoting the EU mediatory efforts in improving the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the problem of 'conflict sensitivity.' I would like to repeat that it refers to technical assistance for raising the defencive capabilities," Alen Simonyan underscored.

Touching upon the agenda of establishing lasting peace in the region, the RA NA President highlighted the deployment of the Observation Mission of the European Union. Alen Simonyan presented details about the crisis afflicting the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh and the danger threatening the sovereignty of Armenia because of the Azerbaijani ag-

gression. He stressed that Armenia expects



Armenian, French FMs discuss issues of security and stability in the region

Prosecutorial independence is highly important - EU ambassador

Armenia grateful to France for targeted assessment of humanitarian crisis in Artsakh – PM

US does not presuppose the outcome of talks on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh: Amb. Kvien responds to criticism

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## Armenian, French FMs discuss issues of security and stability in the region

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan had a phone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic Catherine Colonna.

The interlocutors exchanged views on issues of security and stability in the region.

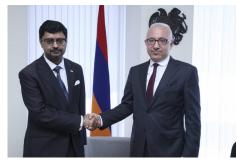
Ararat Mirzoyan briefed his French counterpart on the latest developments in the normalization process of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations. Reference was made to the key issues of the process, in

particular to the delimitation of the state border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, addressing the rights and security issues of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh under the international mechanism, as well as the issues related to the unblocking of economic and transport communications in the region.

Minister Mirzoyan emphasized the inadmissibility of solving problems through the use of force or the threat of force, the need for Azerbaijan to refrain from aggressive actions and provocative rhetoric.



The urgency of international efforts to overcome the humanitarian crisis created in Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of the illegal blockade of the Lachin corridor and to prevent further actions aimed at ethnic cleansing by Azerbaijan was emphasized.



Political consultations were held in Yerevan between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India on July 3.

In the framework of consultations, Deputy Foreign Minister Mnatsakan Safaryan received the delegation headed by Sumit Seth, the Head of the Foreign Policy Planning Division at the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

## Armenian, Indian officials discuss issues of regional and global security

The parties discussed the priorities and primary issues of the foreign policies of Armenia and India, as well as the main functions of the policy planning departments in the Foreign Ministries of Armenia and India.

The counterparts highlighted the growing dynamics of bilateral friendly relations, discussed the significance of high-level Armenian-Indian contacts, the intensification of interdepartmental relations and political dialogue agenda. The parties expressed readiness to exert additional efforts aimed at further deepening of relations between the two states.

The participants touched upon a

broad spectrum of issues encompassing international and regional security, the strengthening of bilateral economic, cultural, educational ties, the cooperation within international organizations and the establishment of effective connectivity between the two countries.

Deputy Minister Safaryan briefed the Indian side on the aggressive actions undertaken by Azerbaijan recently, which pose a threat to stability and peace in the South Caucasus. The importance of immediately addressing the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor was emphasized.

# Armenia commends US peacemaking efforts: Pashinyan congratulates Biden on Independence Day

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan sent a congratulatory message to the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden, on the occasion of Independence Day.

### The message reads:

Honorable Mr. President,

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On behalf of the Republic of Armenia and myself, I warmly congratulate you and the friendly people of the United States on Independence Day.

The United States and its people have gone through the difficult task of building a state by uniting around the idea of independence, forming a vision of a democratic future, and overcoming difficulties together. Continued US leadership in democracy contributes to the promotion of the fundamental values of freedom,

equality, and inalienable human rights in many countries.

Active Armenian-American bilateral relations in recent years are promising, especially in the areas of democratic reforms, strengthening the rule of law and fighting corruption. I am happy to record that we have cooperation based on mutual trust between our governments, which gives an opportunity to effectively address the existing challenges and further strengthen the connection between our states and peoples.

We highly appreciate the position of the United States in supporting the territorial integrity, sovereignty and democracy of the Republic of Armenia, which was demonstrated in practice during the years 2021-2022. We also highly appreciate the efforts of the USA in the direction of establishing long-lasting and sustainable peace in the South Caucasus, normalizing Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, and addressing the rights and security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Republic of Armenia continues to adhere to the peace agenda for the sake of the inviolability of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia, for the sake of independence, sovereignty and long-term peaceful development in the region.

Mr. President, I once again congratulate you on Independence Day and wish you and the American people prosperity, peace and continued progress.



## Armenia grateful to France for targeted assessment of humanitarian crisis in Artsakh – PM

The targeting of international organizations and countries that give an objective assessment of the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan's actions is part of Baku's ethnic cleansing policy, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the government sitting on July 6.

"For months Azerbaijan has been carrying out large-scale propaganda against France, whose official and public circles give a targeted assessment of and raise alarm about the illegal steps Azerbaijan is taking against Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh," he said.

"The propaganda against France aims to prevent possible targeted assessment of the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno Karabakh by other countries," PM Pashinyan said.

"Armenia, in turn, expressing gratitude to France, should take all possible measures to ensure that more and more countries and international organizations express targeted assessments about the humanitarian crisis in Nagrorno Karabakh," he stated.

Last week Azerbaijan <u>accused</u> French President Emmanuel Macron of pro-Armenian bias.

"The anti-Azerbaijani statements of French President Emmanuel Macron at a meeting with the Armenian community in Marseille are unacceptable," Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The Foreign Ministry called Macron's words that he is trying to put pressure on the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev "a figment of his imagination."

French President Emmanuel Macron met with the influential Armenian circles in Marseille during his visit.

"I am the only one who has a clear position and message on the Karabakh issue," said the French President, adding



that he has put pressure on Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

"Do not doubt my determination regarding Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia as a whole. I will continue to make efforts, even if I am almost the only one in the international family with this agenda. You also know that France sent its military attaché to its embassy in Armenia for the first time, and that means something, right? We have to do everything in our power, as much as possible," Macron stated.

page 1 — condemnation of such illegal and inhumane actions and up to imposing sanctions on Azerbaijan from the international colleagues.

At the meeting the development of economic relations of the two countries was emphasized. According to the President of Poland, he has personally supported the deal held between the stock exchanges of Armenia and Warsaw last year, being

confident that the sovereignty of Armenia is strengthened by the development of economy.

Andrzej Duda assured that he is concerned about the development of relations between Armenia and Poland and recalled his participation at the Conference of the European Ministers of Justice of the Council of Europe held in Yerevan in 2006 as

a Minister of Justice of Poland. President Duda stressed that the South Caucasus region is important for them, and especially the development of relations with Armenia. The President noted that they follow the situation after the 44-day war, as well as, they are well aware of the security issues of the region and imagine quite well which country wants in reality peace, and which country doesn't want.

## Fresh demonstration of territorial claims: Weather broadcast on Baku TV presents Armenia, including capital Yerevan, as Azerbaijan

In a fresh demonstration of territorial claims on Armenia, the weather broadcast on Baku TV presents Armenia, including capital Yerevan, as Azerbaijan. Spokesperson for the Armenian Foreign Ministry Ani Badalyan shared the photo on social media.

"Yet another open propaganda of

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territorial claims towards sovereignty of the neighbor country: weather broadcast on Baku TV shows Republic of Armenia, including capital Yerevan, as Azerbaijan. Sick illusions and hostile rhetoric put on show, should be categorically rejected," the Spokesperson captioned the photo on Twitter.

### Prosecutorial independence is highly important – EU ambassador



Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin has attached importance to prosecutorial independence and responsibility in the process of the judiciary reforms.

Speaking at the Prosecutorial Independence in Upholding the Rule of Law

seminar dedicated to the 105th anniversary of the establishment of the Prosecution of Armenia, Wiktorin said that the purpose of prosecutorial independence is for the prosecutor to be able to make the right decision without fear. The Ambassador emphasized that prosecutors play a crucial role in administering justice.

"The EU has been supporting democratic governance reforms in Armenia, the rule of law, anti-discrimination, the promotion and the protection of human rights and of fundamental freedoms and the consolidation of democracy and democratic values," Wiktorin added, noting that the EU has significantly contributed to the justice and anti-corruption reforms in Armenia.

The EU Ambassador mentioned the Partnership for Good Governance project of the EU and Council of Europe as an important support to Armenia's justice system.

She congratulated the prosecutors and those in attendance on the anniversary.

The EU ambassador praised the Armenian government for its commitment to comprehensively carry out the ambitious reforms agenda.

## Nagorno Karabakh eager to launch direct, real dialogue with Azerbaijan

Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) is most interested in dialogue with Azerbaijan, but this should meet some standards, the Nagorno Karabakh Foreign Minister Sergey Ghazaryan told reporters on July 6.

Negotiations conducted under pressure cannot be considered neither negotiations nor dialogue, he said.

There can be no dialogue as long as the Lachin Corridor is blocked, Ghazaryan added.

"We've been receiving various offers on organizing such meetings from representatives of various countries, and international organizations. But there are some elements that should be taken into account. Such meetings took place on February 24 and March 1 with mediation of Russian peacekeepers in their deployment

base. Technical issues were discussed during that meetings, but the Azerbaijani side entirely distorted the meaning of the meetings, misrepresenting it as the launch of talks on reintegration," Ghazaryan said, noting that this was followed by the March 5 ambush when Azeri troops shot dead three police officers in Nagorno Karabakh.

"We firmly believe that negotiations conducted under pressure cannot be called dialogue or negotiations. As long as the road is closed there won't be dialogue in such conditions. The other side must also show that it is ready for dialogue, but if they block the road, how should we understand that the Azerbaijani side is ready for dialogue? Regular discussions are taking place on a new dialogue. The Artsakh side has numerously conveyed to



the Azerbaijan side offers to meet through the Russian peacekeepers, but the offers were turned down by the Azeri side itself," Ghazaryan said.

The Lachin Corridor must be completely unblocked and essential goods must be supplied in order to see a change in Azerbaijan's approaches, he said.

## Armenia, USA attach importance to launching international mechanism for Stepanakert- Baku dialogue

Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan held a meeting on July 5 with Dereck J. Hogan, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the State Department during his visit to the United States.

Grigoryan and Hogan discussed "the Armenia-US bilateral relations agenda, including prospects of economic

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cooperation," Grigoryan's office said in

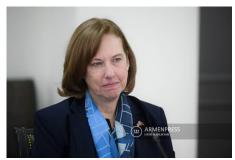
a readout.

The Armenian and American officials attached importance to preserving regional security, the continuity of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace talks, as well as the creation of an international mechanism for Stepanakert-Baku dialogue and ensuring the rights and security of the Armenian population of Nagorno Karabakh, according to the readout.





## US does not presuppose the outcome of talks on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh: Amb. Kvien responds to criticism



The United States does not presuppose the outcome of negotiations on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh and supports an agreement that is durable, sustainable, and lays the foundations for peace, United States Ambassador to Armenia Kristina Kvien told Armenpress in a written statement.

"Direct dialogue is the key to resolving issues and reaching a durable and

dignified peace. The United States does not presuppose the outcome of negotiations on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh. The United States supports an agreement that is durable, sustainable, and lays the foundations for peace. The question of the rights and security of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh is central to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Ultimately ensuring that this population can feel secure in their homes and have their rights protected is the only way to guarantee a lasting settlement to a conflict that has lasted too long and cost too many lives," Ambassador Kvien said.

The comments come after the Ambassador's remarks in an interview with Public TV sparked criticism and led to different interpretations.

In the interview aired on Monday, Kvien disagreed with a widely held belief in Armenia that Artsakh's population will have to flee the region if Azerbaijan regains full control of it. She said "all parties" to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict have assured the United States that "the rights and security of Nagorno-Karabakh's residents must be guaranteed."

Artsakh's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday criticized the US Ambassador for saying that the Karabakh Armenians could live safely under Azerbaijani rule.

The Ministry said in a statement the US and other mediating powers "must not predetermine the outcome" of Armenian-Azerbaijani peace talks in the first place.

### Russia calls on Azerbaijan to unblock Lachin Corridor

Russia has expressed extreme concern over the frequent ceasefire violations in Nagorno Karabakh and the continuing blockade of Lachin Corridor.

"According to the existing information, the humanitarian situation in the region is deteriorating. Regrettably we have to note that due to the suspension of supplies the population of Karabakh could be left without food, other essential products and reserves of medication," Russian foreign ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said at a press briefing. She said that this contradicts the trilateral agreements between the leaders of Russia, Armenia and

Azerbaijan.

She also called on Azerbaijan to unblock the Lachin Corridor.

"We call on Baku and Yerevan to resolve all issues exclusively through political-diplomatic means, we call on the Azerbaijani side to unblock the Lachin Corridor and ensure unimpeded passage of persons, vehicles and goods for civilian purposes," Zakharova said.

Zakharova said the actions of the Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno Karabakh would depend on the development of the situation on the ground and the trilateral agreements.

She said that Moscow maintains contact with the sides to de-escalate the tension in the region.

"These contacts continue on the political level, as well as in terms of the Russian peacekeeping contingent. And of course, a lot depends on the parties themselves, their political will and readiness to meet each other halfway. We are making all necessary efforts from our side," Zakharova said.

Zakharova added that the Russian Foreign Minister's Special Envoy for supporting normalization between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Igor Khovaev, could pay a visit to the region soon.

## Pashinyan Administration denies rift with Nagorno Karabakh authorities

The Pashinyan administration has denied media reports alleging that it has stopped contacts with the authorities in Nagorno Karabakh.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's spokesperson Nazeli Baghdasaryan issued a statement on July 3 regarding the rumors.

"Various media outlets have been circulating reports claiming that the authorities of Armenia have ceased contacts with their Nagorno Karabakh colleagues at all levels. Furthermore, the reports claim that the humanitarian crisis resulting from the

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blockade of Lachin Corridor is outside of the agenda of the government of Armenia. Regarding this totally untrue claim, we find it noteworthy that Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has mentioned on many occasions that he maintains intensive, daily contacts with Arayik Harutyunyan. The Nagorno Karabakh President has confirmed this in public speeches and various other formats. As a reminder, a working group led by Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Khachatryan was set up in late 2022 with the purpose of managing the humanitarian crisis resulting from the blockade of the

Lachin Corridor and supporting the people of Nagorno Karabakh, tasked with monitoring humanitarian issues together with the authorities of Nagorno Karabakh and providing the necessary urgent support, including with the help of international organizations. The working group is composed of the Minister of Healthcare, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructrures, Minister of Economy, as well as representatives of other government agencies," Baghdasaryan said in the statement.





### Shell planning to operate 25 gas stations in Armenia



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan received the delegation led by Joanna Kuenssberg, deputy director for CIS and Middle East countries of the British-Dutch Shell company, Noyan Tapan was informed from the Office of the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister welcomed the entry of the prestigious company into the Armenian market, whose first gas station was opened in Yerevan on June 29. Nikol Pashinyan expressed confidence that the company will introduce new quality and business culture to the Armenian market with its activities. The Prime

Minister wished success to the company and emphasized that the Government will continue consistent steps to improve the business environment.

Joanna Kuenssberg thanked the Government for supporting the launch of Shell in Armenia and provided details on further plans. Joanna Kuenssberg informed that within the next 5 years, the company plans to operate 25 gas stations in Yerevan and all regions, where various other services will also be provided.

## Eurasian Development Bank provides \$26 million for construction of new power generation unit at Hrazdan TPP in Armenia

The Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) will provide \$26 million for the construction of a new power generation unit at the Hrazdan thermal power plant in Armenia. The loan agreement was signed with H Energy Solutions (Tashir Group).

The 50 MW power unit is expected to generate approximately 400 million kWh of electricity per year. It will employ modern and highly efficient equipment that meets international environmental standards, contributing to environmental protection.

The electricity generated by the new unit will be supplied to Armenia's free competitive power market and exported to other countries.

The project will help to further



diversify power generation in Armenia and enhance its efficiency.

The plant is set to be commissioned in mid-2024.

This collaboration between the EDB and Tashir Group is the second project aimed at improving energy security in Armenia. In August 2022, the Bank agreed

to finance infrastructure modernization and the manufacturing of metering devices as part of a programme to implement international management standards and automated metering systems in Armenia. The EDB provided \$30 million for this purpose under a loan agreement. Additionally, the project expands the production of electricity metering devices in Yerevan.

As part of its 2022–2026 Strategy, the EDB places special emphasis on smaller economies. Since Armenia joined the Bank in 2009, the EDB has implemented 24 projects in the country, totaling approximately \$508 million. This includes six initiatives, worth \$126 million, in agriculture, energy, and the financial sector during 2022 and 2023.

### Armenia, Greece, Cyprus sign military cooperation plan



Armenia, Greece and Cyprus have signed the annual military cooperation plan.

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The document t was signed on July

during defense consultations between the three countries in Cyprus.

The Armenian delegation was led by Levon Ayvazyan, head of the Defense Policy and International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Defense

A number of security issues and cooperation meeting the interests of the three countries were discussed.

The parties reaffirmed their readiness to take joint steps to strengthen the defense capability and military security of the three countries.

As a result of the discussions, the annual program of trilateral military cooperation was signed, which includes a number of events in Armenia, Greece and Cyprus.

At the end of the consultations, the delegations were received by the commander of the National Guard of the Republic of Cyprus, Lieutenant General Dimokritos Zervakis.







### COMMUNIQUE DE LA PAROISSE DE L'EGLISE APOSTOLIQUE ARMENIENNE DE PARIS ET DES ENVIRONS

Le père Narek KUSHYAN a été nommé comme prêtre paroissial de la cathédrale depuis juin 2022. Il exerçait sa mission précédemment comme recteur de la cathédrale de Tiblissi (Géorgie).

### Cours dominicaux d'instruction religieuse pour les enfants:

Les cours reprendront le 10 septembre en deux classes . l'année scolaire s'est terminée avec une vingtaine d'élèvesde 4 à 13 ans ; deux sorties ont été organisées en cours d'année (culturelle et divertissement).

**Travaux de la Cathédrale**: la rénovation des extérieurs et toitures a été achevée au cours du second semestre 2022.

#### Aide à l'enseignement religieux:

Ecole St Mesrop Arabian: Notre paroisse est représentée au conseil de l'association pour la gestion et l'administration de l'école St Mesrop comme membre fondateur: à ce titre elle a voté une aide de 10000 euros en octobre 2022 (dont 5000 financée par un don dédié). De plus, un de nos administrateurs a participé à hauteur de 10000 € au budget du voyage scolaire

des élèves qui a eu lieu en Arménie. (avril 2023).

### Aide humanitaire d'urgence:

Répondant à l'appel, adressé au Diocèse de France, de SS KA-REKINE II Catholicos de Tous les Arméniens qui sollicitait une aide d'urgence pour la population enclavée du Haut Karabach, la Paroisse de Paris a consenti un don de 120000 €,représentant 60 tonnes de marchandises et biens de première nécessité.

#### Messes

Il est rappelé que les messes ont lieu tous les dimanches en la cathédrale (matines à 9H et Sainte Messe à 10H30). Un bulletin dominical est distribué comprenant la traduction française des textes sacrés qui sont lus.

Une « veillée » (Hskoum) est célébrée tous les vendredis à 19H.

#### Festival Arménien du Diocèse

Le Diocèse de France organise son 6ème festival annuel le 10 septembre 2023 qui comprendra de nombreuses animations dont un concert (gratuit) dans la cathédrale.

LE CONSEIL PAROISSIAL

### Economy of Artsakh suffered loss of around USD 390 mln

Artsakh Government presented an update on the day 205 under blockade.

About 1,520 citizens have been deprived of the opportunity to receive necessary medical treatment due to the suspension of planned surgeries in all medical facilities of Artsakh increasing by about 30 cases in the last 4 days.

As of today, 579 patients have been transferred from Artsakh to Armenia to receive appropriate medical care with the mediation and accompaniment of the International Committee of the Red Cross and another 70 accompanied by Russian peacekeepers to receive appropriate treatment. After being suspended for almost a month due to additional Azerbaijani obstacles to ICRC activities, the recently resumed transfers have been completely suspended for 10 days. Since June 25, ICRC operations along the Lachin Corridor have been resumed.

Around 3,900 people, including 550 children, have been separated from their homes as a result of the blockade, however, some have already returned home with the assistance of the Red Cross and Russian peacekeepers.

The Noyan Tapan Highlights

No citizen traveled freely along the Stepanakert-Goris highway (Lachin (Qashatagh) corridor), and the cases of two-way movement of people decreased by about 204 times, and only with the support of the Red Cross and RF peacekeepers (instead of 503.250 people in 205 days, 2,466 entry and exit. In the last 4 days, 44 cases of exit and entry of citizens were registered, only by the Red Cross).

Not a single vehicle of Artsakh citizens passed through the blocked road, and the movement of vehicles was almost 65 times less than it should have been without the blockade (instead of 188,600 2,911 vehicles entered and exited in 205 days, and that only by Red Cross and Russian peacekeepers). That means only 11 vehicle entries and exits were recorded in the last 4 days only by the Red Cross.

About 14 times fewer vital goods were imported by the Red Cross and Russian peacekeepers than should have been without the blockade (5.688 tons instead of about 82,000 tons in 205 days, only 12 tons of which in the last 4 days).

During the blockade, Azerbaijan completely or partially interrupted the sole gas supply into Artsakh for a total of 139

days and the electricity supply has been completely disrupted for 176 days. This has led to daily blackouts and additional emergency shutdowns, resulting in many facilities closing or curtailing operations.

860 business entities (20,1 % of the total) have suspended their activities due to the impossible operating conditions under the blockade, while the remaining operate partially or with state support.

An estimated 11,000 people (including state-supported temporary work placements and more than 50% of private sector workers) have lost jobs and sources of income as a result of the impact on the economy from the blockade and disruptions of vital infrastructure.

Construction work of 32.6 kilometres of roads, tens of kilometres of water lines, irrigation systems for thousands of hectares of land, 3,717 apartments, and more than 40 social and industrial infrastructures have been stopped.

During the blockade, the economy of the Republic of Artsakh suffered a loss of around 390 million US dollars, leading to the decline of the predicted annual GDP index (903 million dollars) by more than 43 per cent.





## UAE-Armenia relations are witnessing a new historic era: UAE Ambassador

UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia Dr. Nariman Al Mulla has highlighted the strong relations between the two countries, which are witnessing a "new historic era", underscoring the keenness of both countries to enhance their historical cooperation for the benefit of both countries and peoples, WAM reports.

Ambassador Dr. Al Mulla told WAM on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the UAE and Armenia that both countries look forward to strengthening bilateral relations, especially in the economic, commercial, and investment fields.

Dr. Al Mulla highlighted that under the directives of the leaderships of the UAE and Armenia, mutual economic partnerships are experiencing continuous growth, creating more opportunities for the business community and the private sector in



the markets of both countries.

The Ambassador added that there are promising prospects between the UAE and Armenia in several sectors, which will positively affect the two nations. These sectors include healthcare, pharmaceutical manufacturing, real estate development, infrastructure and logistics, telecommunications, and agriculture and others.

Ambassador Dr. Al Mulla affirmed the Embassy's keenness to facilitate economic and trade links and provide all necessary assistance to companies and businesspeople, to diversify current partnerships and to assist emerging businesses to expand in sectors of common interest, including trade, technology, agriculture, food security, tourism & travel, renewables, transport, as well as other new economic sectors, especially technological industries, space, and the circular economy.

Ambassador Dr. Al Mulla also called for businesses to benefit from the advantages and incentives provided by the national economy to achieve further growth and expansion in the markets of the UAE and the Middle East and Africa.

The Ambassador reiterated the importance of the COP28 climate conference, which will be hosted in the UAE at Expo City Dubai this November to enhance global climate action, and welcomed Armenia's participation in this key international conference.

## Armenia to provide additional evidence to ICJ on situation in Nagorno Karabakh

Armenia is going to present additional evidence to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Azerbaijani checkpoint and concrete barrier on the Lachin Corridor and the resulting humanitarian crisis, the Representative of Armenia for International Legal Affairs Yeghishe Kirakosyan said on July 6.

Kirakosyan said that Armenia began to work with international courts since the very first day of the blockade of Lachin Corridor in December 2022.

The first ruling was issued by the ECHR, ordering Azerbaijan to ensure passage of patients and those who've lost their homes in both ways along Lachin Corridor, but Azerbaijan has failed to implement it. Furthermore, the situation escalated further. Azerbaijan cut off gas and

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electricity supply into Nagorno Karabakh, prompting Armenia to take the next step and file a complaint to the ICJ.

On February 22, 2023 the United Nations' highest court – the International Court of Justice (ICJ) - ordered Azerbaijan to "take all steps at its disposal" to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions. But Azerbaijan has been ignoring the order ever since.

"Unfortunately we didn't have any

positive movement after that ruling, on the contrary, we had more negative consequences. In April 2023 Azerbaijan installed the checkpoints and the situation escalated, then they installed the concrete barriers, almost entirely blocking passage along Lachin Corridor. Following these developments, we filed the second appeal to the ICI, asking the court to further specify its February 22 ruling and order that any obstacle should be eliminated, including the checkpoints. Additional evidence has been provided to the court on the developments. We will provide further information this week. We hope that it won't take the ICJ too long to issue a ruling, because it has already been two months since we filed our request," Kirakosyan said.





## Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General congratulates Armenian prosecution on 105th anniversary

When prosecutors are free to do their work without fear or favor they pursue justice in which the public can have faith, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe Bjørn Berge said in his video message to participants of the Prosecutorial Independence in Upholding the Rule of Law conference in Yerevan on the occasion of the 105th anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian prosecution.

Berge spoke about the importance of the independence, impartial and effective judiciaries and said that this includes prosecutors.

"When prosecutors are free to do their work without fear or favor they pursue justice in which the public can have faith," Berge said.

The Deputy Secretary General of the

Council of Europe noted that the Council of Europe has issued a range of binding standards and soft law tools to help member states tackle problems more effectively.

Following this guidance helps ensure that prosecution services are fair, impartial and transparent, and never arbitrary, he said.

"This conference is an opportunity for us to share experiences and best practice on identifying and overcoming challenges to the prosecutors' independence. And I also hope that you will be able to reflect upon whether the Council of Europe guidance is sufficient, or whether you believe there is more that we can do. I hope that it will also be a chance for you to discuss how independent prosecutors

can overcome the new challenges on the horizon. The environment is a good example. Our recent summit was clear about the importance of stepping up our work to protect it. As part of this, the consultative council of European prosecutors has adopted an opinion on the role of prosecutors in the protection of the environment. And we have a committee of experts currently at work on a new convention on the protection of the environment through criminal law. I have no doubt that impartial, independent prosecutors will be needed in cases of environmental crime, as well as other issues," Berge said. and thanked the Armenian Prosecution and the EU for organizing the conference.

He also congratulated the Armenian prosecution on its 105th anniversary.

## EU has enough trust to contribute to deployment of UN mandated missions in Nagorno- Karabakh, – Ambassador Balayan

Ambassador of Armenia to the Netherlands Tigran Balayan has delivered a speech at the "The South Caucasus and the European Union – addressing challenges, seizing opportunities" conference organized by LINKS Europe.

In his speech, the ambassador said that the EU is Armenia's key partner in all possible fields and sectors. With the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) Armenia has embarked on a new ambitious agenda with the EU, Balayan said.

Below is the transcript of the ambassador's speech at the event.

"Excellencies, dear Special Envoys and Representatives, Colleagues, dear participants.

Thank you for this opportunity to present to you the views of my Government on cooperation with the EU, our key international partner.

There is an old Dutch custom of planning agendas months ahead, and as we were informed about this important event relatively recently, today is one of those days, when I am in Brussels with a number of scheduled meetings, practically promoting the partnership with the European Union.

The EU is Armenia's key partner in all possible fields and sectors. With the CEPA we embarked on a new ambitious agenda with the EU.

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Our partnership is anchored on shared values aimed at reinforcing the democratic reforms in Armenia, promoting good governance, rule of law, fight against corruption, and making the life of Armenian citizens better.

The implementation of the CEPA is overseen by the interagency commission, chaired by the Deputy PM. We have growing trade and economic cooperation with increasing investment volumes. Scientific and cultural cooperation is amongst the pillars of our relationship.

With the recent conclusion of agreements with the Europol and the one we are currently finalizing with the Eurojust, Armenia is starting an institutionalized cooperation between the law enforcement agencies, which is a manifestation of trust in Armenia and its reform agenda.

In January we held the first high-level Armenia-European Union Political and Security Dialogue, a manifestation of the utmost importance Armenia attaches to the security component of our partnership.

We welcome the EU's role of mediator between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and grateful to President Michel, the EEAS team headed by Ambassador Klaar for his consistent efforts, supported by the member states.

The deployment of the EU monitoring mission along the Armenian-Azerbaijan border is the best thing that has happened

to the region since 2008, when a similar mission was deployed in Georgia. We are of the opinion that the EU has enough trust with its reliable energy partner to deploy a similar mission on the Azerbaijani side of the border, and also contribute to the deployment of UN mandated (EU) missions in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Lachin corridor.

We are of the opinion that the EU's mediation should be reinforced by mechanisms of observation of the implementation for the reached agreements, and respect for international law and in case breach of the agreements, consequences must follow. As we have regretfully witnessed multiple times, agreements are not followed, unless it is made clear what will follow the breach.

In that sense we welcome HR Borrell's commitment made at the European Parliament to set up a deadline for lifting the illegal and inhuman blockade of the Lachin corridor.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate once again the importance of such events, which aim to bring together people that are trying to contribute to lasting peace in the South Caucasus. Unfortunately, not every Government in our region has the same agenda, but I am sure that able international actors like the EU and its truly reliable partners can make a change. "

## UN has a responsibility to protect the children in Artsakh, Armenian envoy tells Security Council



The United Nations has a distinct responsibility to prevent grave violations and to safeguard the physical security of children in all parts of the world, including in Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia's permanent Representative to the UN Mher Margaryan said at a UN Security Council Open Debate, entitled "Children and Armed Conflict."

In Nagorno-Karabakh, since 12 December 2022, the civilian population have become victim of an inhumane blockade by Azerbaijan, the imposition of which has severely affected the rights and livelihoods of those most vulnerable, the children, the Ambassador noted.

"As we speak the ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor, in violation of the existing legal obligations and the order of International Court of Justice, continues to endanger the lives of innocent people in Nagorno-Karabakh," Margaryan stated.

"For almost seven months, families with children have been suffering from critical shortages of essential goods, including food, fuel and medical supplies.

The humanitarian situation is further exacerbated by complete disruption of gas and electricity. 118 schools had to suspend their activities due to weather conditions, depriving 20,000 children of their right to education, including early education, with pre-schools no longer operational due to food insecurities, affecting more than 6,800 children. Provision of health services has been severely disrupted, with acute lack of antibiotics and other types of medications leaving children susceptible to otherwise easily treatable diseases, while hundreds of newborns are experiencing nutritional problems exacerbated by the ongoing shortage of infant formula," he noted.

The Armenian envoy reminded that on 22 February, the International Court of Justice issued an Order on the indication of a provisional measure demanding that Azerbaijan "shall take all measures at its disposal to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin corridor in both directions". To this date, Azerbaijan has failed to ensure compliance with the legally binding Order of the Court.

"Azerbaijan's denial of safe and unimpeded humanitarian access of the UN agencies to Nagorno-Karabakh undermines comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian, protection, early recovery needs and human rights situation of the population, to ensure the protection of the rights of children and their access to inclusive and quality education, healthcare and social services," the Permanent Representative said.

"As the leading advocate of the United Nations for the protection of children affected by armed conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General has a central role to play in raising awareness on the need to increase efforts to protect children, whose inalienable rights are under brutal attack. The intentional disruption of the Lachin Corridor, which has left 30,000 children and their families besieged, constitutes a violation of a massive scope and gravity, and we call on the Special Representative to use her important mandate to monitor the situation and to take efforts for humanitarian access in order to avoid further deterioration of the conditions affecting the lives of the children in Nagorno-Karabakh," Mher Margarvan continued.

"The United Nations and its humanitarian arm (OCHA), as well as the SRSG for children and armed conflict and this very Council have a distinct responsibility to prevent grave violations and to safeguard the physical security of children, whose rights and safety must be respected and protected at all times, in all parts of the world, including in Nagorno-Karabakh," he concluded.

## Armenophobia highly prevalent in Azerbaijani public narrative, warns Ombudsperson

The public narrative in Azerbaijan is full of Armenophobia, the Human Rights Defender of Armenia Anahit Manasyan warned Thursday.

She cited a recent report by her office quoting and describing the speeches by the Azeri government officials, including the president, lawmakers and others.

Given the status of those who make the anti-Armenian statements it is obvious that Armenophobia is state-sponsored in Azerbaijan, Manasyan said, adding that in this condition it is impossible to find solutions guaranteeing human rights.

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Manasyan made the remarks at the July 6 Armenia-Nagorno Karabakh telebridge press conference.

She said that the Ombudsperson's reports are regularly provided to

international partners.

The Armenian Ombudsperson's office is conducting daily monitoring of the Azerbaijani press regarding the policy of Armenophobia in Azerbaijan.

The reports also include human rights violation committed as a result of the illegal Azeri military deploy-ment inside Armenian territory. The aim of the Azeri policy of Armenophobia is to commit ethnic cleansing in a specific region and specific settlements.





## Pashinyan's Ankara Visit Used by Turkish Officials to Undermine Diaspora Efforts

BY HARUT SASSOUNIAN, PUBLISHER, THE CAL-IFORNIA COURIER

There is a good reason why many Armenians around the world reacted negatively to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's unwise decision to attend Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's inauguration in Ankara on June 3, 2023.

First of all, it was inappropriate for Pashinyan to attend Erdogan's inauguration, particularly since as recently as in 2020, Turkish drones killed thousands of young Armenian soldiers during the Artsakh War, and Turkey recruited thousands of Islamist terrorists from Syria to fight against Artsakh. Furthermore, the Ottoman Empire committed the Genocide of 1.5 million Armenians which the Turkish government still denies a century later.

Secondly, since the 2020 War, Turkey has been a staunch military, economic and political ally of Azerbaijan. Several times, Erdogan traveled Azerbaijan and Artsakh, including Shushi, making anti-Armenian statements. As recently as June 13, during his visit to Artsakh, Erdogan announced that Turkey will open a consulate in Shushi, which "would be a message to the world and especially to Armenia." Erdogan made a similar visit on June 15, 2021, during which he and Pres. Aliyev signed a joint Ankara-Baku "Shushi Declaration." Erdogan declared that Turkey will cooperate with Azerbaijan in "the restoration of Nagorno Karabakh." Armenia's Foreign Ministry condemned Erdogan's and Aliyev's visit to Shushi, stating that "these provocative actions clearly reveal that Ankara's and Baku's statements on normalization of relations with Armenia and the Armenian people are false and misleading,"

Thirdly, Armenia and Turkey have met several times during the past year and a half to open their mutual border "without any preconditions." The border is still closed which shows Turkey's unwillingness to open the border, unless Armenia meets certain preconditions like signing

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"a peace treaty" with Azerbaijan, allowing a "Corridor" to cross Armenia into Nakhichevan, and dismantling the monument in Yerevan in honor of the avengers of the Turkish masterminds of the Armenian Genocide. Turkey immediately banned from its skies Armenian overflights and threatened further action if the monument is not dismantled.

Fourthly, if Pashinyan had knowledgeable advisors, and if he listened to them, they would have suggested to him that it would have been wiser if he had designated another official to represent him at the inauguration in Ankara. Begging for normalized relations with Turkey is not in Armenia's interest.

Nevertheless, the damage is done and Turkish officials are shrewd enough to take advantage of Pashinyan's faux pas.

Sinan Kuzum, Turkey's Consul General in Los Angeles, sent a very clever letter to members of the California State Assembly and Senate on June 6, taking quick advantage of Pashinyan's June 3 visit to Ankara, to discredit the lobbying efforts of Armenian-American organizations in California.

Here are excerpts from the Turkish letter: "I am writing to you to inform you about positive developments in Turkish-Armenian relations, as I am aware that you are interested in this issue, considering your statements in the past. Last weekend marked a historical moment in modern Turkish-Armenian relations. On June 3rd, the Armenian Prime Minister, Mr. Nikol Pashinyan, attended the inauguration ceremony of the Turkish President, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, following his re-election. On the occasion of the Prime Minister's visit to Ankara, President Erdogan came together with prominent members of the Armenian-Turkish community, including the Armenian Patriarch of Istanbul Sahag II Mashalian. (I enclose herewith a picture taken during this visit where Mr. President is seen with his Armenian counterpart, the Patriarch and other members of the Armenian-Turkish community)."

The Turkish letter continued: "I am bringing this to your attention because I realize that this kind of positive developments are often ignored. Instead, a rhetoric of hatred of my country is prevailing here in Los Angeles and California. Having said that I invite you to consider whether what you are being told by certain groups here in Los Angeles is in line with the reality of the current state of relations between the two countries or not. The Turkish and Armenian governments are making a historic effort to normalize their relations. Please do not turn a blind eye to this effort."

The Turkish Consul General concluded his letter: "I, therefore, kindly ask you to put these facts into consideration in the future while you are making any statement or taking any decision on Turkish-Armenian issues. This approach would be much more conducive to peace between the Armenian and Turkish people."

When asked for a reaction, an anonymous high-ranking official in Armenia stated: "Pure opportunism. There is no positive development at all. The negotiations have not yielded any positive results."

Fortunately, the Turkish Consul General's letter will have very little effect on California's legislators. He is just writing this letter to show to his bosses in Ankara that he is doing some work. California legislators are not going to take the forked-tongued words of a foreign diplomat over the wishes of their citizens in California.

We assume that the Turkish Ambassador in Washington has sent a similar letter to members of Congress. Turkish diplomats around the world probably did the same thing in their respective countries.

Armenians cannot blame Turkish diplomats for doing what's in the best interest of their country, since the Prime Minister of Armenia, Pashinyan, has handed to Turkey this opportunity on a silver platter!





### Genocide never happens suddenly: Armenia delivers joint statement at UN on behalf of 41 states

Armenia was privileged to deliver a joint statement on behalf of 41 states on the 75th anniversary of the Genocide Convention.

"Genocide never happens suddenly. It is typically preceded by discriminatory practices against a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, and patterns of human rights violations and abuses," the statement reads.

It emphasizes that drawing the world's attention to situations at risk of atrocity crimes requires follow-up actions and coordinated efforts in order truly to make prevention work.

Below is the full text of the statement presented by Armenia's Permanent Representative to the UN Mher Margaryan at the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide:

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the cross regional group of 41 States.

We welcome Special Adviser Nderitu, and reiterate our continuous support to the Office of the Special Advisors of the

Croatia Cyprus Denmark Estonia 30. The Net Finland 32. Poland 2. German 34. San Marin 13. Greece 14. Georgia 16. Iceland 38. Turkey 17. Ireland 18. Italy

Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and on the Responsibility to Protect.

This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It was the first human rights treaty adopted by the General Assembly, one day before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Together, these documents outline a vision of a world where genocide and other mass atrocities are prevented and punished.

This anniversary offers an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to this objective and to reflect on best practices and challenges with regard to the Convention's implementation.

Genocide never happens suddenly. It is typically preceded by discriminatory practices against a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, and patterns of human rights violations and abuses.

We vow to mobilize the political will to prevent genocide and other atrocity crimes, notably by using the Secretary-General's Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes. There is no excuse for the failure to properly address situations where genocide is at risk of occurring.

We emphasize the role of the UN human rights system, including this Council, the OHCHR, and relevant special procedures, and treaty bodies to collate information on violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that may lead to genocide.

Drawing the world's attention to situations at risk of atrocity crimes requires follow-up actions and coordinated efforts in order truly to make prevention work.

The following countries joined the statement:

### Robert Ghukasyan presented post-war situation in Syunik to Niels Scott

On July 6, Governor of Syunik province, Armenia, Robert Ghukasyan, received the Acting UN Resident Coordinator in in Armenia, Niels Scott.

Mr. Scott is in Syunik for the first time, and the Governor, welcoming his visit, thanked him, noting that thanks to the work done by various UN agencies and the many programs implemented, the residents of the province stayed in their homes.

Niels Scott was interested in the socio-economic situation of Syunik and especially in the life of the border villages. The head of the province presented the

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problems of the province according to the sectors and in more detail the situation in the border settlements in the post-war period.

He noted that the primary issue in the

villages (after security, of course) is the development of agriculture in the face of new challenges and difficulties, simultaneously mentioning the problems of infrastructure improvement, drinking and irrigation water, access to health care, quality education.

The interlocutors also referred to the desired strategy and logic of the development programs implemented by international organiza-

tions in parallel with the government's programs, so that all of this has a common visible result and is more effective.

Issues of joint work and cooperation were also discussed.





### Memorandum of understanding signed between Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and British Care for Children NGO



As part of the visit of the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia, Narek Mkrtchyan, to Great Britain, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the British Care for Children NGO for the purpose of expanding cooperation in the field of child rights protection and developing the foster care institute, which is the result of previously established close

In January 2023, at the invitation of Minister Mkrtchyan, Robert Glover, the founder of the Care for Children NGO, was also present in Armenia during the screening of the film "Shanghai's Children" about foster care, to share his own experience and his vision of foster family development.

Prince Michael George Charles Franklin of Kent, a supporter of the Care for Children NGO, also took part in the memorandum signing ceremony.

Within the framework of the memorandum, it is planned to improve the processes ensuring the realization of the right of a child in a difficult life situation to live in a family through the exchange of experience, trainings and professional visits, as well as to organize the holding of a regional conference on the topic "Development of the Care Institute" to be held in Yerevan in September 2023. An agreement was reached to hold it regularly in Armenia.



### Alen Simonyan highly appreciates the efforts of Western partners in the South Caucasus peace process

On July 3, the delegation headed by the President of the National Assembly of Armenia Alen Simonvan, who is in Poland on an official visit, met the experts of the Casimir Pulaski Security Research Center-Foundation in Warsaw.

As Noyan Tapan was informed from the National Assembly, at the meeting, the President of the National Assembly briefly touched on the agenda of

democratic reforms implemented in Armenia, stressing the facts about Armenia's democratic achievements in the reports of a number of prestigious international organizations.

He reminded the audience that Armenia continues to go through great difficulties, facing security threats. In this context, the Armenian delegates detailed about the consequences of Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression against Armenia, stressing that Azerbaijan grossly violates the principles of international law and threatens

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Armenia's territorial integrity. "Azerbaijan, grossly violating the provisions of the trilateral declaration of November 9, 2020, has blocked the Lachin Corridor since December last year, which has led to a severe humanitarian crisis. 120,000 Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh live under complete siege," Alen Simonyan said.

Answering the experts' questions about establishing lasting peace in the region, Alen Simonyan highly appreciated the efforts of Western partners (USA, EU, France, Germany) in the process of

establishing peace, stability and security in the South Caucasus.

"The Polish partners noted that the most difficult thing for conflicting countries is to find a final solution that satisfies the parties, but it is more difficult to leave the situation without a solution, which can lead to irreversible consequences.

Alen Simonyan assured that Armenia has no territorial demands from its neighbors and will continue to do its best for the security and peace in the

region. It was also noted at the meeting that Azerbaijan constantly rejects all efforts aimed at peace, ignores the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the binding decision of the International Court of Justice, carrying out an open policy of ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Concluding the meeting, the President of the National Assembly assured that Armenians really believe that democracy, rule of law, human rights are guarantees of peaceful coexistence.



### Takeshi Kitano named Guest of Honor at 20th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival

The guest of honor of the 20th Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival is Takeshi Kitano -the renowned Japanese director, actor, comedian, screenwriter, artist, TV presenter, poet and painter, recipient of the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival, organizers announced July 6.

The festival will feature a public talk with Kitano, the screening of the master's



latest film "Kubi", which premiered at Cannes, and also together with another

guest of honor of Golden Apricot - British producer Jeremy Thomas - Nagisa Oshima's "Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence" starring David Bowie, as Kitano's first major film role and as a tribute to composer Ryuichi Sakamoto.

Takeshi Kitano will be given the honorary Pharajanov's Thaler award for his outstanding contribution to the world of

### TUMO centers to open in three Japanese cities



TUMO centers and boxes will be established in the Japanese cities of Maebashi, Takasaki and Kusatsu, Vice-Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly Hakob Arshakvan informs.

A relevant Memorandum of Understanding was signed between TUMO Development Director Bekor Papazyan and Gunma Prefecture's Deputy Governor Keichi Uruga.

Arshakyan reminds that an agreement on working towards establishment of a TUMO Center in Japan was reached during his working visit to Japan in September 2022.

TUMO is a free educational program founded in 2011 that empowers teenagers to take charge of their learning. TUMO covers over 20 focus areas, including animation, computer programming, robotics, writing, and sustainable cities.

The program teaches students additional skills such as collabora-tion, problem-solving, and creative think-ing, which are essential for success in the world.

TUMO has expanded to eight international locations, including Paris, Beirut, Moscow, Tirana, Berlin, Kyiv, and Lyon. There are also plans to open centers in Seoul, Tokyo, and Syndey.

TUMO covers over 20 focus areas, including animation, computer programming, robotics, writing, and sustainable cities.

### 5 Egyptian-Armenian mountaineers reach summit of Mount Ararat

Five Egyptian-Armenian mountaineers have climbed Mount Ararat and raised the flags of Armenia and Egypt on the summit.

The Armenian National Committee of Egypt said the group was composed of Saro Yerznkatsean, Ari Yerznkatsean, Varushan Kazanjian, Simon Deboyan and Shahan

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Terzipashian.

"The young people have successfully reached the summit of Mount Ararat and raised the flags of Armenia and Egypt at 5165 meters altitude," the Armenian National Committee of Egypt said in a statement.





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