

Armenia Marks Genocide Anniversary



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan issued an address on the Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day on April 24.

On April 24, we commemorate the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide carried out by the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century, and tens of thousands of citizens will carry out a procession of respect, remembrance and meditation to the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said in a statement.

“The April 24 march is perhaps the most impactful occurrence that has predetermined and is predetermining our reality, an exceptional day to think about our history, past and future. What do young parents think when walking to the Tsitsernakaberd memorial, often holding the hands of young children, or what do elderly people with more life experience think?” he said.

“They are probably thinking about two questions. Why did the Meds Yeghern happen and what should be done to prevent its recurrence? Hundreds and thousands of works have been written about the causes of the Armenian Genocide, many reasons and motives have been revealed. As for the methodology to exclude the recurrence of such a crime, it largely depends on

our understanding of the concepts of “state” and “region,” the Prime Minister added.

According to PM Pashinyan, “only a developed and sovereign state is able to ensure the existence and security of our people, and everyone has something to do for the establishment of the state – with education, work, civil responsibility and respect for law.”

“Our strategic choice for the region is as follows. do we have the will and ability to normalize and develop our regional relations, regardless of, or even more so, when the existing security threats around us worsen due to regional or extra-regional reasons?” he added,

“Realizing all the difficulties and complications, our government has decided to go the way of finding a positive answer to that question, because only that way can guarantee security and well-being,” the Prime Minister emphasized.

“Today we bow to the memory of the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide and ponder about the past, present and future. And this is the best moment to think about the past, present and future,” he concluded.

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France reiterates support to Armenia in overcoming challenges: PM Pashinyan receives French Senators

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received the delegation headed by Bruno Retailleau, the chairman of the Republicans faction, which holds majority in the French Senate, the founder and chairman of the Senate group on Nagorno Karabakh.

The Prime Minister welcomed the visit of the Senate delegation to Armenia and highly appreciated France's support to our country in this difficult period. The head of the government separately thanked the Senate for adopting important resolutions regarding Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. "This time you are here on the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an important and symbolic day for us. As I mentioned in my [message](#) today, this is the most opportune moment to reflect



on the past, present and future," said the Prime Minister.

Bruno Retailleau, in turn, noted: "Today, on April 24, we stand by the Armenian people and together with you pay tribute to the memory of the innocent victims. They are also our victims, because it is

about the tragedy of all humanity." Mr. Retailleau once again expressed France's support to Armenia in solving existing problems and overcoming challenges.

The interlocutors touched upon the humanitarian crisis created in Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor, the installation of an illegal checkpoint in the Lachin Corridor in gross violation of the statement by Azerbaijan on

November 9, 2020, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the settlement of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In the context of ensuring security and stability in the region, the effective activity of the European Union observation mission in Armenia was highlighted.

Armenian FM briefs US officials on approaches regarding the settlement of existing issues

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan received US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Erika Olson. The meeting was also attended by the US senior adviser on Caucasus negotiations, co-chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group, Louis Bono.

Issues related to establishment of stability in the region, settlement of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, border demarcation and border security, unblocking of all economic and transport links in the region, the Nagorno Karabakh issue were

discussed.

Ararat Mirzoyan presented the approaches of the Armenian side regarding the settlement of the existing key issues, including addressing the rights and security of Nagorno Karabakh Armenians in order to achieve a comprehensive and stable peace. Minister Mirzoyan reaffirmed Armenia's commitment to the peace process, emphasizing the importance of Azerbaijan's renunciation of extremist aspirations, aggressive policy and belligerent rhetoric

towards the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and the territorial integrity of Armenia.

The interlocutors referred to the humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the imperative to remove the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor in accordance with the provisions of the statement of November 9, 2020.

Thoughts were also exchanged on issues related to the Armenia-US bilateral agenda, including the strategic dialogue.

Criminal proceedings initiated against two Azerbaijani citizens

The prosecutor has allowed initiating criminal proceedings against two Azerbaijani citizens – Agshin Babirov and Hussein Akhundov – for illegally crossing the border the Republic of Armenia in a prior consent with a group of persons, smuggling of firearms and munitions across Armenia's state border.

Charges have been presented under Article 469, Part 3, Clause 2 and Article 340, Part 2, Clause 1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia.

Detention has been chosen as a preventive measure.

Two Azerbaijani citizens crossed to the Armenian side earlier this month.



Speaker Simonyan calls on UN members with mandate of international security to make Azerbaijan comply with ICJ ruling



Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan has called on UN member states having mandate for preservation of international security to take action to make Azerbaijan comply with the International Court of

Justice ruling ordering it to reopen Lachin Corridor.

The Speaker issued a statement on Twitter after Azerbaijan installed a checkpoint in Lachin Corridor, in violation of the trilateral statement of 2020.

“The installation of a checkpoint in the Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan in the area of responsibility of Russian peacekeeping contingent is totally unacceptable as it is a gross violation of Provision 6 of 9 November 2020 Trilateral statement. We call on Russia to fulfill its obligation by ensuring the withdrawal of Azerbaijani forces from

entire security zone of Lachin Corridor and on UN member states having mandate for preservation of international security to take effective steps towards implementation of ICJ decision,” Simonyan tweeted.

The United Nations’ highest court – the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – ordered Azerbaijan on February 22 to “take all steps at its disposal” to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions. The Lachin Corridor has been blocked by Azerbaijan since 12 December 2022.

Any use of violence or any provocative act is unhelpful to peace process - U.S. Ambassador on Azerbaijani checkpoint

U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Kristina Kvien has said that Azerbaijan’s decision to set up a checkpoint in the Lachin Corridor is unhelpful to the peace process.

Speaking to reporters at the Armenian Genocide memorial in Yerevan, the Ambassador reiterated U.S. support to the peace process.

“As the United States said yesterday, we are deeply concerned about Azerbaijan’s decision to set up a checkpoint on Lachin Corridor. We find it unhelpful to the peace process. And what we are focusing on now is try to get the parties to speak



together to come up with solutions that are mutually agreed and we will continue to support the peace process to try to move it forward,” Ambassador Kvien said.

“We find any use of violence or any

provocative act to be unhelpful to the peace process, we said this before multiple times, and we will continue to try to move ahead to help the peace process move forward,” she added when asked whether Azerbaijan’s actions are damaging the peace process.

Asked whether the United States is considering sanctioning Azerbaijan as a retraining measure, Ambassador Kvien said: “The United States has not levied any sanctions so far on Azerbaijan. And I can’t comment on what we might do in the future.”

Council of Europe bodies should have access to Lachin corridor, the Secretary General says

The establishment of Azerbaijani checkpoint in the Lachin corridor, free movement through which was already questionable, is certainly a further deterioration of the situation in that area, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić said during question time at the Parliamentary Assembly.

“It certainly does not help building confidence and reducing tensions,” she said.

“I made my point clear in December,

when the Lachin corridor was first blocked, and I can only restate that I call to restore free movement, and in the meantime, we have an interim measure issued by the International Court of Justice,” she added.

The Secretary General pointed to the humanitarian crisis in the region and noted that “it goes beyond imagination how the situation of people living in that area is under complete blockade”

Mrs. Pejčinović Burić stressed that all

Council of Europe bodies should have a possibility to go to all areas covered by the Council of Europe, including the Lachin corridor.

“I know that some of the bodies wanted to go there to get first-hand information, because what we hear from the sides is contradictory, and I think the best way would be to allow the CoE bodies – the Commissioner for Human Rights, the PACE delegation – to assess the situation on the ground,” the Secretary General stated.

EU recorded violation of Armenia's state border in statement following April 11 Azeri aggression - PM

The EU clearly recorded in its [statement](#) on the latest Azeri aggression in the Togh village section that the 1991 border must be maintained, PM Nikol Pashinyan said in response to a reporter's observation that the EU monitors did not give a targeted assessment regarding the attack.

"I think that the EU statement, which didn't contain an assessment emotionally, but indeed, contained a very clear political record that the 1991 border must be maintained. And we agree with this. This is a highly important, fundamental record and assessment. And this means that the violation of the state border of Armenia has been recorded," Pashinyan said.

On April 11, Armenian troops carrying out engineering works near the village of Togh close to the border with Azerbaijan came under heavy gunfire in an

unprovoked attack. Four Armenian soldiers were killed and six wounded.

The European Union issued a statement over the April 11 deadly Azeri attack on Armenian troops near the village of Togh.

In a statement, the European Union External Action Service said the EU "deplores the armed clashes."

Below is the full statement.

"The EU deplores the armed clashes that yesterday led to several Armenian and Azerbaijani servicemen being killed or injured on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border in the area of Togh.

This incident yet again emphasises that in the absence of a delimited border, the 1991 line must be respected the forces of either side withdrawn to safe distances from this line to prevent any similar

incidents from occurring.

Previous commitments must be respected, including those reached in Prague in October 2022 regarding the mutual recognition of territorial integrity in line with the 1991 Almaty Declaration. The EU also urges the intensification of negotiations on the delimitation of the border and continues to stand ready to support this process.

We renew our calls for restraint and for the settlement of all disputes by peaceful means. The EU continues to support these efforts, including at the highest level, and also through the presence of the EU Mission in Armenia."

Afterwards, PM Pashinyan [said](#) Armenia welcomes the EU's statement and is ready to withdraw its forces to a safe distance from the 1991 line, as proposed by the EU.

Armenia government okays introduction of 6-month military service for women

The Armenian Government on April 21 approved amendments to the Law on Military Service and the Status of Servicemen and the Law on Defense, which envisage introduction of 6-month military service for females on voluntary basis.

The drafts will now be forwarded to the National Assembly. If passed, the law will be enforced during the winter draft.

According to Defense Minister Suren Papikyan, after conscription, women will not be able to terminate or postpone the military service due to "family circumstances," as it does not make sense within a 6-month period.

"Until the day of conscription, they can refuse mandatory military service, and will serve in training military units," Papikyan further clarified.

In case of full service, females will be paid 1 million drams at the end of the service.

According Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan "the service will not be a walk in the military unit."

"Women should become a full part of the military service," said the Prime Minister.

Armenian PM sees opportunity for establishment of normal relations with Turkey

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan sees opportunity to establish normal relations with Turkey

"That opportunity has increased due to extra-political, extra-diplomatic factors, or rather, human values, after we decided to respond to the catastrophic earthquake that occurred in Turkey at the beginning of this year with a logic based on human, neighborly values, and the Turkish government and public accepted our actions exactly that way," the Prime Minister said, presenting the annual report on the implementation and results of the Government's 2022 Action Plan.

"We would not have made the decision

to send a rescue team and humanitarian aid to Turkey if we had not changed our perspective of perceiving history and the problems arising from it during this period," he said.

"And the dozen flags of the Republic of Armenia flying in front of the Turkish Foreign Ministry during the visit of Foreign Minister Mirzoyan to Ankara are not only a ceremonial attribute, but an amazing record that hope can arise where despair prevails. The flags of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Turkey were raised over the ruins of our relations and the catastrophic earthquake, and I hope

that in the near future the Armenia-Turkey border will really open and a basis will be created for the development of normal neighborly relations," PM Pashinyan noted.

In this regard, he attached importance to implementing the agreement to open the border for citizens of third countries and holders of diplomatic passports.

"Of course, this may not happen if the new perceptions and impressions brought by humanitarian and neighborly values freeze and fade over time, and their influence on political and diplomatic decisions becomes null and void. I hope this will not happen," he stated.

Biden reaffirms Armenian Genocide recognition



For the third time since his election as United States president, Joe Biden has described the 1915 mass killings of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey as genocide.

In an annual statement on Armenian Remembrance Day released by the White House on April 24, Biden paid tribute to the memory of the Armenian genocide victims.

Today, we pause to remember the lives lost during the *Medz Yeghern*—the Armenian genocide—and renew our pledge to never forget, US President Joe Biden said in a statement on the 108th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

“On April 24, 1915, Ottoman authorities arrested Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople—the start of a systematic campaign of violence against the Armenian community. In the years that followed, one and a half million Armenians were deported, massacred, or marched to their deaths—a tragedy that forever affected generations of Armenian families,” the US President said.

“As we join nations around the world in remembering this painful history, we also reflect on the resilience and resolve of the Armenian people. So many of those

who survived were forced to begin new lives in new lands—including the United States. Here and around the world, the Armenian people have met the evil of hate with hope. They rebuilt their communities. They nurtured their families and preserved their culture. They strengthened our nation. They also told their stories—and those of their ancestors—to remember and to ensure that genocide like the one that happened 108 years ago is never again repeated,” Mr. Biden added.

“Today, let us renew this pledge. Let us recommit to speaking out against hate, standing up for human rights, and preventing atrocities. And together, let us redouble our efforts to forge a better future—one where all people can live with dignity, security, and respect,” he concluded.

Turkey unhappy with Biden’s Armenian Genocide remarks

Turkey has slammed US President Joe Biden and some other countries over their remarks on the Armenian Genocide.

“The unfortunate statements that are incompatible with historical facts and international law regarding the events of 1915 are futile efforts aimed at rewriting history for political motives,” read a written statement by the Turkish Foreign Ministry on April 24.

The statement followed the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide by Biden.



“We reject these statements, which we consider null and void, and condemn in the strongest terms those who persist in

this mistake. Turkey does not need to be lectured about its own history by anyone,” the ministry added.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also reacted to the statements through his Twitter account, calling it “yet another attempt by political charlatans to distort history.”

“No one shall dare to lecture us on our history,” the Turkish FM said.

The official blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh is a manifestation of Azerbaijan’s genocidal intent. Rubinyan in PACE

Armenpress reports that NA Vice-President, the member of the Armenian delegation Ruben Rubinyan, announced to the PACE that the official blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh since April 23 manifests Azerbaijan’s genocidal intent.

Beginning his speech at the PACE Plenary Session with the words about the 108th anniversary of the remembrance of the victims of the Armenian Genocide, Rubinyan emphasized. “We can and must at least try to prevent future atrocities. If we do that, we won’t have to speak about future atrocities in future sessions.”

He announced at the PACE that Azerbaijan has already officially blocked Nagorno-Karabakh completely since yesterday, illegally setting up a checkpoint in the

Lachin Corridor, which was supposed to connect Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh.

“And now 120,000 people are being held hostage by a country that hates them. And this happens just one week after the statement of the president of Azerbaijan that the Armenians of Karabakh should either accept Azerbaijani citizenship or find another place to live. And the fact that they officially started blocking Karabakh yesterday is a manifestation of Azerbaijan’s genocidal intent,” said the Vice President of the National Assembly.

Rubinyan remembered that this is probably the 5th or 6th session that he is talking about the threats faced by the 120 thousand population of Nagorno Karabakh.

“And I’m not talking about political risks, the threats to their rights, I’m not talking about the risk of war, I’m talking about the risk of genocide. I hope we will be able to prevent this”, Rubinyan said.

Azerbaijan, once again grossly violating the provisions of the trilateral declaration of November 9, 2020, since April 23 has closed the Hakari bridge in the Lachin Corridor, illegally installing a checkpoint.



Yerevan hosts first ever trilateral political consultations between Armenia, Iran and India

On April 20, the first trilateral political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of India were held in Yerevan.

The delegations were headed by Mnatsakan Safaryan, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, Seyed Rasoul Mousavi, the Assistant of the Foreign Minister of Iran, Head of the Regional General Department of South Asia and J P Singh, the



Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, the foreign ministry said

to continue consultations in a trilateral format.

in a press release.

During the meeting, the sides particularly touched upon economic issues and regional communication channels, outlined the prospects of deepening cultural and people to people contacts as well as trilateral cooperation in various fields. The sides agreed

Armenia and India embark on new phase of development of cooperation in defense sector

Armenian Minister of Defense Suren Papikyan held a meeting on April 19 with the newly appointed Ambassador of India Nilakshi Saha Sinha.

The Minister of Defense congratulated the Ambassador on assuming office and wished productive work.

The Minister and the Ambassador discussed “a number of issues relating to cooperation in the defense area,” the



Ministry of Defense said in readout.

“Suren Papikyan praised the current level of cooperation between Armenia and India, noting that the bilateral cooperation has embarked on a new phase of development. The Ambassador expressed the Indian side’s readiness for developing cooperation. A number of issues relating to regional security were also discussed.

Armenia to establish Fund for creation and management of the Academic City

The government on April 21 adopted a decision on creating the Academic City Fund and approving the fund’s charter.

The establishment of an academic city is also planned by the government’s 2021-2026 Action Plan, according to which reforms in the field of higher education will be aimed at providing a physical, virtual and socially attractive environment through the review of the necessary infrastructure. In this regard, the idea of

establishing an academic city is of strategic significance.

The Academic City Fund is expected to carry out the following functions: the design and construction of an academic city as a modern environment for quality education and research; the construction, maintenance and improvement of appropriate building infrastructure; promoting research and learning; creation of a safe, multifunctional environment equipped

with modern digital technologies, taking into account the modern and developing methodology of the fields, security and universal accessibility standards; the creation of gyms, libraries, individual and team work spaces equipped in an innovative style, as well as a physical environment conducive to creative activity, academic implementation of other actions arising from the concept of the city.

Armenia ready to cooperate with Philip Morris International in scientific research

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received Gregoire Verdeaux, Senior Vice President of Philip Morris International.

The Prime Minister noted that the Armenian government has initiated a large-scale campaign against smoking and the work in that direction continues. Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the implementation of scientific research programs by “Philip Morris International” in Armenia,



the activity of the company’s scientific

research center, since technological and scientific innovations can contribute to reducing the harm of smoking.

Nikol Pashinyan added that the Armenian government is ready to discuss future cooperation programs and initiatives in the direction of scientific research.

In this context, the interlocutors referred to issues of further cooperation.

Armenian SPRING PR and British Finanser to Collaborate

The Finanser and SPRING PR have entered into a long-term agreement to showcase the latest digital transformation trends and best practices in the region. By promoting innovation and technology across various sectors of the digital economy, the companies aim to foster a competitive environment and support its growth.

Chris Skinner’s second visit to the region is scheduled for this autumn. As per the agreements, SPRING PR will fully coordinate these efforts. In Yerevan and various countries across the region, Skinner will lead closed-format masterclasses for medium and large enterprises, as well as for government institutions involved in digital transformation initiatives.

“Observing SPRING PR’s expertise, we opted to expand our collaboration by



signing an exclusive, long-term contract. Soon, we’ll be hosting a workshop in Georgia, where there is significant interest. Together with SPRING PR, we plan to hold numerous events in the region, including masterclasses,” said Fintech and Digital Transformation Expert Chris Skinner.

The inaugural Doing Digital Forum in Yerevan on April 5 attracted over 1,000 attendees from numerous countries,

featuring specialists from Georgia, the USA, Brazil, France, the UAE, the UK, Singapore, and more. Chris Skinner deemed his visit to Armenia a success.

In recognition of Chris Skinner’s influence in the digital transformation field and the global popularity of his books, SPRING PR will translate and publish one of his works.

Tatevik Simonyan emphasized that the Doing Digital Platform will introduce new formats throughout the year. The annual Doing Digital Forum is expected to grow even larger. Simonyan highlighted SPRING PR’s continued efforts to position Armenia as an innovative hub, thereby contributing to the nation’s digital economy development and enhancing its global competitiveness.

The Margara bridge is in good state, ready for exploitation - Gnel Sanosyan

According to the studies conducted by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, the Margara Bridge is in a fairly good state and is ready for exploitation, ARMENPRESS reports, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanosyan told the journalists, talking about the studies carried out around the Margara bridge.

“Part of the work on the Margara Bridge is under our domain and we have

carried out a study which has revealed that the bridge is in a fairly good state and is ready for exploitation. The only problem with the bridge is that it is narrow and can provide one-way traffic. In the future, depending on the process, if the traffic increases over time and there is a need to either widen the bridge or build a new one, but I think it will be right to build the second one if necessary,” concluded Sanosyan.



Aliyev's statements prove his intention to torpedo efforts aimed establishing peace – Armenia MFA



The statements that President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made on April 18, 2023 once again demonstrate his intentions to torpedo the efforts of the Armenian side and the international community aimed at establishing peace in the South Caucasus, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“With these statements Ilham Aliyev demonstrates an overt contempt for various international partners, in the presence and mediation of which Azerbaijan recognized the territorial integrity of Armenia and assumed a number of clear obligations, including both the delimitation of the borders between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the basis of the Almaty Declaration and on the establishment of an international mechanism to address the rights and security guarantees for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh,” the Ministry said.

“Moreover, with his statement the President of Azerbaijan openly admits

the fact of the preplanned aggression and occupation of the sovereign territories of the Republic of Armenia and also explicitly reveals his intentions to subject the population of Nagorno-Karabakh to ethnic cleansing. The President of Azerbaijan, under whose leadership gross and flagrant institutional violations of human rights and the rights of various groups are taking place in the country, openly voices existential threats towards the peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh living in their homeland,” it added.

“The hate speech expressed by the top leadership of Azerbaijan towards the Armenian people is clearly aimed at deepening the intolerance and hatred towards the Armenian people which has been propagated in the Azerbaijani society by the state authorities for decades. The consequences of this hate speech are also the war crimes, extrajudicial executions of prisoners of war and civilian captives, committed by the representatives of the Azerbaijani armed forces on the basis of ethnicity, video recordings and their distribution by those who committed such crimes as a matter of pride,” the statement reads.

“The statements of the political leadership of Azerbaijan also encourage actions like those of the Azerbaijani soldier who illegally infiltrated the territory of the Republic of Armenia a few days ago, deliberately and brutally murdered an Armenian citizen and tried to inform the Azerbaijani side about this incident as well as about his intention to kill many other Armenian civilians. We are sure that after these recent statements of the President of Azerbaijan, the international community cannot have any doubts about the fact that this as well as the above-mentioned crimes were organized at the state level,” the Foreign Ministry stated. .

“Instead of looking for sustainable and lasting solutions to the problems that have accumulated in the region for years, Azerbaijan is trying to advance its maximalist claims through the use of force and threats of the use of force. The Armenian side has repeatedly warned about the destabilizing prospects of this policy conducted by Azerbaijan and drew the attention of the international community to the dangers of such behavior and actions against the world order based on international law,” it concluded.

There must be a negotiated and lasting settlement to Artsakh issue – Nancy Pelosi

There must be a negotiated, comprehensive, and lasting settlement to the Artsakh conflict so that we can pave the way to peace and security, Member of the House of Representatives, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi said at the Congressional Armenian Genocide observance.

“Make no mistake. Support for the Armenian people is bipartisan. America



will be there as Armenia holds down an

important front in the battle of a democracy versus autocracy. We saw that when we were there,” she said.

Recalling her visit to the Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan last year, Pelosi said it was a “life-changing experience,” stressing that it’s necessary to ensure that such atrocities never happen again.

PM Pashinyan on possible peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan



The peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan will become realistic if the two countries clearly, without ambiguities and pitfalls, recognize each other's territorial integrity and undertake not to submit territorial claims to each other today and ever, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the National Assembly on April 18.

"In fact, we agreed on this with the President of Azerbaijan on October 6, 2022 in Prague and on October 31 in Sochi, which was recorded in relevant public statements. Nevertheless, there are official statements coming from both Yerevan and Baku, accusing the other party of not keeping the agreements," he said.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed that the Republic of Armenia fully recognizes the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and expects that Azerbaijan will do the same by recognizing the entire territory of the Armenian SSR as the Republic of Armenia.

"I should also say that Azerbaijan's claims that during the peace treaty negotiations Armenia refused or refuses to fully recognize Azerbaijan's territorial integrity are untrue, and we can prove it. We ourselves proposed that the maps

of the Armenian and Azerbaijani SSRs, approved by the USSR, be attached to the treaty as a basis for the territorial integrity of the two countries," PM Pashinyan said.

"But this is where we come to the biggest and most complex problem – Nagorno Karabakh. And there is a subtlety which, in fact, has been very urgent during the last 16 years, but we have never addressed it. And the problem is that we usually reflect and have reflected on the future of Nagorno Karabakh, but it was and is important to also address the issue of the situation in Nagorno Karabakh at any time during the existence of the conflict," Nikol Pashinyan said.

"In fact, in the last five years, I have tried to do this several times, but unfortunately, every time the topic turns into an opposition-government debate, which is also normal. But in reality, there is a practical problem – the need to objectively find the answer to the question, and I will now try to do it in such a way that what was said does not look like an accusation directed at anyone, so that we focus on the content of the question and not on the form," he said.

"I consider peace to be my political commitment, especially now, especially after the reconfirmation of the people's vote of confidence in the 2021 parliamentary elections. And in this context, of course, it is extremely important that an international mechanism of negotiations and dialogue be formed between Baku and Stepanakert, and that the mechanism ensures the realization of the agenda of ensuring the rights and security of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh," he said.

In the context of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace treaty, he attached importance to an international mechanisms guaranteeing the implementation of a possible peace agreement. "Otherwise, a war may break out or a new escalation may occur the day after the agreement is signed. It is also important to have mechanisms for resolving disputes between the parties, so that if the parties are unable to resolve the issues related to the interpretation of the text of the contract through direct negotiations, there should be a court that will do so and whose decision will be binding for the parties."

"Of course, the opening of economic and transport communications is also extremely important for peace. But I have touched on this issue many times, noting that the roads defined by point 9 of the tripartite statement of November 9, 2020 should be reopened based on the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the parties. Of course, the practical side of applying jurisdiction should and can meet modern technological requirements, but the important thing here is not so much the technical details as the legal content," he stated.

JE SUIS UNE ARMÉNIENNE DE LA DIASPORA

Citoyens de la Turquie moderne, Je m'appelle Takouhie Sisslian, et mon nom de famille devrait suffire pour vous parler de mes origines.

24 avril... Connaissez-vous ce que représente cette date pour le peuple arménien ?

Je prendrai votre silence comme réponse.

Je ne vous blâme pas pour votre manque de connaissance, étant donné que dans vos écoles, les nombreuses pages de l'histoire du peuple arménien ne sont même pas incluses dans les manuels scolaires. Cela explique le silence assourdissant de ceux d'entre vous qui ne connaissent pas la véritable histoire de la Turquie et de l'Arménie, et de ceux d'entre vous qui le savent et en ont honte ; si un sentiment aussi noble pourrait exister dans n'importe lequel de vos cœurs... Après tout, ce n'est pas de votre faute si votre gouvernement vous interdit de nommer le génocide arménien et toute corrélation de celui-ci avec la Turquie ; mais néanmoins, considérez-vous chanceux parce que bien que vous soyez forcés de vivre avec un gouvernement qui vous prive de la liberté de pensée, d'expression, de connaissance et, surtout, de la vérité, vous êtes privilégiés de vivre dans votre patrie. Par contre moi, ainsi que toute la diaspora arménienne que je représente aujourd'hui n'avons même pas eu l'opportunité de jouir de ce grand privilège.

La nôtre est une diaspora qui existe en raison du premier génocide du XXe siècle.

Un génocide qui a été méticuleusement planifié et systématiquement exécuté par le gouvernement turc en 1915 contre le peuple arménien

Un génocide ordonné par le ministre Talaat Pacha qui, en 1915, a prononcé exactement ces mots à l'armée turque: « Détruisez complètement tous les Arméniens. Il faut mettre une fin à leur existence, quelles qu'en soient les mesures pénales. Vous devez être sans scrupules, et aucune attention ne doit être accordée à l'âge, au sexe ou à la condition physique. »

Un génocide qui a conduit à la mort de plus d'un million et demi d'Arméniens,

tuant la majorité de la population de cette époque et les privant de même de leurs terres.

Un génocide qui a été officiellement reconnu par 29 pays, y compris les États-Unis d'Amérique; mais 29 pays qui n'ont jamais inclus et n'incluent toujours pas la Turquie dans leurs déclarations de reconnaissance.

Le génocide des Arméniens n'est pas une simple "redistribution géographique du peuple", bien que ce soit ainsi qu'il soit défini par les historiens turcs et le gouvernement turc respectivement ; un gouvernement - qui, pour des raisons géopolitiques - a toujours refusé et refuse toujours de relever la responsabilité de ses crimes contre l'humanité et refuse toujours de rendre justice au peuple arménien.

Aujourd'hui, le 24 avril 2023, en l'honneur du jour de la commémoration du génocide arménien, je voudrais que vous tous, peut-être pour la première fois, essayiez de vous mettre à notre place et à celle de nos ancêtres. Qu'est-ce que cela fait de savoir que les membres de votre famille ont été forcés à quitter leur maison et qu'ils ont dû les voir s'effondrer alors qu'ils s'éloignaient ? Savoir que vos concitoyens ont été torturés pendant des heures, et parfois des jours et des semaines entières, avant d'être massacrés ? Savoir que chaque endroit, chaque bâtiment, chaque espace qui avait une quelconque signification pour vous a été détruit dans le seul but de vous anéantir ? Savoir que tout ce qui est possible a été fait pour essayer de détruire votre pays, votre culture, vos traditions, mais surtout, votre existence ? Imaginez comment vous vous sentiriez si ces injustices vous étaient arrivées ; votre pays, vos maisons, vos familles, vos amis les plus proches, votre tout. Ne réclameriez-vous pas justice ? Je suis sûre que vous le feriez, et vous vous battriez chaque jour de votre vie pour l'obtenir. Et s'il y a même une personne qui m'écoute en ce moment et qui n'est pas d'accord avec ma déclaration, eh bien, alors je peux vous dire qu'il me ment ainsi qu'à soi-même. Chacun d'entre vous se battra, sans jamais se rendre,

pour obtenir justice et pour s'assurer que les coupables du massacre que vos ancêtres ont subi reconnaissent leur acte et s'excusent. C'est exactement la raison de ma requête aujourd'hui, que vous compreniez maintenant et, d'une manière ou d'une autre, j'espère également que vous y adhérerez. Malheureusement, l'histoire ne peut pas être revisitée et les blessures gravées dans le cœur de chaque Arménien ne peuvent pas être guéries ou effacées ; mais la justice peut et doit être obtenue pour chaque âme qui a été perdue, pour chaque église qui a été détruite, pour chaque Arménien qui n'est pas né et ne naîtra pas dans sa patrie ...Et, pour chaque fois qu'un Arménien voit du fil de fer barbelé autour de ce qui était autrefois sa patrie, pour chaque enfant qui n'a jamais été en mesure de découvrir ce que la vie lui réservait, pour chaque acte de violence, pour chaque larme et pour chaque blessure, la justice doit être obtenue.

Aujourd'hui, en l'honneur de tous les Arméniens qui sont décédés injustement, j'aimerais que vous réfléchissiez et admettiez les erreurs commises par vos prédécesseurs, afin qu'ensemble nous puissions écrire une nouvelle page de l'histoire, la bonne : celle de la vérité. Après exactement 108 ans de déni, je suis toujours capable de vous demander d'accorder la justice aux droits de l'homme et à l'humanité, croyant que cette fois, vous m'écouteriez vraiment, moi et mes concitoyens, parce que nous savons que vous êtes capable de faire ce qui est juste.

Vous pouvez démontrer que vous avez appris des erreurs de vos prédécesseurs.

Vous pouvez faire preuve d'intégrité et de conscience envers le peuple arménien et envers vos actes.

Vous pouvez changer l'idée préconçue, qu'en raison des erreurs de vos prédécesseurs, d'autres ont, de votre pays.

Vous pouvez obtenir justice pour le peuple arménien ; et puisque vous ne changerez jamais l'histoire, aujourd'hui, vous pouvez au moins changer l'avenir.

TAKOUHIE SISSLIAN. 24 avril 2023

Azerbaijan has long been engaged in the illegal practice of acquisition of territories by force, Armenian envoy tells UN Security Council

Azerbaijan has steadily established itself as a serial violator whose record of aggressive, criminal actions in the region must be acknowledged for what they represent – premeditated, carefully planned and executed efforts, which are demonstrative of an intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national and ethnic group as



such, Armenia's Permanent Representative to the UN Mher Margaryan said at the UN Security Council on April 24.

"Time and again, Armenia has consistently alerted the international community on the instances of gross violations of the international law in our part of the world. We have repeatedly brought it to the attention of this Council that Azerbaijan — Armenia's neighbor, who is multiple times larger in size, and resources — has been engaging in the illegal practice of acquisition of territories by force," the envoy said.

"In 2020, Azerbaijan launched a wave of deadly violence in the region, in an attempt to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by force, contrary to provisions of the UN Charter. The reality is that Azerbaijan exploited the vulnerabilities of the international order and the deficiencies of multilateral system to launch a large-scale military aggression, conducted in gross violation of the international humanitarian law, accompanied with numerous cases of atrocities, including against the civilians," he added.

Mr. Margaryan reminded that in September 2022, Azerbaijan launched yet another criminal attack targeting densely populated areas and civilian infrastructure

in Armenia.

"Since 12 December 2022 the population of 120,000 people in Nagorno-Karabakh has been kept hostage in the conditions of the blockade imposed by Azerbaijan, disrupting the only lifeline connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia and the outer world," the Ambassador noted.

"On 22 February, this year, the International Court of Justice issued provisional measure, according to which Azerbaijan shall "take all measures at its disposal to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions". To this date, it has failed to implement the Court's legally binding Order, engaging, instead, in manipulative interpretations, distortions and fabrications, which, as we have seen, have little value in the court of law," he continued.

"Notwithstanding the presence of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation on the ground, as per 9 November 2020 Trilateral statement, not only has the corridor continued to remain disrupted for over 4 months now, but, as of yesterday, an Azerbaijani checkpoint was installed, in flagrant violation of the

commitments under the Trilateral statement and the Order of the ICJ," the envoy said.

"We have been warning the United Nations and this Council that the alarming situation in Nagorno-Karabakh is close to turning into a humanitarian catastrophe. Two and a half years into the establishment of the ceasefire, the UN and its humanitarian agencies are

yet to render the much needed assistance for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh," he stated.

Mher Margaryan stressed that "by now, it should be beyond any reasonable doubt for anyone in the international community that Azerbaijan has steadily established itself as a serial violator whose record of aggressive, criminal actions in the region must be acknowledged for what they represent – premeditated, carefully planned and executed efforts, which are demonstrative of an intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national and ethnic group as such."

"The masterminds of such plans in Azerbaijan, as well as their enablers, must however bear in mind, that no amount of distorted narrative, or corruption and manipulations with energy resources can alter the fact that there is no statute of limitation for a certain category of crimes, and those committing such serious violations will have to face responsibility, including through mechanisms of international jurisdiction, as justice and accountability must be at the core of effective multilateralism," he concluded.

Armenian Genocide Education Act to be re-introduced in U.S. House of Representatives



United States congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Congressmen Ted Lieu (D-CA), and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) are re-introducing the Armenian Genocide Education Act, a bipartisan measure – building upon official U.S. Congressional and Presidential recognition of this crime – to fund Library of Congress educational programs about the history, lessons, consequences, and ongoing costs of the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) reported.

This landmark legislation – strongly

supported by the ANCA – seeks to provide \$10 million in funding over five years for the Library of Congress to educate Americans about Ottoman Turkey’s systematic and deliberate state-sponsored mass murder, national dispossession, cultural erasure, and exile of millions of Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syrians, Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians, between 1915 and 1923.

“With Azerbaijan, backed by Turkey, openly seeking to complete the Armenian Genocide, it’s more urgent than ever for American school children to learn the lessons of this still unpunished – still ongoing – crime against all humanity,” said ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian. “Chief among these lessons is that we – as Americans – must never, for reasons of political convenience or practical expediency, turn a blind eye to state-driven genocidal campaigns to eradicate indigenous

populations or other at-risk groups, anywhere in the world.”

Building upon the 2019 passage of H.Res.296 and S.Res.150 – which specifically rejected any official U.S. association with Armenian Genocide denial – the Armenian Genocide Education Act seeks to counter-discourse and propaganda that claims that Ottoman Turkey’s systematic and deliberate state-sponsored mass murder, national dispossession, cultural erasure, and exile of millions of Christians between 1915 and 1923 did not take place. A similar measure was introduced in the last session of Congress.

Members of Congress can join as original cosponsors of the measure in the days leading up to its introduction, timed around April 24th, the international day of justice for the Armenian Genocide, ANCA reported.

Prosecutor General calls for serious work in education programs to have stress-tolerant society to prevent suicides

Prosecutor General Anna Vardapetyan said that the general prosecution has already outlined the work on identifying the reasons of suicides in the country. She described the more than 60% growth in suicides to be “concerning”.

Vardapetyan made the remarks during a parliamentary committee session on the annual report of the prosecution.

“We are really concerned over the growth in suicides. We’ve outlined the works for identifying the reasons. Although this isn’t the prosecution’s function, we’ve regularly made notifications through motions regarding identified reasons as part of specific proceedings concerning both civilians and military servicemembers, but now we will inform the relevant bodies more intensively, for example the defense ministry and others,”



Vardapetyan told lawmakers at the Parliamentary Committee on State and Legal Affairs.

She said the reasons behind suicide in the country vary, ranging from certain manifestations of depression up to individual or social phenomena, as well as

gambling-related occurrences, which impact the person’s mental state.

“There is a need for serious psychological work here, but not individually, rather institutionally, for example serious work should be done in educational programs in order to have

a stress-tolerant society, because we live in an information noise, and sometimes this noise flows into very unprepared minds. We will present concrete recommendations during the next session to address the problem on the state level,” Vardapetyan said.

Wiki Loves Monuments: Photo of Saghmosavank in Armenia named among winners



Out of more than 150,000 submissions from 3,700 participants in 30+ countries, fifteen winning images were announced on April 18 in the thirteenth annual Wiki Loves Monuments photography contest.

The photo of Saghmosavank Church in Armenia has been named among the winners of the Wiki Loves Mountains 2023 contest.

The photo submitted by Hayk Hovhannisyan took the ninth place in the contest.

Thirteenth-century monastic complex Saghmosavank, in Armenia, was under snow when Hayk Hovhannisyan took this hypnotic photo.

“It was a beautiful winter day and I



wanted to share the amazing monument of my amazing country,” the author explains.

A jury member noticed that the monument stands out very well despite the white snow, indicating that “there is a nice softness in this photo.”

The photo of Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand by Kriengsak Jirasirojanakorn became the winner. The second-place photo is that of the Fetsund Booms in Norway (photographer: Jarle Kvam). The photo of a church in Jaszczurówka, a small village in Poland, captured the third place (photographer: Jakub T. Jankiewicz).

Recognized by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the world’s largest photography competition, Wiki Loves Monuments celebrates Earth’s rich cultural heritage — buildings, structures, and other assets that are culturally relevant due to their artistic, historic, political, technical, or architectural importance.

The contest serves as a platform for

global collaboration in providing free access to mesmerizing photos of monuments from all over the planet. As part of the competition, photographers donate their images to [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/), the free repository that holds most of the images used on Wikipedia, to ensure that the world’s most visible cultural heritage is documented and held in trust for future generations.

Since the first edition of Wiki Loves Monuments in 2010, more than 2.8 million photos were submitted by over 60,000 participants all around the world. This year, the competition elicited 150,000 image submissions uploaded by 3,700 people.

The 2023 winners come from 11 different countries, including Thailand, Poland, Malaysia, Brazil, Armenia, and others, and were selected from a group of national winners by an international jury of experts.



EWF General Secretary impressed by level of organization of 2023 European Weightlifting Championships in Yerevan



General Secretary of the European Weightlifting Federation Milan Mihajlovic

praised the level of organization of the 2023 European Weightlifting Championships in Yerevan.

“The European federation is very happy that the championships are held in Armenia. Armenian sports, particularly weightlifting, is well known in the world. We are happy that Yerevan is hosting the 2023 European championships. The organization is impressive, it’s obvious that work has been done in this direction,”

Mihajlovic told ARMENPRESS.

Mihajlovic also spoke about the values of sport.

“We are all friends here and we are happy to preserve the values in this area. Regrettably, sometimes some people don’t understand this and ruin the atmosphere and create difficulties for us all,” Mihajlovic added, apparently referring to incident with the Azerbaijani flag during the opening ceremony.

Austrian Space Forum’s “Mars mission” in Armenia to explore the site of next simulation



The delegation of the Austrian Space Forum is the site of its next Mars analog simulation (AMADEE24) site in Armenia and inspiring next generation for Mars.

On Sunday, the delegation visited the AMADEE24 mission site in the Ararat region, scouting for the perfect location for the upcoming Mars simulation.

Later in the day, the delegation had the

chance of inspiring the next generation of space enthusiasts at the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies in Yerevan.

Armenia is expected to become the hub of Mars research in March 2024.

The crew for the mission has already been determined: two women and four men from Austria, Germany, Israel, Italy

and Great Britain will participate in the simulation. Anika Mehlis from Germany will be the first woman to lead the mission.

Simulating Mars human-robotic surface activities in terrestrial analogs has evolved into an efficient tool for developing exploration mission architectures. They facilitate to understand the advantages and limitations of future Human planetary missions, becoming an added value for the development of remote science operations, helping to understand the constraints and opportunities of the technology and workflows.

The test sites are being selected for their geological and topographic similarity to Mars. Several factors must be considered to determine whether an area is suitable for Mars analog missions on Earth. First and foremost, the physical and geological characteristics of the terrain must be studied.

Therefore, soil and sediment samples from Armenia, collected during the preliminary exploration of possible AMADEE -24 Mars simulation areas, were investigated sediment-geologically.

Yerevan revealed as 2023’s best destination for backpackers

A study by Outdoor gear specialists [Cotswold Outdoor](#) reveals the world’s top capital cities for backpackers to visit this year.

Armenia’s capital Yerevan has been revealed as the top destination for backpackers in 2023, Baku, Bangkok, Hanoi and Seoul complete the top five.

With some of the cheapest average hostel prices (\$14 p/ night) and low public transport costs (\$0.25 per trip), Armenia’s capital Yerevan ranks first.

The city is the 5th safety capital city and home to a wealth of hostels (278) to choose from.

A basic grocery shop in the Armenian capital also comes at a reasonable cost of \$13, for essentials like fruit, rice, eggs, bread, and milk.

As for its choice of free attractions, the city ranks more mid-range offering 105 in total.

With approximately 44 million back-

packing trips being taken each year, research estimates the average spend per trip is \$4,111 (2017). Analysing 80+ capital



along with crime rates, mobile internet speeds and the number of couch surf hosts and free attractions available.

ARMENIA

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Armenian Identity Card

The goal of the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) non-profit organization is to unify Armenians worldwide in a common platform so that through contacts, queries and referenda they can express their views and positions regarding issues of general interest to Armenians around the world and issues of particular interest to Armenian communities in various countries.

Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) also makes it possible to establish business networks, the cardholder can participate in various charitable projects, and can obtain discounts from Armenian and non-Armenian businesses all over the world. Armenians should feel themselves to be full-fledged "citizens" of a reborn Armenia and the Armenian Identity Card is the «passport» for all Armenians.

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network is an effective environment where Armenians can implement various projects and pan-Armenian programs. At the heart of HyeID is the creation of an Armenian database which will become the reliable and objective basis to realize the potential of all Armenians around the world. Based on that database, it will be possible to implement various permanent and temporary initiatives through the Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) organization.

- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) worldwide network enables cardholders to elect and get elected to the leadership of The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) network structures.
- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can benefit from the possibility of discounts intended for HyeID cardholders when shopping for products and services in various countries of the world.
- The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders can participate in queries and referenda initiated by the HyeID network and vote on issues of national interest to Armenians.
- Ensure the security

and privacy of The Armenian Identification Card (HyeID) cardholders. The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

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