

Armenia and Kazakhstan establish Strategic partnership, sign multiple bilateral agreements



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev have strengthened bilateral ties by signing a comprehensive joint statement and exchanging multiple agreements across political, economic, scientific, cultural, and technological fields.

The visit, which took place on November 20–21, 2025, highlighted the historic and strategic relationship between the two countries, emphasizing the shared commitment to deepening cooperation based on mutual trust, equality, and respect for sovereignty.

Strategic partnership established

In their joint statement, the leaders announced the establishment of a strategic

partnership founded on high levels of trust, sovereign equality, mutual benefit, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, peaceful dispute resolution, and non-interference in internal affairs. The statement underlined the importance of further developing constructive bilateral and multilateral cooperation within international organizations, particularly in promoting peace, stability, and security in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The leaders welcomed ongoing initiatives in transport, logistics, and trade, including multimodal routes connecting Kazakhstan, Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Armenia, and expressed support for Armenia’s “Crossroads of

Peace” concept to promote mutually beneficial transport cooperation. They also recognized Kazakhstan’s support in ensuring grain shipments to Armenia via Azerbaijan, contributing to regional food security.

Extensive bilateral agreements signed

During the visit, Armenia and Kazakhstan exchanged agreements and memoranda covering a wide range of sectors:

Government and Security: Agreement on the exchange, use, protection, and security of confidential information; cooperation in defense, security, and information exchange.

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Armenian Foreign Minister, EU Special Representative discuss partnership agenda



Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan met with EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, Magdalena Grono, in Yerevan.

FM Mirzoyan and EUSR Grono discussed the Armenia-EU partnership agenda, the foreign ministry said in a readout.

The parties emphasized that the significant achievements recorded so far in various areas reflect the dynamics, depth, and substantive richness of the partnership's development.

They also discussed upcoming programs and the possibility of enriching the partnership agenda with new initiatives, including efforts aimed at the continued strengthening of Armenia's resilience.

FM Ararat Mirzoyan and Special Representative Magdalena Grono exchanged

views on regional issues. In the context of expanding transport and economic interconnectivity networks, they emphasized the complementarity of the EU's Global Gateway initiative and Armenia's Crossroads of Peace project, and discussed the steps being taken toward their implementation.

The meeting also included an exchange of views on how best to make use of the opportunities created by the peace established as a result of the August 8 agreements between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as on efforts aimed at further strengthening peace.

Georgian President calls relations with Armenia "exemplary"

President of Georgia Mikheil Kavelashvili has described relations with the Republic of Armenia as "exemplary," emphasizing the common values that unite the two peoples.

During a joint press conference with Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan in Tbilisi, Kavelashvili noted with satisfaction that 2025 has been especially fruitful in terms of developing and deepening ties with Armenia.

He made a historical reference, stressing that Armenia and Georgia "have cooperated and lived in harmony for centuries."

"The centuries-old relations between

the two countries, which are based on mutual respect, trust, and unshakable friendship, were determined not only by geography, but also by the common values that unite our peoples," the Georgian President said.

Kavelashvili added that bilateral relations between Armenia and Georgia are "truly exemplary," highlighting cooperation on multiple platforms. He underlined the importance of Armenia's unwavering support for Georgia's territorial integrity, expressing gratitude on behalf of himself and the Georgian people.

President Vahagn Khachaturyan is paying an official visit to Georgia on November

19–20. As part of the visit, he has met with President Mikheil Kavelashvili and will also meet with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze and Parliament Speaker Shalva Papuashvili.



PM Pashinyan meets Chair of Global Leadership Foundation Helen Clark



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the Chair of the Global Leadership Foundation, former Prime Minister

of New Zealand and former head of the United Nations Development Programme, Helen Clark.

Prime Minister Pashinyan welcomed Helen Clark's visit to Armenia and highly appreciated the activities of the Global Leadership Foundation. He expressed hope that close cooperation would be established with the foundation.

Helen Clark noted that she is in Armenia to participate in the Extractive

Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Board meeting and said that the foundation "aims to support democratic political leadership and good governance by making the experience of former leaders available to current leaders."

During the meeting, the parties also discussed issues related to expanding regional economic cooperation and unblocking communication routes, as well as the Crossroads of Peace and TRIPP initiatives.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev awards Prime Minister Pashinyan with Kazakhstan's highest state award



President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has awarded Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan with Kazakhstan's highest state award, the Order of the Golden Eagle.

The Kazakh President noted that Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Vovaevich Pashinyan is being awarded for the appreciation of his significant achievements.

"In Kazakhstan, you are recognized and respected as a national leader of Armenia, who has been able to inject new energy into the development of his country and give a powerful impetus to reforms in all spheres of state-building. You have a strong reputation as an outstanding statesman endowed with strategic vision and unshakable will in advancing Armenia's national interests.

I have already mentioned today that you are the author and founder of the "Real Armenia" concept. I believe that this is extremely important in today's

conditions," Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said, adding that under the far-sighted leadership of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Armenia has confidently chosen the path of sustainable progress, strengthened its positions in the international arena, and served as an example of a thoughtful and responsible policy, both in domestic and foreign policy.

"In a complex geopolitical situation, you have demonstrated a valuable ability to make unconventional, strong-minded decisions, which will undoubtedly benefit the entire Armenian people.

This undoubtedly shows that friendly, fraternal Armenia has chosen the path of peaceful, sustainable development, and this is your historical contribution. "I would especially like to emphasize your significant role in advancing the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan and signing the relevant final document in Washington," the Kazakh President said, expressing confidence that under the leadership of Nikol Pashinyan, Armenia will achieve new successes in strengthening its international positions, economic development, and comprehensive modernization.

Prime Minister Pashinyan noted that it is a great honor for him to be awarded

the highest award of fraternal Republic of Kazakhstan and to receive it personally from the President of Kazakhstan. "You are a politician, statesman and diplomat with extensive experience. Your appreciation means a lot, and I am confident that our relations will continue to deepen.

This award will contribute to the further development not only of our bilateral relations, but also of our region and our wider region. I have already said how much I appreciate your personal support in the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan. You have been and continue to be very interested in establishing long-term stability in our region.

I have already said that Kazakhstan has a very important, not only practical, but also symbolic significance for us in terms of foreign and regional policy, since in our foreign and regional relations we rely on the Alma-Ata Declaration as the basis for the ideology of our foreign relations. And, by the way, the Alma-Ata Declaration is also very important for the ideology of the Real Armenia," the Prime Minister of Armenia said.

Nikol Pashinyan thanked Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for such a high assessment, hospitality and reception.

Armenian Prime Minister thanks Trump for greenlighting Nvidia exports for major project

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan expressed gratitude to U.S. President Donald Trump for the federal government's approval to export Nvidia chips to Armenia for a \$500-million supercomputer project.

AI startup Firebird Inc. received U.S. government approval to export Nvidia chips to Armenia. The effort, which was announced in June, will bring the first large-scale AI data center to the region. The 100-megawatt facility — backed by an initial \$500 million investment — will use AI servers from Dell Technologies Inc. and

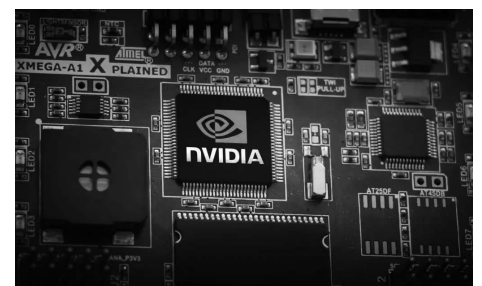
Blackwell processors from Nvidia, Bloomberg reported.

"I recently had the opportunity to discuss this topic with President Trump. Investors had certain concerns regarding the procedures, and I am pleased and grateful that the White House responded promptly and appropriately, and that this investment program will now, essentially, be confidently implemented," Pashinyan said at a press briefing.

The Prime Minister emphasized that this investment program is of significant

importance to the technology sector.

The process was facilitated within the framework of the Armenia-U.S. memorandums of understanding signed in Washington.



U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs visits Armenia



U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker has arrived in Armenia to advance President Donald Trump's vision for regional peace and prosperity, the U.S. Embassy announced

on November 17.

"Ambassador Kvien welcomed Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker to Yerevan to advance President of the United States' vision for regional peace and prosperity in the region. She will meet with PM Pashinyan, FM Mirzoyan, National Security Council Secretary Grigoryan, and Special Envoy Rubinyan to discuss next steps in strengthening the U.S.-Armenia strategic partnership through TRIPP and the U.S.-Armenia MOUs," the embassy said in a press release.

The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) is a

connectivity project in Armenia envisaged under the U.S.-brokered Armenian-Azerbaijani joint declaration signed in Washington, D.C. The project is expected to unlock strategic economic opportunities, creating long-term benefits by promoting infrastructure investment and enhancing regional connectivity. TRIPP is part of the Crossroads of Peace project. Armenia and the U.S. also signed three bilateral MoUs on: Crossroads of Peace Capacity Building Partnership, AI and Semiconductor Innovation Partnership, and Energy Security Partnership.

Normalization with Türkiye could positively impact normalization with Azerbaijan: Armenian FM responds to Fidan

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan, responded to his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan, who once again indicated that the normalization of Türkiye's relations with Armenia remains conditional on the signing of an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace treaty.

"If we normalize relations at this point, we will have taken away the biggest reason for Armenia to sign a peace agreement with Azerbaijan," Fidan said, according to the Turkish state news agency Anadolu. "When Azerbaijan and Armenia sign a final peace agreement, we will be ready to normalize relations with Armenia," the Turkish Foreign Minister added.

In exclusive comments to Armenpress, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said that while neither process is conditioned on the other, normalization with Türkiye could actually have a positive impact on normalization with Azerbaijan.

Armenpress: Türkiye's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hakan Fidan, said that the normalization of relations with Türkiye is "essential" for Armenia, and, according to him, if Ankara normalizes relations at this point, it would have "taken away the biggest reason for Armenia to sign a peace agreement with Azerbaijan." FM Fidan also said that the concept of the connection linking Nakhchivan and Azerbaijan was approved during the Washington meeting. Do you have any comment?

FM Ararat Mirzoyan: First of all, establishing diplomatic relations with Türkiye and opening the border are indeed important for Armenia. Likewise, further institutionalizing the peace established with Azerbaijan is also important. Armenia is making sincere efforts in both directions. However, neither of these components is conditioned on the other,

and if we were to insist on seeing a causal link between them, it might turn out that the full normalization of relations with Türkiye could have—not a negative but, on the contrary—a positive impact on the normalization process between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

As for the unblocking of transport infrastructure, at the peace summit held in Washington on August 8, the main principles of this process were agreed upon—territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, sovereignty, jurisdiction, and reciprocity. Within this framework, the TRIPP route will connect Azerbaijan with Nakhchivan, Armenia with other countries, and—on a broader geographic scale—different regions with one another through Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenia is actively and constructively striving to implement this as soon as possible.

Armenia encourages United States to relaunch dialogue with Georgia

Armenia has encouraged its U.S. partners to consider relaunching dialogue with Georgia concerning the potential benefits for the country in the context of unblocking regional communications in the South Caucasus, Deputy Foreign Minister Vahan Kostanyan said.

Kostanyan made the remarks in Tbilisi when asked by a reporter whether

there was any link between the visit of Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker to Armenia and the visit of State Department representative Jonathan Askonas to Georgia during the same period.

He emphasized that during those days, the U.S. representatives in Tbilisi also coordinated their discussions with Armenia.

"Opportunities were discussed with Georgia regarding how Tbilisi could also benefit from the overall unblocking processes. I would like to add one more point: we ourselves encouraged our U.S. partners and spoke at length about the need to somewhat revive dialogue with Georgia. We are very pleased that these discussions have taken place," Kostanyan said.

Our goal is for Armenia to exist for 50, 100, 150, 500, 1000 years and beyond - Prime Minister

The first conference of representatives of state bodies of the Republic of Armenia was held at the Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex.

The event was attended by President Vahagn Khachaturyan, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Speaker of the National Assembly Alen Simonyan, President of the Constitutional Court Arman Dilanyan, as well as representatives of the legislative, executive, judicial and law enforcement systems, territorial administration and local self-government, independent and autonomous bodies, special services, military personnel, police officers, rescuers, employees of educational, cultural and healthcare institutions, students and pupils—more than 7,000 participants.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan delivered a speech, in which he noted that this is the first conference of representatives of state bodies in Armenia's history. He said the conference reflects the revaluation of the role and significance of the state and aims to emphasize not only the importance, but also the vitality of the Republic of Armenia.

Pashinyan stressed that public perception of the state largely depends on public perception of state employees, as

citizens relate to the state through them. He said employees of all state bodies form a community interconnected by collective responsibility, and their work pre-determines the quality of the state, the quality of life of citizens and the quality of state-citizen relations.

He noted that despite the division of labor and powers, state bodies perform common work, and this requires a shared ideology, a strategic understanding of the state. "Without this, the quality of work of any state employee, from the prime minister to a junior specialist, cannot be proper. Daily micro-actions must be connected to a macro-goal, which, he stated, is ensuring the sustainability of the Republic of Armenia."

"Our goal is for our state, the Republic of Armenia, to exist continuously for 50 years, 100 years, 150 years, 500 years, 1000 years and beyond," the Prime Minister said.

He emphasized that legitimacy should be the starting point of relations, both foreign and internal. Legitimacy, he said, creates the infrastructure necessary for security and protection and significantly increases the level of safety for both the individual and the state. Strengthening

legitimacy must therefore be an ongoing agenda, and Armenia's legitimacy must be integrated with global legitimacy trends and the global legal order.

He stated that Armenia's foreign legitimacy stems from the UN Charter and the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration, while internal legitimacy is based on the people of the Republic of Armenia and their free expression of will. Legitimacy does not solve all problems but creates the formulas for solving them.

Pashinyan recalled that for many years Armenia faced limitations in military-technical cooperation because some states feared that weapons could be used outside Armenia's internationally recognized territory. He said such restrictions no longer exist because Armenia now bases all foreign relations on the Alma-Ata Declaration and on the legitimate goal of defending its internationally recognized borders. Legitimacy reduces the likelihood of war and enables a significant increase in defense capabilities, as no one can question a state's right to defend its territorial integrity.

He described strengthening internal legitimacy as fundamental and said it should be expressed

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Normalization with Türkiye could positively impact normalization with Azerbaijan: Armenian FM responds to Fidan

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Armenia, Poland sign 2025-2027 roadmap for cooperation

The Roadmap for Cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Poland for 2025-2027 was signed in Warsaw during an intergovernmental commission session, the Embassy of Armenia in Poland reported.

The 8th session of the Intergovernmental Commission for Armenian-Polish Economic Cooperation was held in Warsaw under the co-chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia Anushik Avetyan and Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technologies of the Republic of Poland Michal



Baranowski.

During the session, which was attended by representatives of relevant ministries and departments, the process of implementing previously reached

agreements was reviewed, information was exchanged on the economic situation and investment climate.

Key issues of cooperation between Armenia and Poland in the fields of trade, industry, transport, information technologies, agriculture, etc. were discussed. With a constructive approach, further practical steps of the Intergovernmental Commission were outlined with a view to expanding bilateral economic cooperation.

The Armenian-Polish business forum was held within the framework of the commission session.

Armenia, Poland discuss expansion of economic ties



Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia Anushik Avetyan and Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technologies of the Republic of Poland Michal Baranowski held a bilateral meeting as part of the Armenia-Poland Intergovernmental

Commission session in Warsaw.

The parties discussed current opportunities to expand economic relations between Armenia and Poland, as well as ways to deepen cooperation, emphasizing the growing role of technical and institutional collaboration between the two countries, the Armenian Ministry of Economy said in a press release.

The officials also addressed the development of trade turnover, capital markets, alignment with EU standards and regulations, as well as cooperation in agriculture, food security, modern irrigation, livestock farming, and smart agricultural technologies. Opportunities for involvement of

Poland and EU partners within the framework of the Crossroads of Peace initiative were also considered.

The Polish side expressed its readiness for experience exchange and scientific-technical cooperation.

The discussion also touched upon Armenia's economic reforms and measures implemented to improve the business environment.

It was mutually emphasized that the development of economic ties between Armenia and Poland will contribute to enhancing economic resilience, expanding exports, and strengthening long-term partnership.

Armenian Ambassador, Athens Chamber President discuss prospects for expanding economic ties

Armenia's Ambassador to Greece, Tigran Mkrtchyan, held a meeting with President of the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Giannis Bratakos, to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral economic and business cooperation.

The sides discussed prospects for expanding partnerships in sectors of mutual interest, noting that Armenia and Greece enjoy excellent relations across political, defense, cultural, educational and numerous other fields. Both stressed that this positive dynamic creates a solid foundation for deeper economic engagement.

Ambassador Mkrtchyan highlighted

last year's memorandum of cooperation signed between Enterprise Armenia and Enterprise Greece, describing it as an important basis for advancing joint initiatives. He also presented Armenia's priority investment sectors, including high technologies, renewable energy, processing industries, construction and infrastructure development, as well as agriculture. According to the Ambassador, several of these areas offer realistic and promising opportunities for targeted collaboration with Greece.

The two sides underscored the importance of intensifying contacts between

business communities and agreed to organize reciprocal business missions. Particular emphasis will be placed on cooperation in high-tech, infrastructure development, and the food industry.





OpenAI to present cooperation proposal to Armenia

OpenAI will present a cooperation proposal to Armenia following a meeting between the company's executives and Armenian Ambassador to the United States, Narek Mkrtchyan, the embassy said in a press release.

Ambassador Mkrtchyan met with Nate Harbacek, OpenAI's VP of Global Business, and Ivy Lau-Schindewolf from International Policy & Partnerships.

Opportunities to apply AI in education, healthcare, industry, and cloud infrastructure were discussed.

The Ambassador underscored the importance of partnering with OpenAI to support the development of Armenia's AI ecosystem.

OpenAI representatives said that the company will present a cooperation proposal.

Apple to send delegation to Armenia to explore new opportunities

Armenian Ambassador to the United States Narek Mkrtchyan visited Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, California, where he met with Jason Lundgaard, Senior Manager of Corporate Government Affairs.

During the meeting, the Ambassador provided a summary of the August 8 Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Armenia and the United States regarding AI and Semiconductor Innovation Partnership, as well as the advantages of the technological ecosystem and investment opportunities of Armenia.

The parties discussed potential areas of cooperation and the prerequisites for Apple to expand its activities in Armenia.

In accordance with the agreement reached, Apple will send a delegation to Armenia in the near future to explore opportunities for expanding the operations of the company in the country, the



embassy said in a press release.

The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to Mr. Lundgaard for launching Apple's first educational program at the Armenian College of Creative Technologies

(ACT). The parties emphasized their readiness to continue working toward the further enhancement of the educational program.

Armenian, Georgian ministers discuss brandy export

Minister of Economy of Armenia, Gevorg Papoyan, met with David Songulashvili, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Papoyan is in Georgia as part of Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan's delegation.

"During the meeting, we discussed issues related to the swift and unhindered transit of trucks loaded with Armenian brandy through the territory of Georgia, as well as the mutual recognition of the results of isotopic composition testing of the brandy," Papoyan said on social media.



Ambassador Decottignies lauds French-Armenian friendship at embassy reception

Ambassador of France to Armenia, Olivier Decottignies, delivered remarks at an event dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the founding of the French Embassy in Armenia.

In his speech, the Ambassador stressed that France was one of the first countries to recognize Armenia's independence and one of the first countries to open an embassy in Armenia's capital, Yerevan.

"Thirty years ago, on November 7, 1995, we raised our flag on this building for the first time. One must imagine what that period was like, which Armenians remember as the 'dark and cold years.' Armenia was still bearing the scars of the devastating 1988 earthquake. The country was facing war, and in Yerevan, people were cutting down trees in parks and boulevards and tearing up floorboards to keep warm. Since then, Armenia has come a long way," the ambassador said, according to a press release by the French Embassy.

The Ambassador said that Yerevan has become a flourishing, innovative, and dynamic capital, the Armenian people have chosen democracy, and now they are looking toward Europe.

"Armenia has diversified its strategic partnerships. The country has found the courage to make peace, a courage no less than the courage to wage war. It carries the mission of once again becoming a crossroads of the region. We have traveled this path together—the French and Armenians. For thirty years, France has always stood by Armenia, in both good and difficult times. Our support for Armenia, as the President of the French Republic has said, is 'unconditional, absolute, and unwavering.' These are his words, which serve as our guiding compass. This is the direction in which the embassy team works every day. Over the past thirty years, this embassy has grown significantly. Our team has never been this large. Never before have so many women or young staff joined the ranks of the embassy. Here are the branch



of the French Development Agency and the French Office for Immigration and Integration in Yerevan. Also based here is the defense attaché mission, whose establishment marked a turning point in our relations with Armenia," the ambassador said.

The French ambassador also spoke about the ongoing renovation work at the embassy building, emphasizing that their goal is to provide better conditions for the embassy staff, improve services for their compatriots, and present France more effectively in Armenia.

Ambassador Decottignies expressed gratitude to President Vahagn Khachaturyan for attending the reception dedicated to the 30th anniversary.

"I would like to sincerely thank the President of the Republic of Armenia, who honored our embassy with his visit. It was he who, as Mayor of Yerevan, with the approval of President Ter-Petrosyan, gifted us this building, which was formerly the home of an actor of the Sundukyan Theater. It was a wonderful gift and a beautiful metaphor, as diplomacy is also a form of theater. I would like to honor the memory of architect Alain Daronian, who passed away in 2024 and whom the French government commissioned to transform the actor's house into an embassy. He was also the person who introduced Armenia to another great French architect, Jean-Michel Wilmotte, who later took responsibility, on behalf of the Yerevan City Hall, for completing the iconic construction of the Cascade complex," the ambassador added.

The Ambassador thanked the Armenian foreign ministry and Yerevan City Hall for constant support and friendly attitude.

"They have been our faithful partners for thirty years. I would like to thank ARFRATEC, the company created for the renovation of the embassy, which continues to stand by our side. I also extend my gratitude to all our partners present here today. I would like to express my admiration for

our first ambassador, Madame France de Hartingh, who laid the foundation for our relations with Armenia during such challenging times—first at the Hrazdan Hotel, then in this embassy. She was an ambassador at a time when women rarely held such positions. She remains an example for all of us.

I would like to particularly acknowledge all the previous ambassadors and all our colleagues—French and Armenian—who have worked and continue to work within these walls: those present here today, those who preceded us, and those who have passed away. In particular, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our local staff. Ambassadors and foreign staff come and go; that is the nature of diplomatic life. Our Armenian colleagues remain—they are our strength and our institutional memory. Our hearts also ache for the memory of Khachatur Saripoghossyan, who left us this year, and Hakob Ghazaryan, who passed away four years ago. They are with us today.

Dear friends, it is said that some houses have a soul. This is also true for embassies. They echo with celebrations, the passage of days, conversations around the coffee machine, the joy of meetings, and the sorrow of farewells. This is your home. You are all welcome here.

Long live the Republic! Long live France! Long live Armenia! And long live the French-Armenian friendship!" concluded the Ambassador of France to Armenia.

Reopening regional connectivity requires ‘very serious and delicate work,’ says analyst

Reopening connectivity in the South Caucasus and aligning the interests of all regional countries requires very serious and delicate work, according to a leading political scientist.

Alexander Iskandaryan, Director of the Caucasus Institute, spoke in an interview with Armenpress about the prospects of the Armenian government’s Crossroads of Peace and TRIPP projects.

“By opening roads and communications, the current Armenian authorities aim to ensure a more stable situation in the region and reduce the risks that may come from Azerbaijan. If we talk about prospects, these are very different matters. After all, what is happening is far from the end; this is still the beginning. What was signed in Washington is a declaration—a declaration according to which Armenia and Azerbaijan acknowledge that communications are necessary,” Iskandaryan said.

The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) is a connectivity project in Armenia envisaged under the U.S.-brokered Armenian-Azerbaijani joint declaration signed in Washington, D.C. The project is expected to unlock strategic economic opportunities, creating long-term benefits by promoting infrastructure investment and enhancing regional connectivity. TRIPP is part of the Crossroads of Peace project. An

Armenian-American joint enterprise is expected to develop the route.

According to Iskandaryan, there are political and technical issues regarding the implementation of the TRIPP project, over which Armenia and the United States are conducting negotiations.

“There are political and technical obstacles, and all of this needs to be resolved. We must also understand that the situation has complexities: on the other side of the Araks River are Iranian border guards; on the Armenian side are Russian and Armenian border guards; European observers are stationed very close by; Azerbaijanis are on the left and right sides, and the Turks are a little further away. At the same time, the Iranians are building a road toward northern Armenia, there is an Iranian consulate in Kapan, a French consulate in Goris, and Russia also wants to open a consulate in Kapan. We must add the Americans to this and see how this matter will be resolved, since aligning the interests of Iran, the United States, Russia, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, and Armenia is not easy. Nevertheless, this does not mean it is impossible; it simply means that it requires very serious work—a long path that still needs to be taken,” the political analyst emphasized.

Iskandaryan described this process as complex and long-term, noting that



there are many similar situations around the world.

“I always give the example of the route stretching from Belarus to Russia’s Kaliningrad region. It passes through Lithuania, which, by the way, is a member of NATO and the European Union; nevertheless, an agreement has been reached allowing Russian citizens to visit the Kaliningrad region without any visa and even without a passport. Thus, such things are possible, but they require very delicate work,” Alexander Iskandaryan said.

In an interview with Fox News following the Washington Peace Summit, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that the accords on the connectivity projects will bring benefits to the entire international community.

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Armenian President: TRIPP creates win-win opportunities for all regional countries

President of Armenia Vahagn Khachaturyan reiterated that the TRIPP project will bring benefits to all regional powers, and no country will face any risks from it.

At a press briefing in the Armenian village of Kirants, during a stopover on his way back to Yerevan from Georgia, the Armenian President was asked whether there are concerns in Tbilisi about Georgia’s transit role being reduced due to the TRIPP project in Armenia.

“I can say that there will be no risk for them; they will not incur any losses. On the contrary, Georgia’s significance will increase. If everything we are discussing comes to fruition—meaning the borders truly open, TRIPP becomes a reality, and it starts functioning—new opportunities

will open up for Armenia, Türkiye, Iran, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and, why not, also for Russia. After that, we will all criticize ourselves for not having utilized these opportunities earlier,” the President of Armenia said.

The President added that during his meetings in Tbilisi, he did not hear such concerns from Georgian officials and did not notice any unease on the matter.

“Everything will depend on us: if we truly want to live in peace and resolve issues with our neighbors, rather than exacerbate them, we will succeed. But if we are not committed, problems will arise, and we will end up in the same environment as before,” the President warned.

He also noted that Georgia has expressed its willingness to provide support

on various issues, including the normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations.

President Vahagn Khachaturyan was in Georgia on an official visit from November 19 to 20.

The Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) is a connectivity project in Armenia, envisaged under the U.S.-brokered Armenian-Azerbaijani joint declaration signed in Washington, D.C. The project is expected to unlock strategic economic opportunities, creating long-term benefits by promoting infrastructure investment and enhancing regional connectivity. TRIPP is part of the Crossroads of Peace project, and an Armenian-American joint enterprise is expected to develop the route.

page 1 ➡ **Diplomatic Infrastructure:** Reciprocal provision of land for the construction of embassies in each country.

Trade and Economy: Roadmap for trade and economic cooperation (2026–2030), establishment of an Armenia-Kazakhstan Business Council, interregional economic collaboration, and initiatives in mining, energy, and agricultural production.

Science and Technology: Memoranda of cooperation in high-tech industry, artificial intelligence, digitization, and atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Education and Culture: Agreements in higher education, science, culture, and sports, including joint programs for student and academic exchanges, as well as initiatives to preserve the cultural heritage of ethnic communities.

Healthcare: Cooperation in healthcare,

pharmaceuticals, medical training, research, IT technologies, e-health, and telemedicine, with plans for Armenian and Kazakh medicine days in 2026 and 2027, respectively.

Cultural Institutions: Collaboration between national libraries, art museums, film foundations, and diplomatic schools of both countries.

Notably, the leaders highlighted the successful organization of Armenian Days in Kazakhstan (2024) and Kazakh Days in Armenia (2025), the opening of the Abai Kunanbaev Park in Yerevan, and the naming of a street in Astana after Mesrop Mashtots, emphasizing these as symbols of deep historical and cultural ties.

Next steps and future cooperation

The joint statement outlined ambitious plans to maintain regular high-level dialogue, enhance interdepartmental

cooperation, strengthen inter-parliamentary relations, expand trade and investment, develop transport and logistics routes, advance innovation and technology exchange, and promote cultural and humanitarian ties. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the 1999 Armenia-Kazakhstan Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, aiming to ensure sustainable development, robust peace, and comprehensive bilateral collaboration for the benefit of current and future generations.

Prime Minister Pashinyan expressed his sincere gratitude to President Tokayev and the people of Kazakhstan for their warm hospitality, noting that the agreements and exchanges reached during the visit will give new momentum to bilateral cooperation across all sectors.

Development of Armenia-U.S. economic ties discuss in California

During a visit to California, Armenian Ambassador to the United States Narek Mkrtchyan met with John Shea, President and CEO of the World Trade Center of Northern California, and Tessa Carter, Director of Operations, the Embassy said in a press release.

Karen Israelyan, Consul General of the Republic of Armenia in Los Angeles also attended the meeting.

The parties discussed ways to deepen Armenian-American economic cooperation and, in this



context, possible new initiatives. During

the meeting, the prospects for expanding import and export, as well as the procedures for Armenian businesses to enter the U.S. market, were discussed. In this regard, the parties underscored the importance of developing programs aimed at enhancing the skills and marketing capacities of Armenian enterprises, thereby strengthening their overall competitiveness in the international market.

The parties reaffirmed their readiness for continued cooperation.

Only TRIPP and Crossroads of Peace pertain to Armenian territory: Pashinyan responds to Turkish FM's statement

Only Armenia has the authority to determine the names of infrastructures in its territory, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on November 20, responding to a statement by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who again used the term “Zangezur Corridor” while referring to the regional connectivity project.

“There is the “Crossroads of Peace” in Armenia, and there is the TRIPP project; any other terminology is not applicable to the Republic of Armenia,” Pashinyan said at a press briefing.

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The project is expected to unlock strategic economic opportunities, creating long-term benefits by promoting infrastructure investment and enhancing regional connectivity.

TRIPP is part of the Crossroads of Peace project. An Armenian-American

joint enterprise is expected to develop the route.

Azerbaijani and Turkish officials have used the term “Zangezur Corridor” to refer to the opening of the transport links. Yerevan has objected to that term because the word “corridor” could imply extraterritoriality, which current arrangements do not and cannot envision. PM Pashinyan has insisted that the connectivity projects through Armenia be called Crossroads of Peace and TRIPP, as stipulated in the U.S.-brokered agreements.

page 5 ➔ in the adoption of a new Constitution. He noted that many citizens feel alienated from the legal order, perceiving laws as something imposed from outside rather than a vital necessity. He said Armenians often viewed legal rules as imposed by foreign powers, where they were subjects rather than citizens with rights.

He said a new Constitution is needed because Armenia is entering a new political content, a new consciousness and a new state doctrine. "As the New Testament says, new wine is stored in new wineskins." This new doctrine tells the citizen to "love your country as yourself."

Pashinyan added that the Constitution must also solve an "engineering" problem: it must ensure the "aerodynamics" necessary for the long-term course of the state, which is impossible without a clear understanding of what kind of system the country intends to build. He said this is why the referendum on the new Constitution should take place after the 2026 parliamentary elections, giving political forces the opportunity to present their views during the campaign. The position of the political majority receiving the people's confidence will then be decisive in shaping the final draft.

The Prime Minister stated that the state is the greatest achievement of the Armenian people, their highest and unsurpassed value. The state, its interests and permanence must become the highest consciousness and the national ideology. "Our state is our identity, our identity is our state," he said, noting that this is not a slogan but a key understanding of Armenia's history and genesis.

He emphasized that the state is a goal in itself—"a higher goal"—but any goal is also a means to achieve an even higher one. The choice of this goal is a political matter, and today Armenia's choice is clear: the Republic of Armenia is a means to ensure the freedom, security and well-being "in one word, the happiness" of its citizens within its internationally recognized sovereign territory. "We must be super-focused on these three concepts: state, identity, happiness."

He noted that the idea that "man is the highest value and the state must serve man" is axiomatic and unquestioned. The real issue, he said, is how the state should serve the person and how the value of the person should be expressed. The government's answer is summarized in the

principle: the state should strengthen the person, and the person should strengthen the state. This requires further clarification: how should the state strengthen the individual, and how should the individual strengthen the state?

Pashinyan said the only reliable way to empower a person is through education "education at all levels and as a lifelong process". Armenia's poverty reduction strategy is based on education, he said, highlighting the strategic importance of the "300 Schools, 500 Kindergartens" program. The culmination of this strategy is the Academic City, which will become a powerful gravitational center for Armenia's development. "A person is strong through his education; there is no other way."

As for how a person should strengthen the state, he said that individuals must transform the education received with state support into added value. "The education received with the support of the state must be used to create added value."

He underlined that the systemic target of the work of state bodies is the state interest, which is economic development. The reason is clear: if a person is the highest value, this can be fully realized only in an environment of economic development.

Foreign security is an economic factor. Ensuring the security of the country means ensuring the possibility of normal economic activity within the country's territory. This, in turn, increases state revenues, which increases the level of security, which again expands the possibilities for economic activity.

Moreover, by external security we should understand not only the army, but also the diplomatic service, the National Security Service, the Foreign Intelligence Service, and other structures. By security, we should understand both external and internal security, starting with the fight against crime. The criminal subculture, the Prime Minister noted, is a significant factor hindering economic development.

The Prime Minister stated that Armenia is currently experiencing the most promising period in its history of the last 500 years. Ensuring the existence of the Republic of Armenia for the next 500 years is more realistic and practical than ever. The Prime Minister noted "to seize this historical opportunity, it is necessary to be guided by the following fundamentals":

First: The state is the highest achievement of the Armenian people, its highest value and supreme goal.

Second: The supreme goal of the state's existence is to ensure the security, freedom, well-being or, in one word, the happiness of its citizens within its internationally recognized sovereign territory.

Third: To achieve this goal, the state must strengthen the individual, who in turn must strengthen the state.

Fourth: To solve this problem, institutions must develop policies guided exclusively by the state interest, which is economic development.

Fifth: The state must rely on the principle of legitimacy in all its external and internal relations.

The Prime Minister said that applying these five simple principles will ensure not only the existence but also the development of Armenia's statehood in the coming centuries.

"This is not only a problem for which we have never had a solution, but also a goal that has never been formulated within us. This is why the time in which we live is historic, and this is why the mission that lies before us is historic. This is why our achievements, which we have achieved through hell, are epoch-making, and these achievements need to be defended.

"The Republic of Armenia is today a state more independent than ever, more sovereign than ever, and we are closer than ever to our goal of making our state an instrument of our security, freedom, and prosperity that is, happiness.

"We have an opportunity to achieve this goal and to not only maintain but also develop this state of affairs in the coming centuries, an opportunity we have never had before. This opportunity must be protected by all of us, and first of all by the people of the Republic of Armenia and its officials, that is, state bodies. And this is the key goal and message of this conference. My call and request to all of you is to take this message, this speech, and turn it into the psychology and consciousness of everyday work, the ideology of everyday work.

"Glory to the martyrs and long live the Republic of Armenia."

After the speech, the Prime Minister answered questions from those present regarding the digitalization process in the public administration system, the TRIPP project, reforms in the education sector, and other topics.

A panel discussion was also held with the participation of the President of the Republic and members of the Government.

Armenia actively advances Women, Peace and Security agenda - Deputy Foreign Minister



On November 19, at the 46th Ministerial Conference of La Francophonie convened in Kigali, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia Robert Abisoghomonian participated and delivered remarks at the discussion entitled “30 Years after the Beijing Conference: The Contribution of Women in the Francophone World”.

According to a press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, in his remarks, the Deputy Foreign Minister particularly noted:

“Madam President,
Madam Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Republic of Rwanda for its warm hospitality.

The 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the Fourth World Conference on Women provides an important opportunity to take stock of progress achieved, to discuss the remaining challenges and the ways to overcome them. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action continue to serve as essential guiding frameworks for the full realization of the rights of women and girls and for advancing their participation across all spheres of public life. It is encouraging that, over the years, these frameworks have been complemented by other significant initiatives and our Organization has not remained apart from this process.

Following the Summit of the

International Organization of La Francophonie held in Yerevan in 2018, the Strategy for gender equality and the promotion of rights and empowerment of women and girls was adopted, reiterating our commitment in this regard, while also underscoring the importance of implementing targeted initiatives by La Francophonie.

I would like to reaffirm Armenia’s commitment to the protection of women’s rights and the promotion of women’s leadership. The efforts undertaken have resulted in a notable increase in both the quantitative and qualitative participation of women across various spheres of governance in Armenia. Women currently comprise 30% of the members of the Government. For the first time in our history, we have a woman serving as Minister of Internal Affairs and a woman Prosecutor General. The newly established Foreign Intelligence Service of Armenia is also headed by a woman, as is the Office of the Human Rights Defender.

The number of women Members of Parliament in the National Assembly of Armenia has also been steadily increasing over the years, currently exceeding 36%.

Armenia actively advances the Women, Peace and Security agenda both internationally and at the national level. We have already finalized the work on Armenia’s Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The Plan, entitled “Contributing to Global Efforts for Securing Peace”, reaffirms the importance of the peace agenda, including through

the implementation of commitments undertaken within the Women, Peace and Security framework.

Excellencies,

Women play an essential role in peace-building, in overcoming the consequences of conflicts and in restoring an atmosphere of trust and advancing reconciliation processes. As you are aware, on August 8, in Washington, the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the United States signed a Joint Declaration, and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan initialled the Peace Agreement between our two countries. This marked the establishment of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan, bringing an end to a long-standing conflict. It also created an opportunity to engage societies, including civil society and women’s organizations, in post-conflict recovery and confidence-building efforts.

In speaking about the full realization of women’s potential, it is essential to highlight the need for capacity-building and ensuring the fundamental right to education.

In this vein, we place great importance on the “La Francophonie avec Elles” programme established on the initiative of the Secretary General of La Francophonie. Launched in the midst of the global health crisis to support women, the programme has demonstrated its effectiveness and relevance and remains in operation today. I welcome the fact that, for the first time since its creation, two Armenian civil society organizations have become beneficiaries of the programme, with their projects aimed at supporting women, including displaced women, through education, training and the development of essential skills.

In conclusion, it is with satisfaction that I note that we will be adopting a rather ambitious document - the Kigali Call - which also obliges us to redouble our individual and collective efforts to translate it into tangible results.

I thank you.”

Armenian prosecutors seek extradition of fugitive ex-officials from Russia

Armenian prosecutors will soon file another extradition request with Russian authorities for two former high-ranking officials accused of a high-profile cover-up of the deadly 2008 crackdown on protesters.

The two former officials—former Prosecutor-General Gevorg Kostanyan, who was the Armenian government's representative before the European Court of Human Rights at the time, and Vahagn Harutyunyan, the top investigator in charge of the March 1 task force—have been living in Russia. Russian authorities previously rejected an extradition request from Armenia, Prosecutor-General Anna Vardapetyan said on Tuesday.

"In the March 1 case, Gevorg Kostanyan and the former head of the investigative

group, Vahagn Harutyunyan, are accused of abusing their official positions to falsify evidence and distort the investigation," Vardapetyan said.

"We are working with Russia within the framework of a multilateral treaty; at the moment, this is the Chisinau Convention. Currently, we do not have consent from the Russian side regarding the extradition of these individuals. The Prosecutor General's Office will soon send another extradition request to Russia, asking them to reconsider the previously rejected extradition," she added.

Vardapetyan also clarified that not only in the March 1 case, but also in some other criminal proceedings, there are individuals who are wanted, are in Russia, and hold Russian citizenship. Russia does

not extradite its own citizens, just as, for example, Armenia does not extradite its citizens, she stressed.

The March 1 case is a criminal investigation into the deadly post-election unrest in Yerevan in 2008. Ex-President Levon Ter-Petrosyan was rallying with his supporters in Yerevan against what he described as rigged elections that named Serzh Sargsyan president-elect and successor of Robert Kocharyan.

Ten people, including two police officers, were killed during mass disturbances and clashes between demonstrators and security forces on March 1, 2008. Kocharyan's administration faced accusations of violently dispersing the demonstration using the military.

When the Claws of Cynicism Yield to Spiritual Strength and Unbreakable Will

The warm—and for some, scorching—winds of the East once again bring nations a renewed awakening in the political history of the world. Yet various media outlets and cowardly hypocrites, masked in false piety and cloaked in cynicism, always attempt to strike lions from behind. As always, such attempts bring nothing but their own downfall. His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman Abdulaziz Al-Saud, through his nature and unique political trajectory, demonstrates a firmness of will and conduct that drives those who carry out malicious orders—certain representatives of the unruly masses—into confusion and panic.

On November 19 of this year, the White House hosted a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman. Major analytical and impartial news agencies widely described it as the "meeting of the century." Yet some timid opportunists attempted to fish for advantage in muddy waters—but in vain. As the saying goes, the devil's last hope lies in the morally weak and cowardly jackals who, at the mere sight of a lion's gaze, turn to stone. And that gaze indeed appeared at the White House, when Mohammed bin Salman—with a deep, silent, yet swift and contemplative look—reminded the world, and certain cowards, of their true place. A gaze so telling that moments later the international press wrote about it, many global publications calling it "a posture worthy of a commander."

President Donald Trump, with his characteristic charisma, said and did precisely what he has always been capable of—showing who sets the tone, who holds the political resolve, and who, in this case, paints a canvas of a thousand shades. A brilliant, symbolic chess movement performed by two skilled, experienced, and steadfast individuals with stoic determination.

As a lawyer, writer, and publicist, I expressed my admiration for Mohammed bin Salman long ago. When unprecedented reforms began in Saudi Arabia—when he lifted the country from beneath long-decayed ruins and revived its economy, bringing it in line with many developed nations—I confidently stated in 2020 that the Crown Prince was leading the country toward a Singapore-style economic miracle.

And today, on November 19, the new gates of Saudi "Sesame" have opened. Saudi Arabia has become one of the first countries with the status of a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States to commit a \$1 trillion investment into the development of American infrastructure, industry, and technology. A joint declaration on the development of civilian nuclear energy was also signed—groundbreaking both in vision and scale.

As a nation that shapes and coordinates global oil prices, Saudi Arabia—together with the United States—is showing the world who truly resolves the most serious international issues and how

swiftly and rationally those decisions can be made. Mohammed bin Salman is inscribing his name in world political history with diamond letters. He has already become one of the giants of an innovative, progressive, and independent new reality, possessing a political signature uniquely his own. As he himself has said, he intends to transform Saudi Arabia into "the Europe of the East," whose benefits will be shared by all nations and peoples.

To fail to recognize or morally bow before such an exceptional individual with such extraordinary political will is nothing but pessimism and ignorance.

The rising sun of the House of Al-Saud, Mohammed bin Salman, is opening an entirely new political-philosophical chapter—one which I call Salmanism, a newly emerging political peak without precedent. The one trillion dollars—which I am certain will continue to grow—will become one of the supreme levers driving the heartbeat of the global economy, from which much of the world will benefit.

The Saudi "Sesame"—a name I have personally coined—will also become one of Armenia's guiding beacons. And I, as the founder and president of the Armenian-Saudi Friendship Platform, state with conviction: I believe in this Saudi, Salmanian miracle.

Founding President of the Armenian-Saudi Arabian Friendship Joint Platform - Haykaz Makaryan

Mary Kouyoumdjian makes history with first-ever Grammy nomination for an Armenian Opera in Best Opera Recording at 2026 Awards



Armenian-American composer and documentarian Mary Kouyoumdjian has made history through a GRAMMY nomination for the world premiere recording of her electroacoustic chamber opera “Adoration,” marking the first time an opera by an Armenian composer has been recognized in the Best Opera Recording category, *Zar-tonk Media* reports.

The nomination is for the 2026 GRAMMY Awards. The work follows a high school student whose fictional story about a terrorist plot goes viral, revealing how grief, racism, and media distortion can hide the truth, reports *The Armenian Weekly*.

“Adoration” was released digitally on August 8, 2025, on Bright Shiny Things and is available on all streaming platforms. Adapted from the film of the same name by Armenian-Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan, the libretto was written by Royce Vavrek, and the work was produced and given its world premiere in New York City by Beth Morrison Projects. Conducted by Alan Pierson, the cast features Miriam Khalil, Omar Najmi, David Adam Moore, and GRAMMY® Award winner Karim Sulayman, alongside Naomi Louisa O’Connell, Marc Kudisch, and Sammy Ivany.

They are joined by the GRAMMY®-nominated Choir of Trinity Wall Street under Thomas McCargar, the Silvana Quartet, and sound designer Daniel Neumann, with electronics by Kouyoumdjian. The album was recorded live during PROTOTYPE Festival performances between January 12 and 20, 2024, at The Sheen

Center for Thought and Culture in New York City.

The protagonist of “Adoration,” Simon, is an orphaned high school student encouraged by a teacher, as part of a dramatic writing exercise, to appropriate details from a historical terrorist attack as an event perpetrated by his parents. When his story goes viral, Simon uses the hysteria in his community and online to highlight the challenges of intolerance and racism. “Adoration” tells two simultaneous stories, a fictional account of terrorism and betrayal next to a real story of family strife and rejection, until a final revelation fits them together.

Kouyoumdjian received an OPERA America commissioning grant to create the adaptation of Egoyan’s film, along with Royce Vavrek. After its premiere as part of the 2024 Prototype Festival, the opera had its West Coast premiere at LA Opera in February 2025.

In addition to her work on “Adoration,” Kouyoumdjian has earned wide recognition across contemporary music. She was a finalist for the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Music and has received commissions from leading institutions, including the New York Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Kronos Quartet, Beth Morrison Projects, Alarm Will Sound, Bang on a Can, Fresno Philharmonic, California Symphony, Knoxville Symphony, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, the American Composers Forum, Roomful of Teeth, WQXR, and Helen Simoneau Danse. Her music has been performed at major venues and festivals such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, MoMA, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MASS MoCA, the Barbican Centre, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Millennium Park, Benaroya Hall, the New York Philharmonic Biennial, the Prototype Festival, the Cabrillo Festival, the Big Ears Festival, the 21C Music Festival, Cal

Performances, and international festivals.

Her creative work extends into film, where she composed the original score for the documentary “An Act of Worship,” produced by Capital K Pictures and PBS’s POV Docs, and orchestrated the soundtrack for the Focus Features film “The Place Beyond the Pines.” She holds a D.M.A. and M.A. in composition from Columbia University, an M.A. in Scoring for Film and Multimedia from New York University, and a B.A. in Music Composition from the University of California, San Diego. A dedicated educator, she teaches composition at The New School and has previously taught at Columbia University, the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and Brooklyn College’s Feirstein School of Cinema.

Kouyoumdjian is also the Co-Founder of the New Music Gathering conference and has served as Executive Director of the contemporary music ensemble Hotel Elefant and as Co-Artistic Director of Alaska’s Wild Shore New Music festival. In an artist statement in the booklet, she writes: “I believe that artists are the speakers of difficult truths. As a member of a family displaced from both the Lebanese Civil War and Armenian Genocide, I consider my freedom of expression here in the United States to be an immense privilege, and so I am drawn to stories that are both challenging to confront and to speak... Filmmaker Atom Egoyan has created such a story with his film ‘Adoration,’ and I am incredibly grateful to have spent the last several years living in this wonderfully challenging space in adapting his film into an opera... Our world continues to be fractured over unresolved multi-generational traumas that can cause horrifying divisions, globally and often in the closeness of our own families; however, like the story behind ‘Adoration,’ individuals and communities, at their very best, also find beautiful ways through these divisions.”

Memoir by Armenian Genocide survivor credited with preserving history of entire community

A book comprising the memoirs of an Armenian Genocide survivor sheds light on the pre-genocide life of the Armenian community in early 20th-century Shatakh, a village in the eastern Ottoman Empire.

Elina Mirzoyan, a researcher at the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, who studied the materials provided by the family of the late survivor Serob Kosyan and edited them into a memoir, said at the presentation event that the materials are highly valuable.

The book, titled *Newly Discovered Shatakh: A Memoir of a Shatakh Survivor of the Armenian Genocide*, was published by the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute. Kosyan's son, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters attended the presentation ceremony at the museum.

Highlighting the significance of the memoirs, priests attended the presentation ceremony for the first time to deliver a prayer. The book was published as part of a series featuring memoirs of genocide survivors.

Serob Kosyan was 15 years old when the Armenian Genocide began in the Ottoman Empire. Kosyan lost his entire family during the genocide. After his father and



mother were killed, he took his 12-year-old sister and attempted to flee east on foot, but tragically, his sister drowned while trying to cross a river. There – which is now the Muradiye district in the Turkish province of Van, Kosyan witnessed Ottoman forces massacring unarmed Armenian civilians, including women and children.

Remarkably, Kosyan reached safety after walking for over two weeks, eventually arriving in Eastern Armenia in 1915, then part of the Russian Empire. Later in life, he married Araksia, an Armenian woman who had also survived the genocide, and they had five children together. Kosyan, who worked most of his life as a textile artisan, died in 1982 in Yerevan. He wrote his memoirs during his final years.

Serob Kosyan's youngest son, Suren Kasyan, said: "My father was quite elderly—around 70 years old—when he began writing his memoirs. To ensure these memoirs could be accessible to everyone, on the 100th anniversary of the Genocide, I handed all of my father's manuscripts and his hand-drawn map of the Shatakh district center to the Armenian Genocide Museum."

Elina Mirzoyan, the editor of the book and a leading researcher at the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, emphasized the historical value of the memoirs, as very little research had been done on the Armenian community in Shatakh. According to Mirzoyan, Shatakh's Armenian presence during the Ottoman era had been little studied from a scientific perspective, and when its history is presented by an eyewitness survivor, the work becomes even more valuable.

Shatakh's Armenians spoke a specific, little-explored Armenian dialect, which, along with other cultural and social characteristics, Kosyan comprehensively presented in his memoirs. The memoirs offer insights into the pre-genocide life of Armenians in Kosyan's village.

Foreign-language films to be screened with Armenian subtitles in all cinemas



Foreign-language films will be shown on the big screen in all cinemas across Armenia with Armenian subtitles, in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Cinematography."

According to the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, the regulation aims to ensure wider audience engagement and accessibility.

The ministry noted that the

requirement applies not only to cinema screenings but also to films distributed on television, online platforms.

The initiative is being implemented through the joint efforts of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports and the Armenian Film Foundation, in cooperation with foreign distribution companies.

At the next stage, Armenian dubbing of foreign-language films is also planned.



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