

Pashinyan again denies rumors on so-called Zangezur Corridor



Our position is clear: Azerbaijani forces must leave the territory of Armenia – Nikol Pashinyan

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan chaired a Security Council meeting on May 17.

In his speech, Pashinyan briefed the members of the Security Council on latest updates from the situation at the Armenia-Azerbaijan border.

“Since May 12, when servicemen of the Azerbaijani armed forces breached the Armenia-Azerbaijan border, the situation had the following change or more accurately had the following dynamics: Starting May 14th, some groups of the [Azeri] servicemen pulled back from Armenian territory, a similar process also took place yesterday evening, and there are signs that this could happen today as well, but overall, I find the military-political situation to be unchanged since May 12. Meaning, no big changes from military-political perspective took place, some groups pulled back, but the situation hasn’t changed from that. What does this mean? This means that we must continue to initiate the Collective Security Treaty Organization’s mechanisms and we must continue

working in the direction of utilizing the Armenian-Russian allied mechanisms. Our position is clear – Azerbaijani forces must leave the territory of Armenia,” Pashinyan said, noting that despite his warnings this situation has become a topic for domestic political manipulations.

Pashinyan slammed those who are manipulating this issue and labeled them as “carrying out pro-Azerbaijani activities behind our backs.” He was particularly speaking about the manipulations about the so-called Zangezur Corridor, a narrative brought forward by the Azeri leader but denied by Armenian authorities to have anything to do with reality. Pashinyan said those who are developing the narrative in Armenia are “agents of Azerbaijan’s information war”.

“I want to emphasize that the Republic of Armenia has never and will never discuss a corridor. The discussions which we had are public, they are reflected in the January 11 joint statement and the official information regarding the

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Armenia's acting FM discusses border situation with CSTO officials



In the follow-up to the recent discussions, on May 15, Armenia's acting Foreign Minister Ara Aivazian had

telephone conversations with the Chairman of the CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Mukhriddin, and CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas.

On May 15 Ara Aivazian and Stanislav Zas discussed the steps towards resolving the situation on the state border of Armenia resulting from the Azerbaijani incursion on May 12.

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ara Aivazian

briefed CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas that letters have been sent on behalf of the Acting Prime Minister of Armenia to Tajikistan- Chairperson-in-Office of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the members of the Council with a request to implement the consultation procedure according to Article 2 of the treaty.

The sides exchanged views on the further processes envisaged by the procedure.

Armenia appreciates international calls to Azerbaijan to withdraw troops

Armenia highly appreciates the calls of international partners to Azerbaijan to immediately withdraw its armed units from the territory of Armenia, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Anna Naghdalyan said.

She once again emphasized that the Azerbaijani side made an incursion in the sovereign territory of Armenia.



“The Foreign Ministry of Armenia is hopeful that the Azerbaijani side will abide by these calls and will not further escalate the situation,” she added.

“The Republic of Armenia is determined to take every measure to ensure its territorial integrity, of which we have informed our partners on different platforms,” Naghdalyan stated.

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ara Aivazian held a meeting with Qubad Talabani, Deputy Prime Minister of the Regional Government of Iraqi Kurdistan

On May 15, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Ara Aivazian held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of the Regional Government of Iraqi Kurdistan Qubad Talabani.

Welcoming Deputy Prime Minister Talabani and the delegation headed by him, Acting Minister Aivazian noted that though the visit is taking place in a difficult period for Armenia, it is significant in terms of strengthening the Armenian-Kurdish relations intertwined with strong historical ties.

The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia commended the recent positive dynamics of the development of relations with the Republic of Iraq. Ara Aivazian reiterated Armenia's willingness towards deepening and expanding the mutually beneficial multifaceted cooperation with the Regional Government of Iraqi Kurdistan, in that

context highlighting the importance of the close ties established between the Consulate General of the Republic of Armenia in Erbil and the local authorities. The sides touched upon the implementation of agreements reached regarding such promising fields of cooperation as high technologies, creative education and tourism.

Both sides commended the contribution of the Armenian community of Iraqi Kurdistan in the political, social and cultural life of the autonomy, as well as in further strengthening the friendship between the two peoples.

Urgent regional and international issues were also discussed during the meeting. Special emphasis was put on the protection of the rights of national and religious minorities and their historical-cultural heritage in the Middle East. In this regard, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of



the Republic of Armenia highly assessed the cooperation established between the Matenadaran after Mesrop Mashtots in Yerevan and the Assyrian Heritage Museum of Erbil on the modernization and restoration of the manuscripts.

The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia presented to the members of the delegation the situation in the bordering regions of the Republic of Armenia following the provocative actions carried out by Azerbaijan.

France ready to provide military assistance if necessary, Armenia's acting PM says

France is exploring the possibility of helping Armenia protect its territorial integrity after the latest Azerbaijani incursions, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on May 14.

French President Emmanuel Macron voiced on Thursday night strong support for Armenia in its ongoing border standoff with Azerbaijan.

“Azerbaijani armed forces have crossed into Armenian territory. They must withdraw immediately,” Macron tweeted after a phone call with Pashinyan.

Pashinyan gave some details of their conversation during an emergency session of the Armenian parliament.

“The French president said that he is considering taking the issue to the United Nations Security Council and that with a



UN mandate France is also prepared to provide, if necessary, military support to international efforts to resolve this issue,” he told lawmakers.

“I find it very important that permanent members of the Security Council communicate with each other on this topic. We are very closely monitoring these developments and making our positions

clear,” added the prime minister.

In a statement on the phone call, the presidential Elysee Palace said Macron reaffirmed “France’s commitment to the territorial integrity of Armenia.” It also said that Paris would like the UN Security Council to try to ease tensions in the region and “restore stability and security” there.

Armenia maintains close military ties with Russia on a bilateral basis and as a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), a Russian-led military bloc uniting six ex-Soviet states. It has asked both Moscow and the CSTO as a whole to help it deal with Azerbaijani troops which it says crossed several sections of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border this week.

Armenia asks Russia for assistance

As the standoff in Syunik continued after Azerbaijani forces breached Armenia’s border and advanced into its sovereign territory, Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on May 14 officially asked Russian President Vladimir Putin for assistance.

Pashinyan, speaking at an emergency session of parliament, said he invoked the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance. A similar appeal by Pashinyan to Putin during last fall’s Artsakh War did not yield the anticipated assistance and instead resulted in the signing of the November 9 agreement, which halted military actions in Karabakh, but forced the surrender of territories in Artsakh and Armenia to Azerbaijan.

On Wednesday, Azerbaijani troops breached Armenia’s border and advance 3.5 kilometers into the Sev Lich (Black Lake) region of Syunik. The lake, which is a manmade reservoir, is main water supply for the residents of the region. On Thursday, as the standoff intensified, Azerbaijani forces continued their advance in other directions in Syunik, as well as near the city of Vardenis in the Gegharkunik Province.



While there have been no shots fired, the situation has escalated an already tense situation on the Armenian border.

“I have appealed to President Putin for assistance to Armenia including military, after Azerbaijan failed to withdraw an estimated 250 troops from the southern Armenian province of Syunik,” Pashinyan told lawmakers on Friday, adding the representatives of the Russian military base in Gyumri were also involved in ongoing negotiations, which are expected to resume on Saturday.

“Representatives of the 102nd Russian base joined the negotiations with the Azerbaijani side and presented working maps. According to these documents, the territory invaded by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces is in the CSTO zone,” Pashinyan said, referring to the Russia-led security

pact, of which Armenia is a member.

Meanwhile Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who was in Baku on Tuesday, one day before the Azerbaijani incursion into Armenia spoke to his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhum Bayramov on Thursday.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the two leaders discussed the “escalation of the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border,” with Lavrov stressing the need for both sides to comply with the provisions of the November 9 agreement.

Lavrov reportedly called for “resolving all such incidents solely through political and diplomatic means,” the Russian foreign ministry statement said.

Armenia’s Defense Ministry on Friday confirmed that further talks for a “peaceful” resolution of the border situation were scheduled for Saturday, adding that the Azerbaijani forces still remain on Armenia’s territory.

“The Armenian side has presented its clear demand to the Azerbaijani military to return to the positions without any preconditions,” the Defense Ministry said in its statement.

The United States urged Azerbaijan to immediately withdraw its troops from Armenia's border areas.



EU, Canada also Urge a 'Negotiated' Resolution to the Standoff

The United States is closely monitoring the situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and expects Azerbaijan to immediately pull back its forces and "cease further provocation," State Department spokeswoman Jalina Porter said on Friday during her daily briefing.

Porter was responding to a question from Laura Kelly, a correspondent for [The Hill](#), who asked about the tense standoff on the Armenian border and questioned the State Department official about whether the Biden Administration is considering revoking the waiver of Section 907, which was announced last month by Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

While Porter said there was nothing

to announce about Section 907, she said that the State Department was "closely monitoring the situation along the de-marked border between Armenia and Azerbaijan."

"Military movements in disputed territories are irresponsible, and they're also unnecessarily

provocative," said Porter. "And of course, we've seen the reports of some withdrawal and would welcome that, if confirmed, but we expect that Azerbaijan to pull back all forces immediately and cease further provocation."

"We've also urged both sides to approach demarcation issues through discussion as well as negotiation," added Porter.

The European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrel on Friday said that the EU is "following closely the worrying developments along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border."

"On my behalf, Secretary General of the European External Action Service Stefano Sannino, spoke to Foreign Minister of Armenia Ara Aivazian on Thursday

and to Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov this Friday, calling on both sides to exercise the utmost restraint and de-escalate the situation. EU Special Representative Toivo Klaar has also been in contact with the OSCE Chairmanship in Office," Borrel said.

He emphasized that border delimitation and demarcation must be resolved through negotiations, for the benefit of the security of the local populations. "We welcome ongoing contacts at the technical level between the two sides. "The EU continues to support a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and encourages both countries to find peaceful solutions preserving stability in the region.," the High Representative stated.

In a Twitter post, Canada's Foreign Minister Marc Garneau said on Friday that his country is concerned by reports of "rising tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan with reports of an incursion into Armenian territory."

"We urge all parties to respect the ceasefire agreement achieved on November 10 fully and to continue to negotiate a permanent and peaceful settlement. All actions that would undermine the ceasefire and escalate tensions must be stopped," Garneau added.

Iran calls on Armenia, Azerbaijan to resolve dispute peacefully



The Islamic Republic has urged Armenia and Azerbaijan to urging the two neighboring countries "to resolve their border dispute through peaceful ways," [Tehran Times](#) reports.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, issued a statement on May 14 saying that Iran was closely following developments at the Armenia-Azerbaijan border.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is closely and sensitively following the developments of the past few days along the borders of the two neighboring countries, Armenia and Azerbaijan," Khatibzadeh said.

"Iran hopes that the dispute would be settled as soon as possible with the two sides' prudence and through peaceful ways," the spokesman noted.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran underlines the necessity of maintaining stability and calm in the region, and calls on both sides to show restraint, avoid fueling the disagreements, and respect the two countries' borders," he added.

He also expressed Iran's preparedness to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the two countries' differences, including the recent dispute.

The statement came after Azerbaijan violated the Armenian border in Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces.

Republicans, Homeland Party join forces for snap election

The Republican Party of Armenia and the Homeland Party are joining forces and will run for parliament in the upcoming snap election under the “I Have the Honor” alliance.

The ceremony where the parties signed the alliance was attended by Republican Party chairman, former president of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan and Homeland Party chairman Artur Vanetsyan, the former director of the National Security Service.

The memorandum of understanding signed between the parties heavily lambasts the incumbent government and states that the “Armenian statehood is at stake”.

Sargsyan says the signing of the memorandum will launch the “work of honor” of this phase, which is “the removal through the opposition’s victory in the upcoming elections of the government that failed state administration. To restore



Armenia’s full sovereignty, return to our people the right to live peacefully, safely and in dignity in their homeland and faith in tomorrow. The current geopolitical developments, the rise in tension virtually everywhere, the direct threats facing us, the inadequate conduct of the Armenian authorities don’t give any basis for optimism to hope that in such conditions we’ll be able to thwart the imminent new danger with skillful, accurately calculated steps and put our country back

on safe tracks having prospects for development.” Sargsyan said the electoral campaigns must not only not divide people, but should unite all patriotic people and organizations.

In turn, Homeland Party leader Artur Vanetsyan said that his party and the Republican Party decided to join forces because they have similar visions for the country’s development and strengthening.

The former Minister of Justice Davit Harutyunyan, who is now a

representative of the alliance’s campaign headquarters, told reporters that they have chosen “Stand Tall, Let’s Get to Work to Live” slogan.

The *I Have The Honor* alliance is using a pentagram as its logo. “Few know that the five-pointed star is one of the earliest symbols of Christianity. For us it symbolizes service to country, historic memory, the victories and heroic deeds of our ancestors and man’s dreams,” Harutyunyan said.

Pashinyan accused of further jeopardizing National Security

(Yerevan – RFE/RL) - Opposition parties blamed Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on May 13 for Azerbaijani troops’ reported incursion into Armenia’s Syunik province, calling it further proof of his inability to protect the country’s territorial integrity after last year’s war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to Armenian officials, Azerbaijani forces crossed a local section of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and advanced several kilometers into Armenian territory early on Wednesday. Pashinyan said on Thursday that the authorities in Yerevan need to investigate and clarify how they managed to do that without firing a single gunshot.

“Do we have a government capable of protecting Armenia’s territorial integrity? No, we don’t,” charged Edmon Marukyan, the leader of the Bright Armenia Party (LHK), one of the two parliamentary opposition forces.

Marukyan said this is why the LHK and other opposition groups demanded



Pashinyan’s resignation immediately after Armenia’s defeat in the war stopped by a Russian-brokered ceasefire on November 10. He claimed that other border sections are also still not properly protected against Azerbaijani incursions.

The Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) led by former President Serzh Sargsyan said that the Syunik incident was the result of the Pashinyan administration’s “criminal inactivity and wrong assessment of the situation” as well as a “deep crisis in the state governance and security systems.”

“As a result, Azerbaijan is expanding its toolkit for exerting pressure on Armenia and creating a fertile ground for seeking

new concessions from the Armenian side and presenting new demands to it,” read a statement released by the HHK’s governing board.

“The ruling regime’s every day in power is increasing dangers facing Armenia, Artsakh and the Armenian people as a whole,” it said.

The opposition Fatherland party, which has formed an electoral alliance with the HHK, likewise denounced the “defeatist policy pursued by the inept and treasonous regime.”

Both the HHK and Fatherland are key members of a coalition of opposition forces that has staged anti-government protests in recent months in a bid to force Pashinyan to resign over his handling of the Karabakh war.

Speaking at an emergency meeting of Armenia’s Security Council held late on Wednesday, Pashinyan urged his political opponents and other critics not to exploit the Syunik border standoff for domestic political purposes.

page 1 activities of the trilateral working group,” Pashinyan said.

“The next issue I’d like to emphasize is the process of border adjustments and Armenia needs the processes of border adjustment and the opening of communications as much as Azerbaijan does. And in terms of border adjustments there is this kind of a nuance: In the recent days the Azerbaijani propaganda is trying to advance a narrative that the border adjustment process should take place in a bilateral format. Such thing can’t happen with the simple reason that Armenia and Azerbaijan don’t have relations basically. And both the opening of communications and the border adjustment processes must take place in a trilateral format, around which agreements have been reached several times, and I think that it is also the

violation or disruption of these agreements which is the reason of actions of the Azeri military and military-political leadership,” he said, presenting future actions.

“The negotiations continued until late night yesterday, the talks will continue Wednesday,” Pashinyan added. “The negotiations have one subject – the Azerbaijani military servicemen must pull back from the territory of the Republic of Armenia. As long as this hasn’t happened, we consider this issue, this situation to be a crisis which threatens the sovereignty, stability and territorial integrity of Armenia, a situation which is termed by the Collective Security Treaty Organization’s charter, the Treaty on Collective Security and the charter of the Treaty of Collective Security on Crisis Situation Response. As long as our legitimate objective

isn’t solved, all these mechanisms and simultaneously the Armenian-Russian allied mechanisms must be invoked, which are envisaged for such cases,” Pashinyan said.

Pashinyan added that the solution to the issue must be reached politically. “And if such a result won’t be possible to be achieved, then with the same logic the military-political mechanisms must be initiated. I mean that the Collective Security Treaty and the Armenian-Russian treaties envisage functions and these treaties are envisaged for these very cases, and we – using our legitimate right, have initiated the launch of these actions,” Pashinyan said.

Pashinyan later stated that tension and aggressiveness by Azeri troops is growing after this meeting of the security council.

Armenia hails France’s principled stance on inadmissibility of Azerbaijan’s encroachments on Armenian sovereign territory



Affairs of Armenia Ara Aivazian held a phone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs of France Jean-Yves Le Drian.

At the center of the conversation was the situation in the bordering regions of Armenia instigated by the Azerbaijani armed forces

reducing the tension. In this regard, the Foreign Minister of Armenia commended the principled position of France on the inadmissibility of Azerbaijan’s encroachments on the sovereign territory of Armenia.

The sides touched upon the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and in this regard the active role of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs was emphasized.

Both sides stressed the imperative for undertaking measures towards ensuring regional stability and security.

On May 16, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and the steps being undertaken towards

Armenian nuclear power plant put on 141-day halt for planned repair

The Armenian Nuclear Power Plant halted operations for 141 days for a planned preventive repair as part of the modernization and lifecycle extension program.

The work is organized by Rosatom’s Rosatom Service.

The NPP said in a news release that the repair will take that long due to important final work for the



modernization of the 2nd power unit.

The NPP’s chief engineer Artur Grigoryan said the preparations for the work were carried out in 2020, with all necessary inspections being completed.

120 specialists from Russia have arrived to carry out the work, with 350 other experts from Russia expected to be involved during this year.

Armenia receives new batch of AstraZeneca vaccine against COVID-19

The second batch of AstraZeneca vaccine against COVID-19 in 50,000 doses has been delivered to Armenia, the ministry of healthcare reported.

“In order to assist the vaccine deliveries in Armenia, UNICEF has applied its practice, by delivering COVID-19 vaccine doses on behalf of COVAX initiative. In addition, UNICEF is also cooperating with ministry of healthcare to ensure the country’s preparedness on getting the vaccines, by training the healthcare specialists and strengthening the trust towards the vaccines”, UNICEF representative in Armenia Yuri Oksamitny said.

The Armenian ministry of healthcare and UNICEF are also taking joint steps to



ensure the presence of respective frozen chain in the Republic.

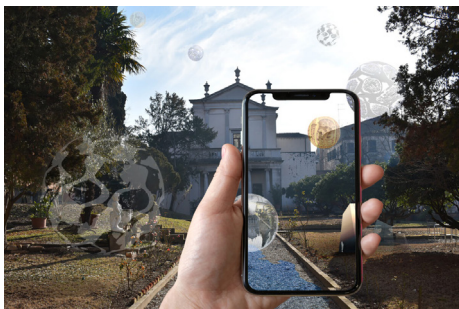
“As one of the co-leading structures of COVAX initiative, one of the priorities of the World Health Organization is to ensure the quality, safety and efficiency of COVID-19 vaccines. Within the frames of a joint project with the European Union,

we are ready to support the country to revise, develop and adapt the vaccination strategies for the specialists of the primary healthcare”, WHO Representative Egor Zaitsev noted.

Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Andrea Wiktorin stated that the Team Europe is ready to ensure that every person in Armenia needing vaccine gets it in any part of the country.

“As the world continues fighting against COVID-19, the supply of large amount of vaccines gives hope for saving lives and returning to a normal life”, UN Resident Coordinator for Armenia Shombi Sharp said.

Armenian pavilion at 2021 Venice Biennale highlights the Diaspora communities



Titled “HYBRIDITY”, the Armenian Pavilion at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, allows visitors to step into the Armenian experience of coexisting

in countries across the globe. Curated by Allen Sayegh (Vosguerichian), the exhibition will be on display at Palazzo Ca’ Zenobio from August 28th until November 21st, 2021, *ArchDaily* writes.

According to author **Dima Stouhi**, the pavilion explores the subjects of coexistence and finding a sense of identity in today’s digital contexts. The experimental installation gives visitors a chance to explore the characteristics of human interaction through physical and digital mediums, creating a “hybridity of identities.”

A global virtual machine will be installed on the grounds of Ca’ Zenobio degli Armeni, connecting more than 80 countries that house the Armenian diaspora and expanding the architectural structures of Venice through Augmented Reality. The connected individuals will be able to share their experiences through images and videos, inviting visitors into their daily life. The pavilion is curated by Allen Sayegh, in collaboration with Boston-based design firm INVIVIA and Armenian firm Storaket Architectural Studio.

Armenia participating in ATMDubai 2021 travel and tourism trade show

Armenia is participating in one of the largest travel and tourism trade shows in the Middle East – the ATMDubai 2021, which has officially opened in the Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC) on May 16, the Tourism Committee of Armenia reports.

62 countries are represented at the exhibition.

Armenia is represented in a separate

pavilion with several local tourism companies which introduce the country’s gastro, adventure and cultural attractions.

It was reported that despite the coronavirus-related travel restrictions, the number of participating countries is quite huge, which is connected by the fact that the global tourism starts showing some recovery signs.



Armenia will take tough actions to stop Azerbaijan's aggression against its territory – Parliament



The National Assembly of Armenia strictly condemns the encroachment on the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and documents that the aggressive policy led by Azerbaijan violates the fundamental principles of the international law enshrined in the UN Charter, ARMENPRESS reports reads the statement issued by the National Assembly of Armenia, authored by "Prosperous Armenia" Party.

The statement of the National Assembly records that the Azerbaijani armed forces infiltrated into the territory of Armenia in the direction of Sev Lich of Syunik Province on May 12, 2021 under the pretext of "border clarifications" and some engineering works near the borders of Syunik and went a few kilometers deep into the territory of Armenia, in the direction of Verishen community. Some hundreds of Azerbaijani servicemen continue remaining in the Armenian territory – some parts of Syunik and Gegharkunik Provinces.

"Those actions by the Azerbaijani armed forces are inadmissible for the Republic of Armenia, which is an overt encroachment on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, and Armenia will in no case tolerate the existing situation. Considering the anti-Armenian, militaristic policy of Azerbaijan, the explicit aspirations of the Azerbaijani leadership towards the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia in the recent period, including the numerous announcements containing threats of using force, as well as the xenophobia propagated for decades at public level, the National Assembly of Armenia strongly condemns the encroachment on the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia and documents that the aggressive policy led by Azerbaijan violates the fundamental principles of the international law enshrined in the UN Charter, which gives Armenia the legitimate right to take all measures in line with the international law, the Constitution of Armenia and laws.

The National Assembly, as the top representative of the people of Armenia, announces that resolute and tough measures will be taken to stop the military aggression of Azerbaijan and protecting the people and the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia,

Urges the international community to condemn the provocative measures of Azerbaijan against the territorial integrity

of the Republic of Armenia, its threat to use force and actual use of force, which threatens the fragile regional peace and security", reads the statement issued by the National Assembly of Armenia.

The statement was unanimously adopted.

On May 12 in the morning the Azerbaijani armed forces crossed Armenia's state border in the territory of Sev Lake in Syunik province and advanced up to 3,5 kilometers, trying to surround the Lake. Caretaker Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said this action is intolerable for Armenia, as it is an encroachment on the sovereign territory of Armenia.

So far, neither the Armenian nor the Azerbaijani side have used any weapon. The number of Azerbaijani soldiers in the territory of Armenia is about 250.

Armenia has officially applied to the CSTO for launching procedures in line with the Collective Security Treaty. Pashinyan has also sent a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin, asking for military assistance in line with Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance of 1997. French President Emmanuel Macron has stated that the issue should be solved in the sidelines of the UNSC, expressing readiness to provide military assistance to the international efforts aimed at solving the situation.

Violation of Armenia's sovereign territory by Azerbaijan a serious breach of international law, French MEP says

This violation of Armenia's sovereign territory by Azerbaijan is a new and very serious fault countering international law, countering the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a signatory, and countering the ceasefire statement it signed on November 9, 2020, French Member of the European Parliament François-Xavier Bellamy says.

"This new provocation shows that after the war he started several months ago, Ilham Aliyev is not looking to create, as he claims, the conditions for lasting peace. This aggression is a very serious warning, just days away from a major



troop movement announced by Azerbaijan most recently as a 'military exercise' – a pretext preceding its large-scale attack in September 2020," the MEP said in a Facebook post.

"It is therefore urgent to strongly oppose these provocations if we want

them not to result in the same escalation of violence. The attacks multiplied for more than eight months, documented war crimes and this new international border violation can no longer answer the dismaying silence of international institutions," François-Xavier Bellamy said.

He supported President Emmanuel Macron's strong statements during his conversation with acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. "We must fully assume France's commitment to respecting international law, and the friendship that binds our country to Armenia, by doing everything possible to finally stop this destabilizing maneuvers."

Why is President of UN General Assembly Acting as a Spokesman for Turkey?

By Harut Sassounian

The General Assembly of the United Nations held a meeting on May 5, 2021 on the topic of “Interactive dialog to commemorate and promote The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.” The meeting is usually held on April 24, the date designated by the UN to celebrate “Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace.”

UN delegates from many countries, including the representative of Armenia, made remarks during the meeting chaired by the President of the General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, a former Turkish diplomat, and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Davit Knyazyan, the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Armenian Mission to the UN in New York, made the following statement during the meeting:

“Armenia is firmly committed to effective multilateralism based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including non-use of force or threat of force and peaceful resolution of disputes. April 24 is the day, when the Armenian people worldwide commemorate and pay tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, which is a stark reminder that the crisis of international order can lead to atrocity crimes.

“The global challenges caused by the pandemic are a test to multilateralism. Amidst the growth of hate speech, weaponization of the pandemic to unleash wars and violate human rights and justification of past genocides, the United Nations should serve as the guardian of international law, purposes and principles of the UN Charter and values of humanity. Strengthening the capacities of the UN to prevent and respond to these challenges is crucial for upholding human rights and human dignity.

“We would like to ask the heads of the principal organs of the United Nations: what measures can be identified to strengthen the prevention mechanisms of the United Nations in order to address the rise of hate speech, denial and justification of past atrocity crimes? And second, how to ensure efficient response of the UN system to incitement of violence and identity-based crimes on ethnic and religious grounds?”

After brief remarks by the UN Secretary General, the President of the General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, responded to the Armenian Representative’s statement:

“In reply to my distinguished colleague from Armenia [partly answered by the Secretary-General], Genocide is a



crime specifically defined in the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. What constitutes genocide and how that is determined are clearly established in the Convention. Accordingly, the crime of genocide needs to be determined by a competent judicial body. In other words, in order to describe an incident as genocide, a competent international tribunal must make a decision to that effect. The UN’s position on what constitutes genocide is naturally in line with the Convention, and it has been repeated many times by UN officials in the past, and, most recently, two weeks ago by the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, who reiterated that genocide needs to be determined by an appropriate judicial body, as far as the UN is concerned.”

There are several problems with Mr. Bozkir’s statement. First of all, he responded to Armenia’s remarks more like a Turkish diplomat than as President of the General Assembly, in violation of the norms of his UN position. This is the reason that Armenia’s UN Ambassador Mher Margaryan submitted on May 10, 2021, a letter to the UN Secretary General, to be circulated as an official UN document, expressing concern that Mr. Bozkir was “misusing” the May 5 meeting to deliver “an irrelevant, unsolicited interpretation” of the Genocide Convention. Amb. Margaryan stated that Mr. Bozkir’s “misplaced remarks... must be seen in the context of the official politics of denying the occurrence of the genocide of the Armenian population in the Ottoman Empire consistently promoted by the government of Turkey, as demonstrated by the fact that Mr. Bozkir’s remarks came to be immediately publicized by the state-run news agencies of that country framed in support of the official denialist narrative. Clearly, Mr. Bozkir’s actions are incompatible with the Code of Ethics for the President of the General Assembly.”

Foreseeing Mr. Bozkir’s conflicting allegiances, the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and Cyprus at the UN, Mher Margaryan and Andreas Mavroyiannis, sent a joint letter on June 2, 2020, to

the UN Secretary General objecting to Bozkir’s nomination to his current post. The joint letter, circulated to all UN member states, reminded them that Mr. Bozkir had assured the UN: “(a) to represent solely the Office to which he is elected, based on the Charter of the United Nations and the body of resolutions, decisions, rules and practices that will bind him as President of the General Assembly; and (b) to treat all Member States equally, upholding the spirit of multilateralism and the rules-based international order, at the core of which is the United Nations.”

Ambassadors Margaryan and Mavroyiannis pointed out that Turkey, the country nominating Mr. Bozkir, “threatens peace and security in its entire region by consistently violating the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including United Nations sanctions regimes, in order to realize its aspirations for regional domination. It does so by displaying a pattern of aggressive behavior towards its neighboring countries, encroaching on their territory, undermining their sovereignty and territorial integrity, questioning their sovereign rights and instrumentalizing the plight of refugees and migrants for political ends. By imposing and sustaining an illegal land blockade on Armenia for almost three decades, Turkey effectively impedes the transit through and access to the sea of the neighboring landlocked country.

Turkey’s persistent policies of denying and attacking the memory and the dignity of the victims of the genocide committed in the Ottoman Empire 105 years ago continue to pose a security threat for Armenia and the wider region. Turkey invaded Cyprus and has continued to occupy more than a third of its territory for almost 50 years; continues to deny its very existence by insisting on not recognizing it, having unilaterally proclaimed an illegal, secessionist entity in the area that it occupies, which it tries to oppose the sole legitimate Government, despite the clear condemnation of its actions by the Security Council; is responsible for egregious violations of human rights in Cyprus, which it continues to deny despite being condemned by the European Court of Human Rights; and continues to violate Cyprus’ sovereignty and sovereign rights on land, sea and air on a daily basis. It is for these reasons that our delegations object to the election of Mr. Bozkir by silence procedure and request that the election of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session be held by secret ballot.”

Despite his UN position, Mr. Bozkir is acting as the

Ter-Petrosian set to join parliamentary race

Former President Levon Ter-Petrosian signaled at the weekend plans to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections despite his failure to form an alliance with Armenia's two other ex-presidents.

Ter-Petrosian's Armenian National Congress (HAK) party held a congress in Yerevan to formulate a position on the elections slated for June 20. HAK representatives said the final decision will be made this week by a new party board chosen by the delegates.

"If the board decides to participate in the elections ... then it's clear that the duty to top the Congress's electoral list will be imposed on me," Ter-Petrosian said in a speech at the congress.

"It's going to be difficult but the truth is that the Congress's presence in the [new] parliament is necessary not least for ensuring ... that the lantern of reason is not extinguished in the atmosphere of widespread cacophony," he said.

He said the HAK's key objective is to scuttle Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's reelection and at the same time prevent former President Robert Kocharyan from returning to power.

The HAK did not participate in the last parliamentary elections held in December

2018 six months after a "velvet revolution" that brought Pashinyan to power. It had failed to win any parliament seats in the previous polls held in 2017.

Earlier this month Ter-Petrosian publicly called on

Kocharyan and the other former Armenian president, Serzh Sarkisian, to lead together with him a broad-based opposition alliance and try to unseat Pashinyan. He said they also must also pledge not to seek the post of prime minister in the event of their bloc's victory.

Both men turned down the proposal before Ter-Petrosian suggested that the political parties led by him and Sarkisian set up an electoral bloc without Kocharyan's participation. Sarkisian did not accept that proposal either.

Ter-Petrosian hit out at the fellow ex-presidents in his speech at the HAK congress, saying that they are motivated by parochial, rather than national interests.



The 76-year-old claimed that Kocharyan is keen to "take revenge" on Pashinyan.

Ter-Petrosian's readiness to join forces with Kocharyan and Sargsyan came as a surprise given the long history of mutual antagonism between them. For many years, he was highly critical of his successors' policies and track records.

Like other opposition figures, all three ex-presidents blame Pashinyan for Armenia's defeat in last year's war in Nagorno-Karabakh. Ter-Petrosian said on Sunday that Kocharyan and Sarkisian are also responsible for the war and its outcome. He claimed that they opposed compromise solutions to the Karabakh conflict during their rule.

European Parliament to hold debate on Armenian POWs

On May 20 the European Parliament will hold a debate on prisoners of war in the aftermath of the most recent conflict in Nagorno Karabakh.

Issue will be considered as part of a debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Following the discussions, the MEPs will vote on a relevant resolution.

Earlier this month over 120 Members of European Parliament sent a letter to the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and President of the



European Council Charles Michel, asking the European institutions to bring all their weight to demand the release of prisoners out of pure respect for international law.

"The European Union can no longer leave Armenia in this unbearable situation;

we must act so that violence does not once again take precedence over the law. We are proud of the principles that bind us together: they must urge us today to bring all our weight, and use all levers at our disposal, to demand that Azerbaijan purely and solely respect international law. If Europe wishes to fulfill its commitments, it must ensure that this violation of international law in its neighborhood does not become a tragic precedent. Otherwise, its silence and inaction will turn into historical responsibility," the MEPs said.

In a report on Azerbaijan, US Commission on International Religious Freedom mentions vandalism of Armenian cultural and religious sites



In a report on Religious Freedom in Azerbaijan, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom points to vandalism of Armenian cultural and religious sites on territories that passed to Azerbaijani control after the fall fighting.

“Armenian officials, religious leaders, and civil society representatives expressed concerns for the protection of Armenian cultural and religious heritage as the sites passed from Armenian to Azerbaijani control,” the report noted.

It quoted the Human Rights Watch report, which asserts that Azerbaijani forces attacked and damaged the Holy Savior Cathedral in Shushi in two separate incidents on October 8.

“Reporters on-site during the attack reported a drone flying overhead at the time and that the two strikes were made

by high-precision missiles. There was reportedly no evidence the site was used for military purposes. In an October 26 interview, President Aliyev denied purposefully bombing the church, saying it was bombed by accident or was done by the Armenians themselves to frame Azerbaijan,” the Commission noted.

It further stated that Armenian religious officials accuse Azerbaijan forces of desecrating the Holy Savior Cathedral in Shushi.

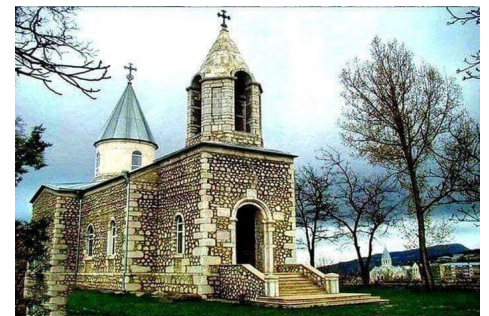
“Numerous videos circulated during and after the fall fighting that showed attacks on and vandalism of cultural and religious sites. These videos prompted Armenian officials, religious leaders, and civil society representatives to express serious concerns regarding the preservation of the sites as they passed from Armenian to Azerbaijani control. Following the ceasefire, leaders of the Armenian Apostolic Church requested that Russian peacekeepers protect the medieval Dadivank Monastery in the district of Kalbajar,” the report noted.

“Russian peacekeepers took control of the site immediately following a

November 14 call between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. President Aliyev’s public claim that “the churches in Kalbajar belong to the ancient Caucasian Albanian state” raised concerns among Armenians that Azerbaijan might seek to sever some religious sites’ connections with their Armenian heritage,” it added.

The Commission also referred to the destruction of the dome and the bell tower of the St. John the Baptist Church (also known as Kanach Zham/Green Church) located in Shushi.

There were also videos of soldiers desecrating and damaging the Church of Zoravor St. Astvatsatsin, located in Mekhakavan settlement, including the breaking of the church’s cross.



Senator Menendez: Azerbaijan must respect Armenia’s sovereignty



U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) issued the following statement in reaction to reports of Azerbaijan’s violation of international law with an illegal incursion into Armenia’s Syunik province:

“The violation of Armenia’s sovereign territory by Azerbaijani troops is a dangerous and illegal act of aggression

that underscores the sustained threat that the Armenian people continue to face. After my conversation with Armenia’s Ambassador to the U.S. earlier today, it is clear that the United States, and the international community as a whole, must respond strongly to this incursion so Azerbaijan understands it will face serious consequences for its malign activities.

“When Azerbaijan attacked the Armenian people last fall, the previous Administration failed to engage and left the door open for dictators like Aliyev, Erdogan, and Putin to decide the fate of the Armenian people. That cannot happen again. I urge the Biden Administration to engage on this issue at the highest

levels to make clear that Azerbaijan must respect Armenia’s sovereignty and that further threats and aggressions are simply unacceptable.”

“We appreciate Congressional leaders like Chairman Menendez who have what it takes to stand up to Azerbaijan and their petro-terror state. Given Baku’s continued violation of international law and the recent incursion into Armenia’s Syunik province, the United States must condemn Azerbaijan’s actions and Congress must enforce Section 907 restrictions blocking all U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan.” stated Taniel Koushajian, Armenian Council of America’s Washington D.C. representative.

Leader of The Australian Greens joins calls for recognition of Armenian, Assyrian and Greek Genocides

Member for Melbourne and Leader of The Australian Greens, Adam Bandt MP has joined the Joint Justice Initiative, continuing his party's calls for Federal recognition of the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek Genocides.

The February 2020 launch of the Joint Justice Initiative at Australia's Parliament House featured the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU), Assyrian Universal Alliance (AUA) and Australian Hellenic Council (AHC), which declares Australia's recognition of the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek Genocides as a priority on behalf of their communities.

An industrial lawyer by training, Bandt took over leadership of the largest cross-bench party in the Federal Parliament, The Australian Greens in 2020 after the retirement of fellow Joint Justice Initiative supporter, Richard Di Natale.

Bandt has represented constituents in the electorate of Melbourne since 2010, and always stood out as a supporter of human rights and social issues in public office.

Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU), Haig Kayserian, said the Joint Justice Initiative was pleased to see another familiar face join the Initiative.

"Mr. Bandt has been a long-time advocate for human rights and has consistently called for Federal Australian recognition of the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek Genocides," said Kayserian.

Kayserian added: "The Armenian-Australian, Assyrian-Australian and Greek-Australian communities represented in the Joint Justice Initiative thank Mr. Bandt and The Australian Greens for their principled condemnation of what happened to our



ancestors at the hands of the Ottoman Empire."

The Joint Justice Initiative has so far announced the support of Bandt, Tim Wilson MP, Senator Janet Rice, Steve Georganas MP, Michael Sukkar MP, Senator Louise Pratt, Warren Entsch, Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Andrew Wilkie MP, Julian Leeser MP, Michelle Rowland MP, Senator Paul Scarr, Tony Zappia MP, Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Senator Hollie Hughes, Senator Rex Patrick, Mike Freeland MP, Senator Eric Abetz, Senator Larissa Waters, Senator Pat Dodson, Jason Falinski MP, Josh Burns MP, John Alexander MP, Senator Andrew Bragg and Bob Katter MP with a promise of more announcements to come.

On 25th February 2020, over 100 Federal Australian parliamentarians, diplomats, departmental officials, political staffers, academics, media and community leaders were treated to cultural performances, food, wine and brandy, as well as the historic signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, which affirmed that the signatory public affairs representatives of the three communities were jointly committed to seeing Australia recognise the Turkish-committed Genocides against the Armenian, Greek and Assyrian citizens of the Ottoman Empire during World War I.

Azerbaijan playing with fire by crossing Armenian border – Dutch MP



Azerbaijan is again playing with fire, Kati Piri, Member of the Dutch Parliament, Labour Party's Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, said in a Twitter post.

"Azerbaijan is again playing with fire by crossing the Armenian border. This provocation cannot remain without Dutch conviction," she said.

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representative of Turkey since he held numerous posts in his country's Foreign Service since 1972, including Ambassador to Romania, Consul General in New York, First Secretary of the Embassy in Iraq, and Vice Consul General in Stuttgart, Germany. He also served as Chief of Cabinet and Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to Presidents Turgut Ozal and Suleyman Demirel, and Deputy Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was also a member of the Turkish Parliament for nine years and Minister of EU Affairs.

Forgetting his commitments to the UN, Mr. Bozkir had a 'Pavlovian' response to the mention of the Armenian Genocide by Armenia's representative. It is important to note that he has denied the Armenian Genocide several times while serving as a Turkish diplomat.

On May 5, 2021, Mr. Bozkir parroted the oft-repeated Turkish line that "the crime of genocide needs to be determined by a competent judicial body." He was indirectly reacting to Pres. Biden's recent acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide. First of all, the Ottoman Empire (now Turkey) was the first country to hold court-martial trials regarding the Armenian massacres (the term genocide was not yet coined) in Istanbul, in 1919-1920, sentencing to death the masterminds of the Armenian mass killings. Secondly, Pres. Biden along with the US Congress and over 30 Parliaments around the world have acknowledged the Armenian Genocide, not as a legal judgment, but as a political affirmation of the crime of genocide.

By claiming that "genocide needs to be determined by an appropriate judicial body," Mr. Bozkir is ignoring UN's own records. For example, the UN War Crimes Commission prepared a lengthy report in 1948, accusing the Turkish Government of committing the Armenian massacres. The UN report described these massacres as "crimes against humanity," which cover "inhumane acts committed by a government against its own subjects. Mr. Bozkir is also ignoring the fact that the UN Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted a report in 1985 in which the Armenian Genocide was mentioned as an example of genocide. I was present at that session and spoke in support of the UN report.

Since the Genocide Convention was adopted by the UN, its acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide is an authoritative statement.

Fortunately, Bozkir's one-year term at the UN will be over in a few months. By acting as a spokesman for Turkey, he is trying to secure another Turkish diplomatic post as he will soon be out of his current job.

Azerbaijan accused of destroying Artsakh cemeteries



Officials in Artsakh accused Azerbaijan of systematically destroying Karabakh Armenian cemeteries in the disputed territory's south captured by it during last year's war.

Davit Babayan, the Karabakh foreign minister, claimed that their tombstones are being smashed and used in the ongoing construction of a new highway passing through the Azerbaijani-controlled Hadrut district.

"According to some reports, cemeteries

centuries-old Armenian presence in Hadrut whose ethnic Armenian residents fled their homes during the fighting.

Gegham Stepanyan, Karabakh's human rights ombudsman, said fresh satellite images show that the graveyard of the Hadrut village of Mets Tagher has been "wiped out" by Azerbaijani authorities.

"We can also see similar barbarism in the cemeteries of several other local communities whose tombstones are used as construction materials in the roadwork,"

in Hadrut villages are destroyed en masse and their tombstones used for road construction. This is barbarism," he told RFE/RL's Armenian Service.

Babayan said Baku is seeking to erase all traces of

he said.

Azerbaijani forces also control part of the village of Taghavard in Karabakh's southeastern Martuni district, including the local cemetery. The village chief, Oleg Harutiunyan, said that it is also being destroyed.

The Azerbaijani government has not yet commented on the allegations.

Baku was accused last week of vandalizing Artsakh's largest Armenian church located in the town of Shushi also occupied by the Azerbaijani army during the war.

Photographs taken from nearby hills showed the Holy Savior Cathedral stripped of its conical dome and cross attached to it. Armenia said this was done for "depriving the Shushi Cathedral of its Armenian identity."

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry denied that, saying that Azerbaijani authorities are simply renovating the church damaged during the war.

Armenian Ombudsman seek support in promoting the concept of security zone in Syunik and Gegharkunik

Armenia's human Rights Defender Arman Tatoyan appeals to all government agencies, lawmakers involved in delegations to international instances, competent public and political structures and specialists to support him in advancing the concept of creating a security zone around Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces, all along the border with Azerbaijan.

"I also address this proposal and appeal to all our powerful Diaspora structures and individuals. We will provide the necessary facts and justifications for this purpose. The security zone is necessary to guarantee the rights of the border residents of the Republic of Armenia, and all the citizens of our country," Mr. Tatoyan said.

"There should be no Azerbaijani soldiers near villages in Syunik and Gegharkunik, nor should there be any

flags or signs on the roads between Syunik communities. We must work together and with concrete steps, and with a united force, and fight together against the fatal

challenges we face, to fight for our rights and for the security of our country," the Ombudsman added.



L.A. County Democratic Party leaders urge Biden to fully enforce Section 907, restrict aid to Azerbaijan

The Los Angeles Democratic Party County Central Committee, with a 119-2 vote, passed an emergency resolution on Tuesday calling on the Biden Administration and Congress to fully enforce Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which places restrictions on direct U.S. aid to Azerbaijan, [Asbarez](#) reports.

The resolution, which was authored and introduced by LACDP Elected Members Dr. Suzie Abajian and Elen Asatryan, also urges the Biden Administration and the Secretary of State to engage with Azerbaijani authorities for the immediate return of Armenian POWs and hostages.

“I am proud to have led the effort, along with my colleague LACDP Elected Member Dr. Abajian to bring this resolution to the floor and I am grateful for the overwhelming support it received. It is our collective responsibility to use every possible vehicle to demand and achieve concrete action for the safe return of our Armenian POWs and to ensure that the United States is not complicit in, through funding, the war crimes that continue to be perpetrated to date by Turkey and Azerbaijan,” stated Asatryan.

“These two dictatorial regimes must be held accountable not only for the war crimes they continue to commit to date, but for the inappropriate allocation of over \$120 million of our American tax dollars towards these war crimes including the shelling of hospitals, schools, killing dozens of innocent civilians using cluster bombs, recruiting thousands of ISIS mercenaries and causing irreversible environmental damage by burning forests in the region using white phosphorus. To waive or weaken section 907 would be to provide additional funding from our tax dollars towards these continued war crimes,” she emphasized.

The timely resolution came the same night Azerbaijani forces illegally crossed into sovereign Armenia’s Syunik Province, and as approximately 200 Armenian POWs and civilian hostages remain



in captivity. Reports of 19 POWs and civilians being tortured and murdered were released just a week prior to the passage of the resolution.

In response to Azerbaijan’s illegal advancement, Chair of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Sen. Bob Menendez stated, “The violation of Armenia’s sovereign territory by Azerbaijani troops is a dangerous and illegal act of aggression that underscores the sustained threat that the Armenian people continue to face” while calling on the Biden Administration to engage at the highest levels.

“I am grateful to LACDP for taking a stand against the atrocities of the Azerbaijani government against my people and calling for the full enforcement of section 907. Our tax dollars cannot fund the war crimes of this government,” added Dr. Abajian.

“As the chair of the largest local democratic entity in the United States, I’m proud to join my brothers and sisters in the Armenian community to demand the safe return of Armenian POWs and to call on our federal government to hold Turkey and Azerbaijan accountable. We cannot continue to support blatant violations of human rights by dictatorial regimes. The overwhelming support the resolution received last night is a testament to our commitment to this issue and to the Armenian-American community,” stated LACDP Chair Mark Gonzalez.

Resolution sponsors included Christine Shimizu, John Harabedian, Marco Flores, Suzie Abajian, Elen Asatryan, Shanna Ingalsbee, Seth Gerdine, Jason Small, Angelica Duenas, Vanuhi Vartanian,

Carolyn “Jiyoung” Park, Karen Suarez, Melissa Michelson, Adele Andrade-Stadler, Mary Ann Lutz, Paul Cole Padilla, Kathleen Patterson, Linda Perez, Michael F. Duran, Melissa Taylor, Dwight Young, Tina Fredericks, Mitchell Tsai, Steven Fisher, Cindy Montoya, Bonnie Shatun, Rebecca Wolfersberger

The resolution will be delivered to President Biden, the Secretary of State, the Speaker and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representative, the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States Senate.

As part of the party process, the resolution will be sent to the California Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee to pass a resolution in the same regard.

The text of the resolution and the source materials submitted with the resolution is available here.

The passage of LACDP Resolution 025-2024 comes just a week after the California Democratic Party, at its 2021 state convention, [passed a resolution](#) as part of its 13 priority resolutions calling for immediate US intervention for the safe return of Armenian POWs, and placement of sanctions on and divestment of public funds from Turkey and Azerbaijan.

The LA County Central Committee is the official governing body of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, which develops party policies and positions, evaluates and decides on which candidates and issues to endorse in local and municipal elections, and provides a grassroots forum for the study and discussion of public policy issues and their impact. It is also the largest local Democratic Party entity in the United States, representing nearly 2.9 million Democrats in the 88 cities and the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County – a population larger than 42 individual states. Most importantly, the County Central Committee works to educate the public and encourage the fullest possible participation of all Democratic voters.

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