

New Jersey Becomes 10th U.S. State to Recognize Artsakh



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TRENTON, NJ — New Jersey officially became the 10th U.S. state to recognize Artsakh, reported the Armenian National Committee of America Eastern Region (ANCA-ER). ANC of New Jersey led a grassroots advocacy effort to secure recognition alongside New Jersey State Senator Joseph Lagana who first introduced the legislation, SCR.71, in the New Jersey State Senate in 2020 and reintroduced it in the 2021 session with the support of New Jersey State Senators Vin Gopal, Holly Schepisi and Nicholas Scutari.

SCR.71 officially recognizes the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), condemns Turkey and Azerbaijan for their aggression against the peaceful populations of Artsakh and Armenia and reaffirms the state’s commitment to recognizing the Armenian

Genocide. The resolution passed through the New Jersey State Senate Judiciary Committee and was referred to the Senate floor for a vote on June 30, 2021, where it passed overwhelmingly.

ANCA National Board Member and ANCA Eastern Region Board Chair Ani Tchaghlasian, a New Jersey resident and ANC of New Jersey activist, along with Joe Ariyan, ANC of New Jersey member, testified in front of the New Jersey State Senate Judiciary Committee underscoring the importance of Artsakh’s self-determination on June 30 and were in chambers when it passed.

“Over 100 years after the genocide began in 1915, the Armenian community still grapples with the effects of the horrific acts of violence committed by the Ottoman Empire. Millions of Armenians faced displacement, starvation, persecution, and death,” said Senator Joseph Lagana (D-Bergen/Passaic). “Today, we stand by our Armenian-American neighbors by calling those events what they were: a genocide. By acknowledging this truth, and by condemning

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Armenia-Canada cooperation has huge potential for development: Pashinyan congratulates Trudeau on Canada Day



The Armenia-Canada cooperation has great potential for further development, Armenia's acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a message to Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the occasion of

Canada Day.

"The friendly relations between our two countries have always been based on shared values and mutual respect. The vibrant Armenian community in Canada and our historical affinities add special relish to these ties," Pashinyan said.

He voiced confidence that through joint efforts the parties would be able to outline and implement programs of mutual interest in many spheres.

"The entire world faced difficulties and challenges last year. The Armenian

people experienced the horrors of war in 2020. I would like to thank the Government of Canada for its valuable efforts aimed at reinstating peace and providing assistance to those affected by the conflict," he added.

"I am hopeful that as an advocate of international law and global order, Canada will continue its constructive policy in an effort to settle the unresolved issues and the security threats available in the region," Nikol Pashinyan said.

Armenia, Iran sign MoU to enhance cultural and scientific cooperation

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the the State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia and the Academy of Arts of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Karen Trchunyan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of Armenia Abas Badakhshan Zohuri, Rector of the State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia Aram Isabekyan, Advisor to the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Republic of Armenia Hossein Tabatabai, President of the Artists'



Union of Armenia Suren Safaryan, painters and artists were present at the signing ceremony at the Academy of Fine Arts.

"The historical ties between our countries are deep and friendly. The signing of

such a partnership memorandum between the art universities of the two countries is very gratifying. This is the beginning of a new friendship between these cultural institutions," said Aram Isabekyan, Rector of the State Academy of Fine Arts of Armenia.

Under the MoU, the parties will cooperate, work together to develop and internationalize higher education, promoting academic, cultural and scientific cooperation and exchange in the fields of education and research. Other programs will be implemented within the framework of the cooperation.

Armenia eager to deepen friendly relations with China, Pashinyan tells Xi Jinping

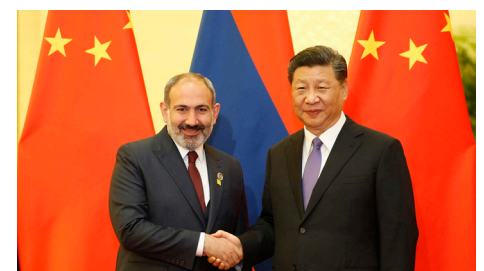
Armenia is eager to further develop the friendly relations and the ongoing mutually beneficial cooperation with the People's Republic of China, Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a message to China's President Xi Jinping on the centenary of formation of the Communist Party of China.

"The Communist Party of China has won the Chinese people's trust since its inception by defying numerous challenges and leading the country along the path of

sovereignty, empowerment and socio-economic development," Pashinyan said in a message to Xi Jinping, who also leads the Communist Party of China.

"The achievements of the CPC continued and multiplied under your leadership. This landmark year was marked by two key milestones: China achieved its centennial goal of overcoming extreme poverty and returned to the path of development by overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

Nikol Pashinyan voiced confidence that the Armenian-Chinese relations would continue to strengthen and deepen for the benefit of the two countries and peoples.



U.S. committed to resuming talks within the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship: Armenia's acting PM receives Amb. Tracy

Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on June 30 received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia Lynne Tracy.

Nikol Pashinyan noted that Armenia has entered a new stage of development following the early parliamentary elections as marked by the high opinion of the quality and the results of the elections voiced by the international community, including the United States. The Acting Premier appreciated U.S. President Joe Biden's response to the elections and the prospects for U.S.-Armenia cooperation. Nikol Pashinyan noticed that one of the results of the ongoing fruitful cooperation could be seen in a few days, when the new patrol service will start operating in Armenia.

"I hope that our bilateral cooperation will be continued and reinvigorated," the Acting Prime Minister said, highlighting its favorable impact on the reform process. Nikol Pashinyan appreciated the role played by the United States as an OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair and prioritized the Co-Chairs' efforts in the comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Acting Prime Minister noted that Armenia views

the Co-Chairs not only as mediators in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process, but also as a key factor in ensuring regional security. Nikol Pashinyan pointed out the fact that Azerbaijan continues to be aggressive in the current situation and, in this context, highlighted the role of the United States as an MG co-chair in handling the situation.

Ambassador Lynne Tracy assured that the U.S. Administration will continue to work closely with the Government of Armenia to advance the priorities of its reform agenda. She stressed the importance of the joint efforts in matters related to the development and strengthening of democratic institutions, improving the judiciary, combating corruption and developing electoral processes. The Ambassador reaffirmed the U.S. Administration's commitment to the OSCE Minsk Group's mission in resuming the negotiating framework and achieving a comprehensive settlement of the issue.

Nikol Pashinyan emphasized that the fight against corruption remains a priority for his government, which will be guided by the Anticorruption Strategy. Noting that the judicial reform stands high on the governments' agenda, the Acting Premier expressed confidence that the Armenian



judiciary would be truly independent in the coming years. **"I am confident that owing to our efforts democracy will be irreversible and will take root in Armenia,"** Nikol Pashinyan said. He highlighted the reforms underway in the armed forces, in education, as well as the development of infrastructure and the digitization process.

Nikol Pashinyan and Lynne Tracy next referred to the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. Noting that the issue should be resolved exclusively by withdrawing Azerbaijan's troops from the sovereign territory of Armenia, the Acting Prime Minister recalled that he had earlier made a proposal to resolve the issue.

Nikol Pashinyan praised the U.S. role in the repatriation of Armenian prisoners of war, noting that Armenia is prepared to respond to that humanitarian move with appropriate steps.

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happening today, we make it clear that this tragic history cannot be allowed to repeat itself."

New Jersey is home to more than 50,000 Armenian Americans and the resolution comes on the heels of recognition of Artsakh in several of the Garden State's cities including the Borough of Fort Lee, Englewood Cliffs, Cliffside Park and Ridgefield, New Jersey. New Jersey is the tenth state to recognize Artsakh. Other states include: Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Louisiana, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Michigan and Colorado.



"We cannot thank State Senator Lagana enough for his steadfast commitment, and for introducing SCR.71. Senator Lagana has been a friend of our community since he was first elected to the state assembly years ago – he is a champion of doing what is right for people everywhere and we truly appreciate it," said Joe Ariyan, ANC

of New Jersey activist. "Alongside his colleagues Senators Gopal, Schepisi and Scutari, Senator Lagana's Resolution provides us with the fuel we need to continue to advocate on behalf of the Armenian Nation," said Ariyan.

"As a descendant of Armenian Genocide survivors and a resident of New Jersey, I am so proud to be represented by elected officials who prioritize human rights and a just resolution to the unjust atrocities committed against my ancestors," said Karine Shnorhokian. "This resolution is another step in the direction of securing the safety and security of the Armenians in Artsakh and Armenia, who even today, are currently facing threats from neighboring Azerbaijan and Turkey," said Shnorhokian.

“Common values underlie Armenian-American relations” - Nikol Pashinyan congratulates Joe Biden on U.S. Independence Day



Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan sent a congratulatory message to President Joe Biden of the United States of America on U.S. Independence Day. The message reads:

“Dear Mr. President,

I warmly congratulate you and the friendly people of America on Independence Day.

With the Declaration of Independence, the Founding Fathers bequeathed the people of the United States and all mankind

the noble ideas of state building, democracy and fundamental freedoms.

We are pleased that your administration has reaffirmed its commitment to reinstating the role of the United States as an international leader in promoting democracy, strengthening the rule of law, protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide. Shared by the Armenian and American peoples, these values are at the core of our bilateral relations. In this connection, I would like to thank the United States for its strong hand in supporting Armenia’s democratic reforms.

Serious challenges have recently emerged across the globe: epidemics, climate change, conflicts and wars. We appreciate the U.S. Government’s invaluable financial and medical assistance provided to the international community, including Armenia, in the fight against the global

pandemic.

We highly appreciate the active mediation role played by the United States as an OSCE Minsk Group co-chair, as well as your country’s clear position on the need to negotiate a final status for Nagorno-Karabakh. I am confident that a comprehensive and equitable resolution of the Artsakh issue will be achieved through the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs’ joint efforts.

Armenia is prepared to deepen and expand our bilateral relations in the framework of the strategic dialogue. I am hopeful that in the near future we will boast ever new achievements in the ongoing mutually beneficial cooperation.

Reiterating my congratulations, I wish you and the friendly people of America prosperity, development, and a speedy victory over COVID-19.”

Constitutional Court receives appeal from Armenia Alliance challenging election results

The Constitutional Court has received an appeal from Armenia Alliance, the Court’s Press Secretary Eva Tovmasyan informs.

The appeal requests annulling the results of the June 20 parliamentary election or calling a second round.

Eva Tovmasyan said no other appeals were submitted.

According to the final election results



announced by the Central Electoral Com-

mission, Nikol Pashinyan’s Civil Contract Party won **53.91%** of the vote. Armenia Alliance came second with **21.9%**, I Have the Honor Alliance was third with **5.22%** of the vote.

Two other forces – I have the Honor Alliance and Zartonk Party – have also announced plans to challenge the election results at the Constitutional Court.

Putin, Macron say willing to coordinate actions on various aspects of Nagorno-Karabakh settlement

Russian President Vladimir Putin has briefed his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on the progress in the implementation of the trilateral statements on Nagorno-Karabakh dated November 9, 2020 and January 11, 2021, Kremlin’s Press Service informs.

During a phone conversation held at the initiative of the French side Putin noted that “the situation in the region remains stable largely due to the presence of Russian peacekeepers.” He added that

prerequisites have been created for the establishment of normal economic activity, the unblocking of economic and transport links.

The President of Russia drew attention to the need for closer involvement of European partners, and in particular France, in solving the humanitarian problems of the population of the regions affected by the hostilities.

Mutual readiness was expressed to co-

ordinate actions on various aspects of the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement, including through the OSCE Minsk Group.



CSTO sees situation in the south of Armenia as a “border incident” with Azerbaijan



The aggravation of the situation in the south of Armenia in connection with the establishment of a new border with Azerbaijan is a “border incident” and does not fall under the provisions of the CSTO charter on collective defense. Secretary General of the organization Stanislav Zas told journalists.

“You have to understand that the potential of the CSTO is used only in the event of an aggression, an attack [on one of the member countries]. Here we are dealing, in fact, with a border incident. Thank God, there are no casualties, there is no shoot-

ing there. This is a border incident, it must be solved, and we are in favor of solving it peacefully,” he said.

According to him, there is no escalation of the conflict. “Actually, we cannot speak about any escalation of the situation there. This is already good; this is already a result. There is a lot of work ahead on the border issue, the resolution of all these controversial issues, but they need to be resolved at the negotiating table” Zas pointed out.

The CSTO Secretary General also informed that after the May appeal of Armenia, the organization held consultations on the situation in the border regions of the country. “Such consultations were held at the level of defense ministers, secretaries of security councils, and I contacted both the Armenian foreign minister and the defense minister. We discussed this

situation. In addition, we already had a general discussion of this situation during the Ministerial Council [Council of Ministers Foreign Affairs of the CSTO] in Dushanbe,” he said.

Zas assured that the CSTO is constantly monitoring the situation in the south of Armenia. “The decision to form a monitoring group was not made, although, of course, the situation is being monitored,” the secretary general said. The organization receives the necessary information from many sources, including the Armenian side and Russian peacekeepers, Zas added.

The situation in border areas of Armenia’s Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces escalated after the Azerbaijani troops infringed into the sovereign territory of Armenia and tried to carry out engineering work.

Armenian Ombudsman briefs CoE Commissioner on gross violations of international law by Azerbaijan

Human Rights Defender Arman Tatoyan met in Strasbourg with Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović.

The Human Rights Defender stressed the urgency of the immediate return of the Armenian prisoners from Azerbaijan, presenting facts that the Azerbaijani side is holding the prisoners in gross violation of international human rights requirements.



Arman Tatoyan presented the gross violations of the rights of the Armenian border residents by the Azerbaijani servicemen, the results of the fact-finding work in Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the human rights situation in penitentiaries, psychiatric hospitals and other institutions, as well as issues of protection of the rights of children, women and people with disabilities.

Armenia improves ranking in US Department of State report on trafficking in persons

Armenia’s has improved ranking has improved in the 2021 US Department of State *report* on trafficking in persons published on July 1.

“We were pleased to see Armenia’s tier ranking improve, in recognition of the Armenian government’s increasing efforts over the previous year to combat trafficking—from investigating more suspects and identifying more victims to adopting a law that protects children during police inter-

views and increasing support for a shelter for trafficking victims,” the US Embassy in Armenia said.

The report also includes suggested areas for future improvement, particularly in the area of victim identification and labor trafficking.

“We continue our cooperation in the fight against trafficking in persons including, but not limited to, providing additional funds to raise awareness on this important

issue and help Armenian authorities be more effective in identification and prosecution of trafficking cases,” the US Embassy said.



Armenian Government expects faster growth in 2021



The Armenian government has revised upwards its economic growth forecast for 2021, expecting a faster growth after last year's decline.

At a cabinet session on July 1 acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that the economy is now projected to grow by 6 percent this year.

Earlier, the forecast was that the Armenian economy would grow by 3.2 percent after shrinking by 7.6 percent in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"I am glad to say that while economic growth forecasts are being revised upward, our economic growth forecast for 2021 now is 6 percent," Pashinyan said.

"It is important that in parallel with these indicators, we are quite successfully fulfilling the revenue part of the state budget, and in this regard, we have even over-fulfilled it during the first half of the year," the acting premier added.

The kind of revision comes less than two weeks after Pashinyan and his politi-

cal party, Civil Contract, scored a landslide victory in snap parliamentary elections, gaining the right to form the next Armenian government single-handedly.

Ensuring a more dynamic growth of the economy was one of Civil Contract's pledges during the election campaign.

Speaking at cabinet session head of the State Revenue Committee Eduard Hovannisyan presented some details of the tax collection during the first six months of 2021.

He said that tax revenues in the period in question amounted to more than 750 billion drams (\$870 million), whereas they had originally been planned at a level of 683 billion drams.

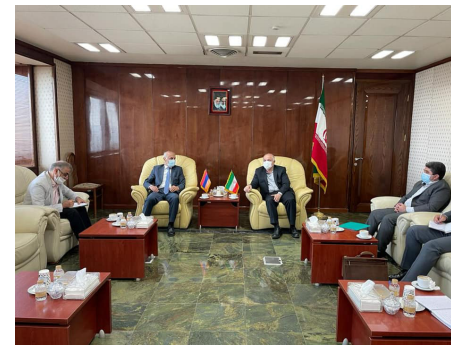
Armenia, Iran discuss construction of 3rd power transmission line

Artashes Tumanian, Armenia's Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran had a meeting with Homayoun Haeri, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Issues concerning the construction of

the Armenia-Iran 3rd power transmission line and arrangement for supplying power for both sides were discussed.

Meanwhile, the interlocutors agreed to fix dates for bilateral visits in the relevant fields.



UAE-based Masdar wins tender for 200 MW solar power project in Armenia

The Government of Armenia has officially selected Masdar, one of the world's leading renewable energy companies, as the winning bidder for the tender for a utility-scale solar project.

The Armenian Government had implemented an international tender following Masdar's initial offer of \$0,0299/kWh in December 2019. After a competitive process, Masdar submitted a final price of \$0,0290/kWh.

The 200-megawatt (MW) plant will be located in the Talin and Dashtadem communities of Armenia, in an area where solar radiation is both high and land is unusable for agricultural purposes.

The project will be developed on a design, finance,



build, own, and operate (DFBOO) basis and the project company will be 85 percent owned by Masdar, with the Armenian National Interest Fund CJSC (ANIF) holding 15 percent.

Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi, Chief Executive Officer of Masdar, said: "By winning the tender for Armenia's biggest utility-scale solar project, Masdar enters an exciting new phase in our collaboration with our partners at ANIF and with the Armenian government. This is a vital stage in Armenia's

clean energy journey: low-cost solar energy will help power new industries, generate jobs and set the country on the path to a prosperous and truly sustainable future. Masdar is proud to be helping Armenia achieve its ambitious renewable energy targets and we look forward to exploring more opportunities in the nation, which has great potential for further developing its clean energy infrastructure."

David Papazian, CEO of ANIF, said: "From Chairman down, we have worked very hard to finalize this deal. It feels like it has been ages that we are working on this process, but we realize that this is by far the largest single foreign investment in green energy in the region and the second largest foreign direct investment in

the history of modern Armenia. We are both lucky and proud to have Masdar as our partner in this most crucial phase of Armenia's energy mix diversification and evolution towards renewables."

Around US\$174 million will be invested, with a new substation also built. The plant will span over 500 hectares, and will create numerous direct and indirect jobs. The tender was part of the Joint Development Agreement signed between Masdar and ANIF in November 2019, to develop renewable energy projects with a total capacity of 400 MW in Armenia. Further discussions are under way on the development of the remaining 200 MW.

Armenia To Join EU's Common Aviation Area



The European Union announced on Tuesday that it will sign with the Armenian government later this year a deal that will further facilitate commercial flights between the EU and Armenia.

The EU said its decision-making Council approved separate draft agreements with Armenia, Ukraine and Tunisia allowing the three countries to join the European Common Aviation Area, a single market for aviation services.

“The three neighborhood agreements will remove market restrictions in relation to the EU’s neighboring countries and associate these countries with the EU’s internal aviation market, as they will adopt

EU aviation standards and implement EU aviation rules,” it said in a statement.

This will create “new opportunities” for airlines and travelers and “promote trade, tourism, investment and economic and social development,” said the statement.

The Council also gave the green light to the signing of a similar deal with Qatar.

“The four agreements are expected to be signed in autumn 2021,” the EU said, adding that they will have to be ratified by all of the bloc’s 27 member states.

Armenia and the EU officially started negotiations on a Common Aviation Area agreement in April 2017. The EU Delegation in Yerevan said at the time that it will enable airlines to operate Armenia-EU routes “without any limitations.”

Armenia’s former government lifted virtually all restrictions for European and other foreign carriers in 2013 when it liberalized the domestic aviation market. The South Caucasus country’s air traffic with the outside world grew rapidly in the fol-

lowing years, with more flight services launched between Yerevan and European cities.

The current Armenian government managed to attract two low-cost European airlines in 2019. One of them, Ryanair launched flights to and from Yerevan in January 2020 while the other, Wizz Air, was due to follow suit in April 2020. However, the coronavirus pandemic forced both carriers to cancel the new flight services.

In June 2020, the EU banned all seven airlines registered in Armenia from carrying out regular flights to EU member states, saying that they do not meet international safety standards.

Armenia’s Civil Aviation Committee downplayed the ban, arguing that only one local airline currently flies to Europe. At the same time the government agency pledged to take serious measures to address the EU concerns about flight safety.

Armenia second after the US to patent software

Armenia becomes the second country after the United States to license computer software, as the Law on Patents regulating property relations related to the creation, legal protection and use of inventions enters into force.

“Reliable protection of computer software will create favorable conditions for startups and innovative authors in Armenia to create intellectual value and license them in Armenia. The changes made, as well as the speed and ease of organizing the licensing process in Armenia will create preconditions for Armenia’s more favorable position in the region, for innovation and sustainable technological development in the country, as well as for promoting economic growth,” said Kristine Hambaryan, Acting Head of the Intellectual Property Agency of the Ministry of Economy.

The development of the high-tech sector is one of the priorities of the Gov-



ernment of the Republic of Armenia, as information technologies and innovations are among the preconditions for the establishment of a sustainable economy. Back in 2019, the development of the high-tech sector was declared a strategic direction. In order to promote sustainable, inclusive economic growth, the Government has been creating favorable conditions for local and foreign investments in the field of high technologies over the past few years, promoting the active introduction of innova-

tive startup ecosystems.

The best Diaspora experts in the field support the Government of Armenia with their experience and knowledge in the development of comprehensive, modern legislative reforms aimed at the protection of intellectual property.

Back in November 2018, the Armenian Bar Association of the United States Bar Associ-

ation formed an IP / IT Committee, which aims to facilitate the process of developing proposals and solutions to address legal shortcomings in the field. The working group comprised the best experts in the field in Armenia and Diaspora, lawyers, representatives of the state and private sectors, higher education institutions, deputies of the National Assembly. As a result of joint work carried out by the working group on amendments to the Law on Patents and proposals, it is now possible to license computer software in Armenia.

Armenia marks Constitution Day

Armenia celebrates Constitution Day on July 5, which is also marked as the Day of State Symbols – the flag, the coat of arms and the anthem.

The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia was adopted by a national referendum on July 5, 1995 when the citizens of the republic voted for the adoption of the Constitution of independent Armenia, thus expressing the wish to live in a free and democratic state.

Constitution Day is a public holiday for Armenia and its citizens, which marks the creation of a new governmental framework and the beginning of another era for the country, which for over seven decades had been a Soviet satellite.

The Armenian Constitution was amended with a referendum held in December 2015, in which the overwhelming majority of citizens cast their ballot in favor of shifting to a parliamentary form of government.

Another referendum was scheduled on April 5, but was subsequently canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On June 20, 2020 the National Assembly voted unanimously to pass bill on Constitutional amendments with 89 votes in favor. The two opposition factions – Pros-



perous Armenia and Bright Armenia – did not participate in the voting.

Under the changes, the judges who have not yet completed a term of office of 12 years will stay in office until completion of this term, while the tenure of the judges who have already served a term of 12 years will be terminated.

The amendments came into force on June 26, 2020.

The coat-of-arms of the Republic of Armenia was confirmed on August 23rd 1990 by the Armenian Supreme Counsel. The new modern design is based on the coat-of-arms of the first Republic of Armenia (1918-1920), which originally was designed by architect Aleksandr Tamanyan and painter Hagop Kodjoyan.

In the center of the shield is Mount Ararat – the symbol of the Armenian nation. On its peak rests Noah's Ark, which, according to the Bible, came to rest here after the great flood. Surrounding Mount Ararat are symbols of old Armenian dynasties.

At the bottom of the shield are five objects: a broken chain representing our freedom and independence; a sword, which stands for the power and strength of our nation; a bundle of wheat flower, representing the industrious nature of the Armenian people; a feather pen symbolizing the intellectual and cultural heritage of the Armenian people, and a tricolor ribbon – the flag of the Republic of Armenia.

The Armenian flag has three equal sized horizontal bands: the top stripe is red; the middle one blue and the bottom stripe is orange. The colors on the Armenia flag represent its people.

The official version of color definition is stated in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia. It says, that red represents the Armenian Highland and people's struggle for survival, blue symbolizes the will of Armenian people to live under peaceful sky and orange stands for creative talent and hard-working nature of Armenians.

Respect for the Constitution is everyone's duty – President

Every nation builds its life and statehood based on its system of values. Our people have long believed in two basic values: freedom and justice. All our constitutions adopted at different times were anchored on these notions, Armenia's President Armen Sarkissian said in a message on the occasion of Constitution Day.

He reminded that the immutable articles of the current Constitution directly reflect these values.

Article 1. The Republic of Armenia is a sovereign, democratic, social state governed by the rule of law.

Article 2. In the Republic of Armenia, the power belongs to the people.

Article 3. The human being shall be the highest value in the Republic of Armenia.

"Besides the above-mentioned principles-regulations, the Constitution is not a static but a dynamic document. It must meet the challenges of the day and be directed to implementing the principles enshrined in the above immutable provisions," the President said.

"It is the duty of every one of us to respect the Constitution, improving and perfecting it, if necessary," he stressed.



According to President Sarkissian, each constitution adopted during the history of our statehood marked a new page in the life of our state.

"Today we live in difficult times. Parallel to standard solutions, there is a need to take non-standard steps to overcome the current multi-layered and multi-component crisis," he noted.

The President stressed the need to prepare the necessary basis to open a new page in the life of our state. "The last three years have made it more obvious that certain provisions of the current Constitution do not provide the best solutions to all the challenges and crises facing our country and society – to respond quickly, fully and in a balanced way."

Therefore, he said, recognizing the vital

importance of the Constitution as a complete document for every one of us, and for the whole country, there is a need to improve it, to make it more future-oriented, more in line with our state and national interests, at the same time unconditionally adhering to the principles enshrined in immutable articles.

"After all, the Constitution must not only proclaim these basic principles but also have sufficiently effective structures to protect and implement them. The work to strengthen our statehood must be continuous. And today, we must be more united, disciplined and hardworking, armed with perseverance to overcome difficulties, and with love and optimism for our Homeland," Armen Sarkissian continued.

"We must do our utmost to preserve our statehood, redefine our national identity, define our national ideology, and ensure a dignified future for future generations," he noted.

"Respect for the Mother Law, thus exercising our rights, and at the same time fulfilling our obligations are an inseparable part of these processes," President Sarkissian concluded.

House Appropriations Committee recommends at least \$2 million for demining activities in Artsakh

In the Bill and Report released this week, the Fiscal Year 2022 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations legislation recommends not less than \$50 million “for Armenia for economic development, private sector productivity, energy independence, democracy and the rule of law, and other purposes.” In addition, the report language also calls for “not less than \$2,000,000 for demining activities in Nagorno-Karabakh,” the Armenian Assembly of America reports.

With the Subcommittee having considered the draft Bill on Monday, June 25, 2021, the full committee is poised to “mark-up” the legislation tomorrow, July 1, 2021.

The Bill also restates Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, in addition to prohibiting the sale of defense articles to the Turkish Presidential Protection Directorate. The report language also reiterates the Assembly’s concerns about the military disparity in U.S. assistance to Armenia and Azerbaijan: “The Committee is concerned by disparity in military assistance provided to Azerbaijan in comparison to Armenia that is enabled by the annual waiver of Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act by the Secretary of State, including the most recent waiver signed by the Secretary on April 23, 2021. The Committee directs the military balance between Azerbaijan and Armenia and the diplomatic consequences of such disparity in military assistance be considered by the Secretary in any decision with respect to the renewal of the Section 907 waiver during fiscal year 2022.”

The Assembly welcomes this language, which serves as a rebuke to Azerbaijan whose autocratic leader is denying the existence of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Assembly also thanks Subcommittee Chairwoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) for raising Section 907 during a recent hearing with



Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who subsequently indicated that the Administration will continue to closely review the waiver.

In 1992, Congress took a principled stand against Azerbaijani aggression with the adoption of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, which states that U.S. funds “may not be provided to the Government of Azerbaijan until the President determines and so reports to the Congress, that the Government of Azerbaijan is taking demonstrable steps to cease all blockades and other offensive uses of force against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.” In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on American soil, a national security waiver was added to Section 907. The exercise of the waiver is valid so long as it “will not undermine or hamper ongoing efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan or be used for offensive purposes against Armenia.”

Despite undertaking an obligation to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict peacefully through the OSCE Minsk Group, Azerbaijan launched an unprecedented war against the Armenian people last Fall, resulting in a death toll of over 4,000 soldiers and civilians, some brutally beheaded according to Human Rights Watch and as documented by Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights and its Project on Atroc-

ities in Artsakh. Upwards of 10,000 soldiers were wounded and over 100,000 Armenians were forcibly displaced from their homes, alongside the destruction of vital infrastructure including hospitals, and the deliberate erasure of Armenian cultural and religious heritage sites.

In a clear sign that Azerbaijan is not serious about establishing peace or respecting international human rights conventions to which it is a signatory, the Aliyev regime has repeatedly violated the November 9, 2020 ceasefire arrangement, including the holding of an estimated 200 prisoners of war (POWs) and captured civilians. In addition, Aliyev boasted earlier this week that “we have destroyed Armenia” and that “there is no territorial unit called Nagorno-Karabakh, there is no concept of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict...” Had the letter and spirit of Section 907 been upheld, innocent lives would have been spared. The Aliyev regime’s actions undermine U.S. policy and should not be rewarded. The Assembly remains especially concerned in light of Azerbaijan’s and Turkey’s continuing to pursue the dismemberment and depopulation of Armenia and Artsakh.

“We appreciate the work of the Subcommittee and its Chair and Ranking Member in outlining much-needed aid to Armenia and Artsakh, as well as the language on Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act,” said Assembly’s Congressional Relations Director Mariam Khaloyan. “We also appreciate the efforts of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues and its leadership. We look forward to a positive outcome tomorrow and to continue to advance U.S.-Armenia and U.S.-Artsakh relations for the betterment of the Armenian people.”

Biden administration should be pushed to take every possible diplomatic action to secure release of all Armenian POWs – Rep. Schiff

After a year marked by devastating conflict and incredible suffering, we have been able to secure more than \$52 million in funding for Armenia and Artsakh in the recently introduced House Foreign Affairs spending bill, along with the other co-chairs of the House Armenian Caucus, Congressman Aram Schiff said in a Facebook post.

According to him, this robust investment will support democratic, economic, and energy reforms in Armenia and provide urgent humanitarian relief in Artsakh.

“But our work is far from done. We



must continue to push the Biden administration to take every possible diplomatic action to end Azerbaijani aggression and secure immediate release of all Armenian detainees and prisoners of war, some of

whom have been tortured in violation of international human rights conventions,” Rep. Schiff said,

“And we must also continue to push President Biden to withhold U.S. assistance from the Aliyev regime in Azerbaijan, which continues to commit grave human rights abuses and threaten the independence of Armenia,” he added.

“I will always stand with the people of Armenia and Artsakh. Always,” Adam Schiff said.

Australian Senator Rachel Siewert pledges to recognize Armenian, Greek and Assyrian Genocides

Senator for Western Australia, Rachel Siewert has joined the Joint Justice Initiative and pledged to recognize the Armenian, Assyrian and Greek Genocides.

Senator Siewert signed an affirmation of support for the Joint Justice Initiative, which calls for Federal Australian recognition of the genocides of 1915.

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 National Council – Australia (ANC) 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.

A long-standing Perth resident, Senator Siewert is the Whip of The Australian Greens and Chair of the Senate Community Affairs References Committee.

Haig Kayserian, Executive Director of



the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU), said that the Joint Justice Initiative is extremely proud to have another federal parliamentarian on board.

“On behalf of the Armenian-Australian, Greek-Australian and Assyrian-Australian communities, we thank Senator Siewert for her support,” Kayserian said.

The Joint Justice Initiative has so far announced the support of Siewert, Susan Templeman MP, Adam Bandt MP, 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 Frelander 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 1.

EU to allocate over 1.5 billion Euros to Armenia for five major projects

The European Union will allocate more than 1.5 billion euros to Armenia in the next 5 years for five key programs, including the development of Syunik region. The document was presented today in Brussels, highlighting the initiatives that the European Commission intends to implement by 2025 in the member states of the “Eastern Partnership”, Massis Post reports.

In a statement released on July 2, the commission said the plan was part of a proposed agenda “focusing on recovery, resilience and reform” that sets specific targets for 2025 with the aim of “increasing trade, growth and jobs, investing in connectivity, strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law, supporting the green and digital transitions, and promoting fair, gender-equal and inclusive societies.”

The proposed long-term policy objectives are to be discussed at an Eastern Partnership summit planned for December 2021.

The Eastern Partnership was launched in 2009 with the aim of strengthening and deepening the political and economic relations between the EU, its member states, and six countries in the bloc’s so-called “Eastern Neighborhood” — Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

As for Armenia, the European Commission plans to:

- Support 30,000 small and medium-sized businesses for a sustainable, innovative, competitive economy;

- Promote socio-economic development and communication by supporting the North-South highway corridor;

- Investments in information technology, science and technology,

- Strengthen the resilience of the southern regions of Armenia.

- Investing in green Yerevan for energy efficiency and the launch of more environmentally friendly buses.

The first pilot project will provide €



500 million in assistance to 30,000 small and medium-sized businesses. “Recovery of the economy after the epidemic is a top priority for Armenia,” the European Commission said, noting that by helping Armenian businessmen, the European Union will help create new jobs, develop and modernize businesses, and sustain Armenia’s long-term socio-economic recovery.

In this regard, according to the document, priority will be given to entrepreneurs who work with nature-saving technologies, especially in the regions, as well as businesses run by women.

The second project envisages supporting the socio-economic development of Armenia, emphasizing that one of the priorities of Armenia’s national agenda is the operation of the North-South corridor, which will provide access to international trade routes and markets.

“Improving transport infrastructure will allow closer ties between the regions, as well as Armenia’s connection with neighboring countries and the European Union,” the European Commission said. “EU investment in this area will focus on the as-yet undeveloped sections of the North-South highway, including the Sisian-Kajaran road.” It is planned to allocate 600 million euros for the implementation of this project, which will be allocated for the construction of a new Sisian-Kajaran tunnel in the south.

The third landmark program provides support for innovative technologies and science. “Armenia has a strong information potential, the sector has grown by about

20% in recent years, but additional support is needed to reveal its full potential,” the European Commission report states. “The EU used to support e-government, but now new investments are needed to expand those services to regional and local levels. In total, up to 300 million euros are planned for this purpose.”

The fourth direction envisages supporting the strengthening of development in the southern regions of Armenia. “The Syunik region in particular needs support,” the report said, noting that the region has already had problems due to underdeveloped infrastructure, and has recently been hit by the war and displaced people need education.

“Following progress achieved in the northern regions of Armenia, the European Union will invest in strengthening the sustainable socio-economic development of Syunik. Priority areas may include housing, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, education, healthcare, renewable energy, and support for local small and medium-sized businesses.” For this purpose, it is planned to provide 80 million euros.

The last, fifth direction refers to the capital, particularly the green Yerevan. “Improving the quality of human life and improving air quality in Yerevan requires addressing waste management and energy efficiency,” the European Commission said in the statement, adding that the European Union was ready to invest in a “smart city” package. In this context, it is planned to support the “import of green buses”, which will do less damage to the environment of the capital, will improve and modernize public transport.

The agenda also includes improving the quality of life, including a number of programs aimed at waste management and waste treatment in Yerevan. In total, up to 120 million euros will be allocated for the implementation of these goals.

On US Independence Day, the New York Times celebrates Vartan Gregorian's contribution to American life

As the United States marks the 245th anniversary of Independence, the New York Times celebrates Aurora co-founder Vartan Gregorian's contribution to American life.

Vartan, Gregorian, the 12th president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, founded the Corporation's Great Immigrants Great Americans initiative in 2006.

An Armenian born and raised in Iran, Gregorian arrived in America in 1956 to study at Stanford University and proceeded to rise to the highest levels of higher education and philanthropy as a naturalized US citizen, recognized with Presidential Medal of Freedom.

"Gregorian, who dies unexpectedly in April 2021, improved the lives of countless individuals around the world through his wisdom, insights and influence," the New York Times writes.

"We celebrate and recognize him with this year's honorees for his dedication to and belief in democracy, education, international peace and all of humanity," the paper says.

Co-Founder and member of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee, an



outstanding Armenian-American humanitarian, scholar, author, educator and mentor Vartan Gregorian passed away on April 16 aged 87.

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

In his lifelong mission to achieve global prosperity and peace, Vartan Gregorian always spoke up on behalf of the

most destitute and disenfranchised. Committed to the eradication of genocide, discrimination and persecution, he has become a mentor and a beacon of hope for all inspired by his empathy and determination. He guided the younger generation with kindness and acuity, changing lives and constantly leading by personal example of selflessness and commitment.

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

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

Aliyev, Erdogan on RSF list of 2021 "Press freedom predators"

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has listed Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan among 2021 "Press freedom predators."

RSF has published the list of 37 heads of state or government who crack down massively on press freedom. Some of these "predators of press freedom" have been operating for more than two decades while others have just joined the black-list, which for the first time includes two women and a European predator.

Nearly half (17) of the predators are making their first appearance on the [2021 list](#), which RSF is publishing five years after the last one, from 2016. All are heads

of state or government who trample on press freedom by creating a censorship apparatus, jailing journalists arbitrarily or inciting violence against them.

Nineteen of these predators rule countries that are colored red on the RSF's press freedom map, meaning their situation is classified as "bad" for journalism, and 16 rule countries colored black, meaning the situation is "very bad."

"There are now 37 leaders from around the world in RSF's predators of press freedom gallery and no one could say this list is exhaustive," RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire said. "Each of these predators has their own style. Some impose a reign of terror by issuing irrational and

paranoid orders. Others adopt a carefully constructed strategy based on draconian laws. A major challenge now is for these predators to pay the highest possible price for their oppressive behavior. We must not let their methods become the new normal."

The new entrants include Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and a European prime minister, Hungary's Viktor Orbán.





Armenian Missionary Association of America

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For Immediate Release

June 30, 2021

Rev. Dr. John J. Markarian, Founding President of Haigazian University Fades Away at 104

“The Armenian Evangelical Community has deep historical roots in the Middle East. One of those is called Haigazian University and I had the privilege of serving as its Founding President.”
Rev. Dr. John Markarian (October 2020)

Paramus, NJ – It is with deep sorrow that we share the sad news of the passing of Rev. Dr. John J. Markarian, the Founding President of Haigazian University of Beirut, Lebanon.

“Although Dr. Markarian has physically imparted from this earth, he remains a shining star in the field of higher education and the history of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. As thousands of Haigazian University students mourn his loss, we praise God for generations of Haigazian graduates who have illuminated the skies of humanity and brilliantly served their respective communities around the globe.” Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO

The Rev. Dr. John J. Markar-



ian, of West Pittston, died June 29, 2021. He celebrated his 104th birthday on June 7.

He was born in Windham, N.Y., a son of the late Jacob and Dora (Euth) Markarian. He was a graduate of Lafayette College and Princeton Divinity School. He later served on the faculty at Lafayette College. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister and earned a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Theology from Drew University. The Rev. Dr. Markarian was the founding president of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon. An account of his years there is relayed in his memoir, *“The Thirsty Enemy.”* He and his wife, Inge, later moved to California and eventually to West Pittston where they resided for the last 34

years.

He leaves his wife, Inge, of 47 years; his daughter, Joanne Kubler, of Los Angeles; his grandson, Michael Kubler and his wife Kathryn, and his great-grandchildren, Gabriel and Ari, of Sydney, Australia.

A celebration of Rev. Dr. Markarian’s life will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations can be made online via the following link: [Memorial Donations – Rev. Dr. John J. Markarian](#) or sent to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) 31 W. Century Rd., Paramus, NJ 07652. (Please include a memo on check: Rev. Dr. John Markarian Memorial.)

Donations will benefit the [Rev. Dr. John J. Markarian Scholarship Fund](#) designated to Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon.

As we mourn the passing of Rev. Dr. Markarian we rejoice in his life and find consolation in the Hope of the Resurrection.

TUMO center to open in Los Angeles

First TUMO center in the USA will be founded in south-eastern Southern San Fernando Valley in collaboration with Los Angeles City and USC Institute of Armenian Studies. The project will cost 9 million USD, ARMENPRESS reports, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian informed.

In addition, \$1 million will be allocated to the University of Southern California Institute of Armenian Studies and another \$1 million to the Lark Musical Society, a non-profit that delivers high-quality classical music education, curating performances of music, song, and dance.

“I am very proud to bring California’s



backing to the mission of these three organizations, which continually demonstrate their passion and success in educating and investing in our youth. Whether it be the arts, education, or technology, all three organizations have demonstrated a record

of helping our students succeed, and they will greatly benefit and enhance the experience of our diverse youth population for decades to come,” said Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian.

The TUMO Center for Creative Technologies is a free-of-charge educational program that puts teenagers in charge of their own learning. Founded by engineer and entrepreneur Sam and Sylva Simonian, TUMO’s mission is to allow teens to maximize their potential by discovering their passions and building the skills and self-confidence required to shape their future.

Greece opens to Armenian nationals

Greece is easing Covid-19 travel restrictions on travelers from an additional six non-European Union countries who were previously barred from entering the country, the *Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority* informs.

Permanent residents from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Jordan, Moldova, Brunei and Kosovo are now added to the list of third-country nationals allowed to enter Greece.

This list already includes all EU & Schengen Area countries, as well as Albania, Australia, Northern Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan, Israel, Canada, Belarus, Lebanon, Bahrain, New Zealand, South Korea, Qatar, China, Kuwait, Ukraine, Rwanda, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Thailand, and Montenegro.

People traveling from countries not mentioned on the safe list can travel to Greece only for essential reasons. Tourism is not considered an essential reason, according to government rules.

Passengers from abroad must also



have one of the following:

1. a vaccination certificate, stating that 14 days have passed since full vaccination for Covid-19. Vaccination certificates must be issued by a public authority and in one of the following languages: Greek, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian.
2. a negative PCR test performed within 72 hours before travel or a negative rapid antigen test performed within 48 hours before travel.
3. recovery certificate. Travelers can present a medical/recovery certificate issued thirty days after they first tested positive

for Covid-19 (the certificate is valid for entry to Greece for 180 days after its issue date).

4. an EU Digital COVID Certificate in digital or print form which will contain information on whether passengers have been vaccinated against Covid-19 or have a negative PCR test performed within 72 hours before travel or a negative rapid test performed within 48 hours before travel or have recovered from the virus.

All documents must be submitted in one of the following languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian.

Every traveler who arrives in Greece, regardless of the certificate in their possession, may undergo a random health screening, depending on the data provided on the PLF form. If a passenger is selected for a rapid test and is positive for the coronavirus then he/she must quarantine for a 7 days if the passenger has been vaccinated against Covid-19 or 10 days if the passenger is unvaccinated.

Legendary Armenian duduk player Jivan Gasparayn dies aged 92

Legendary Armenian duduk player Jivan Gasparayan passed away on July 6 aged 92, his grandson informs.

"The world has suffered unimaginable loss tonight. Not only an icon, but a beautiful soul. May he rest in peace," Jivan Gasparayan Jr. said in a Facebook post.

Born in Solak, Armenia to parents from Mush, Gasparayan started to play duduk when he was six. In 1948, he became a soloist of the Armenian Song and Dance Popular Ensemble and the Yerevan Philharmonic Orchestra.

He has won four medals at UNESCO worldwide competitions (1959, 1962, 1973, and 1980). In 1973 Gasparayan was awarded the honorary title *People's*

Artist of Armenia. In 2002, he received the WOMEX (*World Music Expo*) Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a Honorary citizen of Yerevan.

He has toured the world with a small ensemble playing Armenian folk music. His music has been chosen on the soundtrack of several foreign films, including the *Gladiator*.

He has collaborated with many artists, such as Sting, Peter Gabriel, Hossein Alizadeh, Erkan Ogur, Michael Brook, Brian May, Lionel Richie, Derek Sherinian, Ludovico Einaudi, Luigi Cinque, Boris Grebenshchikov, Brian Eno, David Sylvian, Hans Zimmer and Andreas Vollenweider.

He also recorded with the Kronos Quartet and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Gasparayan played as part of the Armenian entry "Apricot Stone" by Eva Rivas at the 2010 Eurovision Song Contest in Oslo and became the oldest ever person to feature in a Eurovision Song Contest performance.tiebreaks.



Armenia's Levon Aronian becomes winner of the Goldmoney Asian Rapid tournament

Armenian GM Levon Aronian became the winner of the Goldmoney Asian Rapid tournament, Chessbase.com reports.

The Armenian won the first set on Saturday and scored back-to-back wins in the second mini-match to make it impossible for Vladislav Artemiev to equalize the score and take the match to tiebreaks.

Aronian was on fire during this event.



He won the preliminaries and went on to knock out Magnus Carlsen in the semi-finals before securing first place rather quickly against his younger opponent. After winning the first set 2½-1½, he won the first two games in Sunday's second set to make it impossible for Artemiev to equalize the score and take the match to tiebreaks.

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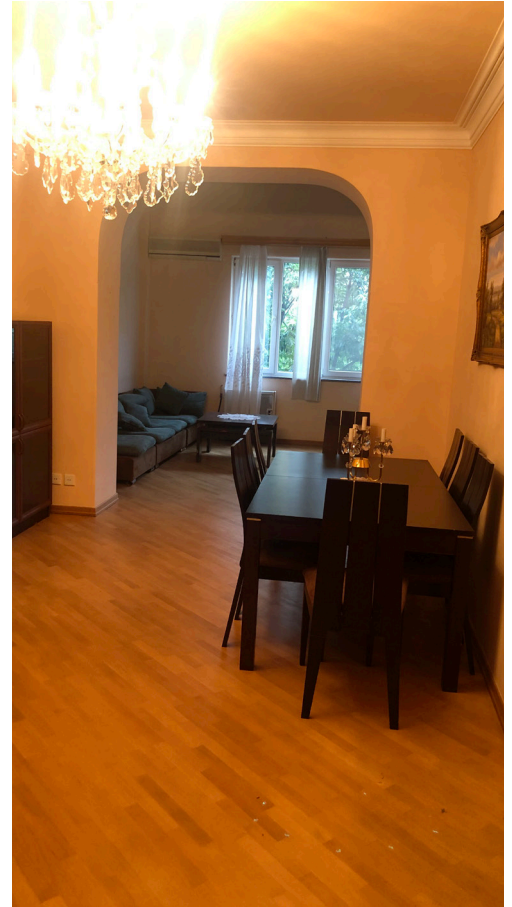
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