

German Leader emphasizes the right of self-determination of NK citizens for the resolution of the conflict



Germany - German Chancellor Olaf Scholz meets with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Berlin, March 2, 2023.

Germany is concerned about the situation on Armenian-Azerbaijani border and is in favor of eliminating differences between Yerevan and Baku, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said at a press conference after talks with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

“It is important that Armenia and Azerbaijan resolve their long-standing conflict. The Prime Minister told me about the current situation. We remain concerned about the unstable situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and, above all, the increasingly critical humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh,” the Chancellor said.

According to him, the current situation “should be quickly reduced to an acceptable solution for the benefit of local residents.”

“From our point of view, it is now important to reach a peaceful solution based on the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the right of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to self-determination. All these aspects are equally important,” Scholz said.

Scholz also emphasized that Armenia and Azerbaijan should go step by step to a long-term solution. Germany supports the

mediation efforts of the President of the European Council Charles Michel. Scholz emphasized that Germany did this by also sending German personnel as part of the EU civilian mission. Moreover, that mission will be headed by a German federal police officer.

Scholz considered the exchange of ideas between Pashinyan and Aliyev in Prague and Munich as an encouraging step for the resolution of the conflict.

Referring to the question and the observation that Azerbaijan does not even comply with the decision of the Hague Court to ensure free movement through the Lachin Corridor, Scholz reaffirmed. “We support the right to self-determination, as well as the principle of territorial integrity.” He emphasized the improvement of security in the region.

Scholz and Pashinyan also talked about the countries’ economic relations. The Chancellor of Germany encouraged Prime Minister Pashinyan to continue his fight against corruption.

Scholz also thanked the Armenian Prime Minister for his visit to Germany.

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FM Mirzoyan, FM Lavrov discuss Armenia-Azerbaijan settlement

Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed the Armenian-Azerbaijani settlement during their meeting in New Delhi within the framework of the Raisina Dialogue, the Russian foreign ministry said in a read-out.

FM Mirzoyan and FM Lavrov stressed “the urgency to intensify efforts in all directions of the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations,” according to the read-out released by the Russian foreign ministry.

“An exchange of ideas around regional



issues took place. The urgency to intensify efforts in all directions of the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations in accordance with the 9 November 2020, 11 January and 26 November 2021 and 31

October 2022 agreements between the leaders of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan was stressed,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Relevant issues of the bilateral agenda were also discussed.

“The approaches for intensifying cooperation in international platforms as part of common integration unions were combined,” the ministry added. It said that the talks were held in an atmosphere of trust and friendship, and that an agreement on future diplomatic contacts was reached.

Luxembourg ready to contribute to establishment of peace in region – Vice Speaker Djuna Bernard



Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan held a meeting with the parliamentary delegation from Luxembourg led by MP Djuna Bernard, Vice

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies/ Vice President of the Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg.

Grigoryan said that Armenia attaches importance to the development of the multi-sector partnership with Luxembourg, the Office of the Secretary of the Security Council said in a read-out. Grigoryan expressed confidence that the Armenian-Luxembourgish bilateral relations will continue getting stronger.

Bernard underscored Luxembourg's readiness to contribute to the establishment of peace in the region and mentioned the recent ICJ ruling ordering Azerbaijan

to ensure unimpeded movement of people and vehicles in the Lachin corridor.

The developments taking place in the region and the activities of the EU civilian mission in Armenia were also discussed.

The United Nations' highest court – the International Court of Justice – 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 is blocked by Azerbaijan since 12 December 2022.

Political consultations between Armenian and Italian Foreign Ministries held in Rome

Armenian and Italian diplomats have highly appreciated the political dialogue between the two countries and discussed a wide range of issues on Armenian-Italian bilateral agenda.

Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Armenia and Italy were held in Rome under the co-chairmanship of Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Paruyr Hovhannisyan and Italy's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Edmondo Cirielli.

Referring to the prospects of economic cooperation, the parties expressed their readiness to take steps in the direction of expanding economic ties. Cooperation in cultural, educational and scientific spheres was also discussed.

The parties also touched on a number of international and regional issues, including the Armenia-EU expanded partnership, discussed the possibilities of mutual support within the framework of international organizations, and emphasized the importance of holding periodic political consultations.

Deputy Minister Paruyr Hovhannisyan presented the complex security situation in the region and Armenia's commitment and efforts to establish peace. The deputy minister noted the severe humanitarian consequences of the ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor and emphasized the importance of the implementation of the relevant decision of the International Court of Justice.

Within the framework of his visit to Rome, Paruyr Hovhannisyan also had meetings with the Vice President of the Italian Senate, Gian Marco Centinaio, and the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, Giulio Tremonti.



Nothing but rumor: PM Pashinyan denies claims Armenia is helping Russia bypass sanctions

The sanctions against Russia are not circumvented through Armenia, Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan said at a joint press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, referring to the question of the possibility of bypassing sanctions against Russia through 3rd countries, including Armenia, and the observation that EU trade with Armenia has increased.

“As a democratic country and as a country, for which transparency is very important, we have told all our Western partners and we are telling them that we are ready and transparent in this matter. Yes, the numbers are changing; the numbers are changing all over the world, because the logistics chains, relationships



are changing. Not only the imports from the EU to Armenia have increased, but also the exports from Armenia to the EU countries have increased,” said the Prime Minister.

He emphasized that Armenia is interested in establishing relations with the EU.

Referring to the rumors about circumventing the sanctions, Pashinyan

emphasized. “They are nothing more than mere rumors. The reality is just the opposite. Last spring, a western owner took possession of an aircraft used by one of the Russian airlines from Armenia. And this, I think, is the most direct and clear example when we have shown that, respecting all our relations, all our partners, the legality of actions and activities is of fundamental importance to us.”

Pashinyan does not think that a country where such a thing has happened can be blamed for any other shady circumstances. On the other hand, the Prime Minister emphasized that they will follow the events with all their attention to help the private sector not to engage in such activities that could spoil Armenia’s relations with any partner.

The fight against corruption is a matter of fundamental importance for Armenia - Pashinyan



The fight against corruption is a matter of fundamental importance for Armenia, there cannot be any case of corruption, the investigation of which does not take place properly, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said during the parliament-Cabinet Q&A session.

“The fight against corruption is a matter of fundamental importance for Armenia. And we will not weaken our efforts in this fight in any way,” said Pashinyan.

As for the facts published by the opposition, which refer to corruption cases, the Prime Minister assured that the law enforcement bodies are also interested in these facts.

“I must assure that there cannot be any case of corruption that will not be properly investigated. It is excluded that there will be any corruption case and that case will not be investigated at a proper level,” said Pashinyan.

The Prime Minister noted that corruption, first of all, is connected with state administration, local self-government bodies, judicial and other systems. The Prime Minister emphasized that his position remains very clear: in the field of public administration, in the judicial system there should be a significant increase in salaries.

“It is not possible to say on the one hand: let’s fight against corruption, let the state bodies provide quality services and say that, for example, there should be a specialist working in the ministries for 90 or 110 thousand drams, and on the other hand, let’s expect things to go quickly and with good quality. In this regard, we implemented the anti-corruption strategy adopted in 2018 and now we are in the process of developing a new strategy,” said Pashinyan.

According to the Prime Minister, the biggest problem is criminal mentality; there is simply no more fertile ground for corruption and criminality than criminal mentality. “We have to make a transition from the criminal mindset to relations based on the law,” concluded the Prime Minister.

Creation of checkpoints in Lachin corridor not envisaged – Lavrov

Russia has confirmed its readiness to provide an opportunity for the continuation of trilateral negotiations between Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia at the level of the Foreign Ministers, TASS reports.

“We have confirmed our readiness to provide an opportunity to continue such meetings,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said following a meeting with his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov.

The Russian Foreign Minister specified that the Azerbaijani side has expressed readiness to hold a new meeting in this format. “The Armenian side said that it does not object, but is yet to give a final consent,” Lavrov added.

The Minister noted that Russia expects that the trilateral working group of the Russian Federation, Armenia and Azerbaijan will soon be able to agree on the establishment of transport links between the western part of Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan.

“We have talked about the progress of

the negotiation process on the unblocking of transport and economic ties in the South Caucasus. We expect that soon the Deputy Prime Ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, as co-chairmen of the respective tripartite working group, will be able to reach concrete agreements on the resumption of the use of the railway route between the main territory of Azerbaijan and Nakhijevan,” the Minister said.

Lavrov also noted that the mode of operation of the Lachin corridor should correspond to the tripartite statement of the leaders of the Russian Federation, Armenia and Azerbaijan dated November 9, 2020, there is no provision for the creation of any checkpoints.

“The regime of functioning of the Lachin Corridor must fully comply with the very first tripartite statement of November 9-10, 2020, which means ensuring the freedom of movement for exclusively civilian and humanitarian cargo and civilians,” he said.

“This is what we are striving for,

primarily through the Russian peacekeeping contingent. Creation of any checkpoints there is not envisaged,” Lavrov said.

Lavrov also commented on the EU civilian mission in Armenia. According to him, the mission “raises many questions in terms of legitimacy.”

“We see how the EU is explicitly abusing its relations with Armenia and Azerbaijan, including by advancing its so-called mission in the territory of Armenia, which raises serious doubts in terms of legitimacy,” Lavrov said.

The mission “raises numerous questions”, according to the Russian FM, including “in terms of its functions, mandate and the added value that it can bring to the efforts aimed at the normalization of the relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.”

“But it is the sovereign choice of the parties with whom to cooperate and with whom not,” FM Lavrov added.

Moscow “ought to understand” that Armenia must ensure its security – Speaker rebukes “emotional, nervous reactions”

Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan rebuked what he described as Russia’s “emotional, nervous reactions” whenever another country or party is trying to make a positive step in the direction of the Armenian-Azerbaijani settlement.

At the same time, the Speaker noted that Russia has a role in the discussions around the possible peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“Of course Russia has a role; I don’t think it can’t have a role because nevertheless the Russian peacekeepers are deployed in Nagorno Karabakh. At the same time, I think that the spasms and nervous reactions from Moscow which

happen whenever any other party tries to do something positive are a bit too much. I consider this to be far more emotional than what must be done by a big political structure. I think they ought to relax a bit, and be a bit restrained. They ought to understand the situation and realize that Armenia has an issue of its own interests and security which it must ensure notwithstanding any geopolitical [fluctuation] or anyone’s desire or jealousy,” he said.

Commenting on Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s statement that Moscow welcomes efforts from other countries for the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan,



Speaker Simonyan said: “What matters is that they themselves must resolve this issue. They should’ve had resolved this issue. They were the guarantors of our territorial integrity and security. The Russian 102nd military base is located here. And our treaties covered this situation. Where were you? Why aren’t you participating more actively?”

Iran reiterates opposition to any geopolitical change in region

Iran’s relations with Armenia are historical and in line with the interests of the entire region, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said during a meeting with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan in Geneva, IRNA reports.

“We’ve numerously said that the good relations between Tehran and Yerevan aren’t detrimental to any country. We support the development of communication between all countries in the Caucasian

region, however being against any geopolitical change in the region is our fundamental policy,” the Iranian FM added.

FM Hossein Amir-Abdollahian added that Armenia and Iran have big potential for development of relations especially in the economic sector.

The foreign ministers discussed issues related to bilateral and multilateral partnership, the Armenian foreign ministry said in a read-out.



Three Police officers killed in Artsakh in Azerbaijani subversive attack



Three Police officers were killed as a subversive group of the Azerbaijani armed forces opened fire at a vehicle of the Passport and Visa Department staff in the area called Khaipalu at around 10 am on March 5, Artsakh's Ministry of Interior reports.

The officers were identified as Lieutenant Armen Babayan, Major David Danielyan and Lieutenant Ararat Gasparyan.

Lieutenant David Hovsepyan, received a gunshot wound in the chest and was taken to the Republican Medical Center.

The Nagorno Karabakh authorities said

the Azerbaijani sabotage team that [ambushed](#) a Nagorno Karabakh police vehicle suffered casualties and was repelled.

The Azerbaijani attack was repelled by joint self-defense actions and countermeasures taken by the police officers together with Defense Army troops who were stationed in an adjacent outpost.

"As reported earlier, three police officers were killed and another officer was injured as a result of an attack by an Azerbaijani military sabotage team on an on-duty police vehicle of the Passport and Visa Department of the Police of Nagorno-Karabakh around 10:00 this morning. The Azerbaijani side is spreading fake information claiming that the vehicle was being used to transport weapons from Armenia to Artsakh. Whereas not only no weapons were being transported, furthermore the police officers were

en route from Stepanakert to their shift station. The pictures show the scene and the damaged, empty vehicle. It is necessary to underscore that the Azerbaijani side also suffered casualties and was repelled to its initial positions as a result of the self-defense and suppressive actions by the police officers and Defense Army servicemembers stationed in an adjacent position," reads a statement issued by the police of Nagorno Karabakh.

The pictures released by the police show Russian peacekeepers inspecting the bullet-sprayed vehicle.

The Foreign Ministry of Armenia [branded](#) the March 5 attack by Azerbaijani military forces in Nagorno Karabakh as "terrorism".

The Nagorno Karabakh authorities also released a video showing the Azeri attack

Armenia regrets attempts by Azerbaijan to distort the scope and purpose of the Energy Charter Treaty

The Republic of Armenia regrets the attempt by the Republic of Azerbaijan to further its public relations agenda through initiating an arbitration under the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), Armenia's Representative for International Legal Matters Yeghishe Kirakosyan said in a statement.

"Azerbaijan's claims concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict have nothing to do with the ECT's obligations pertaining to investment and trade in the energy sector. Azerbaijan's attempt to distort the scope and purpose of the treaty is particularly regrettable at a time when the

Energy Charter Conference is finalizing negotiations on the modernization of the ECT. Such misuse of the ECT undermines all Contracting Parties' efforts to ensure that the ECT remains fit for purpose as a framework for sustainable investment and trade in the energy sector," he said.

"Azerbaijan's notice of arbitration comes less than one week after the International Court of Justice ordered Azerbaijan to "ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo" along the only road connecting the 120,000 ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh to the outside world. Azerbaijan has failed to

heed the international community's calls to give effect to the Court's binding Order and to put an end to the manufactured humanitarian catastrophe in Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan instead appears intent on diverting attention by initiating unsubstantiated proceedings under the ECT," Kirakosyan added.

"Azerbaijan's regrettable actions will not deter Armenia's commitment to the ECT, to the work of the Energy Charter Conference, and to the promotion of sustainable investment and trade in the energy sector," he concluded.

Official representatives of Artsakh and Azerbaijan hold new Russia-mediated meeting



A new meeting between official representatives of Artsakh and Azerbaijan

took place on March 1 following their most recent meeting last week, presidential spokesperson Lusine Avanesyan told ARMENPRESS.

She said that this meeting was again mediated by the Russian peacekeeping contingent. The peacekeepers also participated in the meeting.

"Issues of humanitarian nature and pertaining to infrastructures were

discussed, particularly regarding the restoration of unimpeded passage of vehicles along Lachin Corridor; restoration of the Armenia-Artsakh electricity supply line, uninterrupted gas supply, as well as the activity of the Kashen mine. No other issues were on the agenda. We hope for swift results," President of Artsakh Arayik Harutyunyan's spokesperson Lusine Avanesyan told .

Iran highlights Armenia's role in accessing EEU market

Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan held a meeting with the delegation led by Iran's Minister of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare Sowlat Mortazavi.

The Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Abbas Badakhshan Zohouri, the Iranian Consul General in Kapan Abedin Varami, representative of the Armenian Embassy in Iran

Vardan Kostanyan and other officials were present at the meeting, the ministry said in a press release.

Minister Sanosyan welcomed the officials and appreciated the multi-sector cooperation with friendly Iran.

The Iranian minister attached importance to the existing high level relations between Armenia and Iran. "But



we shouldn't stop here. We must work to further increase the trade-economic relations between the two countries," Minister Mortazavi said, adding that Armenia is an important actor for Iran in terms of accessing the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) market.

A number of issues of bilateral interest were discussed.

Utilizing the potential of Iranian companies for the development of Armenian infrastructures was highlighted.

"We've increased road construction volumes several times, the construction volume of other infrastructure has also increased, which means that we need additional construction companies and workforce and we will be happy to see Iranian companies in this sector," the Armenian minister said.

Mortazavi said that Iranian private companies have big potential and are ready to contribute to the construction of Armenian infrastructures, including roads, railway and tunnels.

Minister Sanosyan welcomed the readiness and an agreement was reached to convey the needs of the Armenian side to Iran.



Armenia's economic activity index grew 10,5% in January 2023 compared to January 2022, according to official data released by the Statistical Committee.

Economic activity index grows 10,5% in January

However, the index dropped 46,1% compared to December of 2022.

Industrial output grew 1,4% in January 2023 compared to the same period of the previous year. Construction grew 12,2%.

Trade turnover increased 17,7% while services increased 25,9% in the reporting period.

The Consumer Price Index grew 8,1%.

Meanwhile, the Industrial Product Price Index grew 1,6%.

Electrical energy production dropped 1,5%.

In January 2023, a 93,8% growth was recorded in the foreign trade volumes compared to the same month of last year. Exports grew 2,3 times while imports grew 72,5%.

Armenia-Germany trade surpasses \$500,000,000 for the first time

Trade turnover between Armenia and Germany surpassed \$500,000,000 for the first time in 2022, Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan has said.

He added that the figure includes 35% increase in exports and over double growth in imports.

"Imports in case of Germany are very important for us as well because most



imports are the kind of products that contribute to the growth of competitiveness

and productivity of the economy later on," he said, adding that imports include construction and agricultural equipment and other industrial systems.

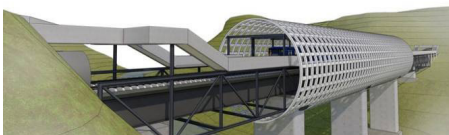
"In this regard, imports from Germany are highly important because we are having a qualitative change in our manufacturing, agriculture and construction," Kerobyan added.

Authorities eye additional expansion of Yerevan metro amid development of new station

The government of Armenia allocated 1,1 billion AMD for the blueprinting work of the new Ajapnyak metro station in Yerevan.

Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan said at the Cabinet meeting that the blueprinting work consists of three stages, with the first one already completed.

The Yerevan City Hall already allocated 545,000,000 AMD for the work, while the total cost is over 1,8 billion. The remainder



will be covered by the City Hall later on.

Deputy Mayor of Yerevan Tigran Avinyan said that according to preliminary estimates the construction of the new station,

featuring a metro bridge, will take 4 years. The blueprinting work will be completed by year-end.

The station will be located near the Halabyan-Abelyan intersection. It is expected to significantly reduce traffic overload in the city by linking the Ajapnyak and Arabkir districts.

Furthermore, Avinyan revealed that city authorities consider the possibility of opening one more metro station near the Petak trade center.

German GIZ and KfW set to open offices in Armenia

The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the KfW Development Bank will open country offices in Armenia.

The ceremonial signing of the agreement regarding the establishment of the offices took place on March 2 in Yerevan. The document was signed by the Armenian Minister of Economy Vahan Kerobyan and the German Ambassador to Armenia Viktor Richter.

Kerobyan said the offices are going to have the status of diplomatic offices and the agreements have to be ratified by the



parliament.

The Economy Minister described the event as “meaningful” given that it took place during the Armenian Prime Minister’s visit to Germany. “These two events

show how much we appreciate the relations between Armenia and Germany, which are developing very actively,” Kerobyan said.

He described the GIZ and KfW as one of the most active organizations in Armenia. KfW is the largest lender in the Armenian economy, he said, mentioning the two major ongoing projects – the construction of the Kaps reservoir and the power transmission line to Georgia.

Kerobyan also appreciated GIZ for its major support in agriculture, tourism and innovation.

Armenian Parliament Approves Sharp Pay Rise for Prosecutors

(RFE/RL) - The National Assembly approved on March 1 a government proposal to nearly double the salaries of Armenia’s prosecutors.

Prosecutor-General Anna Vardapetyan, who previously worked as a legal adviser to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, will be the biggest beneficiary of the measure criticized by opposition lawmakers. Her monthly wage will rise to at least 2.5 million drams (\$6,400).

Other prosecutors will earn the average of 1.5 million drams per month. The average monthly wage in Armenia currently stands at about 236,000 (\$605) drams, according to government data.

Presenting a relevant government bill to the parliament, Deputy Justice Minister

Levon Balyan said the sharp pay rise will discourage prosecutors from taking bribes or succumbing to other “external pressures.” Balian said it will also reward them for their “excessive workload.”

Opposition parliamentarians dismissed that explanation, saying that the Armenian government simply wants to buy senior law-enforcement officials’ loyalty. One of those lawmakers, Artsvik Minasyan, noted that Vardapetyan will be earning even more than the country’s president and prime minister.

Law-enforcement bodies have for years been accused by the Armenian opposition of executing government orders to prosecute Pashinian’s political opponents. They have denied that.

A random street poll of Yerevan residents conducted by RFE/RL’s Armenian Service found little support for the drastic increase in the prosecutors wages.

“They had better buy weapons with that money,” said one man.

“Our army is in dire straits now. So defense is definitely our top priority,” agreed another.

Another citizen echoed the opposition claims about political motives behind the measure.

“They are fighting to cling to power,” he said of the current authorities. “There is nothing else. When Nikol Pashinyan came to power in 2018 he was saying that he stands with the poor. But what is the status of the poor now?”

Deployment of UN mission to Lachin Corridor the bare minimum the international community can do, Armenian FM tells Human Rights Council

The protection of the human rights of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh has been continuously overlooked, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said, addressing the 52nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council.

"While we can appreciate the gravity of the situation elsewhere because of other conflicts and crises, there cannot be any hierarchies of suffering based on geopolitical considerations and interests," he said.

The Foreign Minister stressed that "against all odds, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh have been striving to exercise their human rights freely."

"This determination has not changed even after devastating repetitive waves of repression and aggression of Azerbaijan that killed thousands of people and ruined hundreds of towns and villages, civilian infrastructure, cultural and religious heritage. The international community, however, remained largely inactive as Azerbaijan's appetite was emboldened by impunity. The latter, then, attacked and occupied the sovereign territories of the Republic of Armenia," Minister Mirzoyan noted.

"In the atmosphere of such total impunity, Azerbaijan continues to breach principles of the international human rights law and international humanitarian law. It has been for around 80 days that Azerbaijan blocked the Lachin Corridor, the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia and the outer world. Azerbaijan has also disrupted the electricity and is regularly cutting the gas supply. As a result, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh are on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan announced at the highest level that it can lift the blockade for all those who want to leave Nagorno-Karabakh. It is a creeping ethnic cleansing in making," he stressed.

The Foreign Minister underlined that



on 22 February the International Court of Justice issued a legally binding provisional measure against Azerbaijan in the proceedings brought by Armenia against it, while unanimously rejecting Azerbaijan's requests made in the parallel proceedings with respect to alleged laying of mines by Armenia.

"In the mentioned order, the Court has found that there is an imminent risk of irreparable harm to Armenians' rights under the Convention for Elimination of Racial Discrimination and ordered Azerbaijan to take all necessary measures to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions. The ICJ provisional measures are legally binding, however, thus far Azerbaijan failed to lift the blockade of the Lachin corridor," he noted.

"Azerbaijan commits this crime amid the wide and truly global demand to open the Lachin Corridor, including by the UN Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights," Arart Mirzoyan stressed.

In the same manner, he said, Azerbaijan has failed to investigate the extrajudicial executions, torture, mutilation and desecration of the bodies of dead Armenian soldiers, including women, as was specifically called upon by the UN Special Procedure Mandate Holders. The UN Human Rights experts further emphasized that they still anticipate from

Azerbaijan "information on the factual and legal reasons for the continued detention of the Prisoners of War after the cessation of hostilities, and the measures taken to inform families of the disappeared about their fate and the exact whereabouts."

The Foreign Minister stressed that "Armenia's firm conviction that the deployment of the UN interagency mission to the Lachin Corridor and Nagorno-Karabakh is the bare minimum that the international community can do in these circumstances."

"The UN is bestowed with a universal mandate and should enjoy unconditional and unimpeded access to people in need. The UN human rights machinery should be utilized for saving lives, extending the necessary humanitarian assistance and protecting the human rights of the people concerned. The world needs positive and successful cases of the application of international mechanisms, the ones that they were created and mandated for. The international system cannot afford to sustain yet another failure," Minister Mirzoyan stated.

He reiterated Armenia's unwavering commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, reminding that this year again, Armenia received the highest rankings in the region by the World Press Freedom Index and the Democracy Index of the Economist Intelligence Unit.

"As a member of the HRC, including at its Bureau in 2022, Armenia strived to make a meaningful contribution to the international efforts to promote and protect human rights worldwide. I would like to particularly emphasize Armenia's contribution to international efforts on the prevention of genocide. We thank each and every state that supported the consensual adoption of the HRC resolutions on the Prevention of Genocide put forward by Armenia in 2022," he said.

Artsakh, Azerbaijan reach agreement on establishment of stable two-way communication mechanism

In accordance with the decision made at the session of the Security Council of the Republic of Artsakh on February 28, 2023, a working group has been established to discuss urgent humanitarian issues with the Azerbaijani side, the office of the Security Council informs.

The group is headed by Samvel Shahramanyan, Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Artsakh.

In accordance with the agreement reached through mediation of the command staff of the peacekeeping troops of the Russian Federation deployed in the Republic of Artsakh, on March 1, 2023, at 11 a.m., a meeting was held at the headquarters of the peacekeeping mission with participation of the commander of the troops, Major General Andrey Volkov, which was attended by a similar working group formed by the Republic of Azerbaijan, headed by Ramin Mammadov, member of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan.

The following issues were on the meeting agenda:

1. Ensuring uninterrupted supply of natural gas to the Republic of Artsakh and excluding further disruption of the gas supply;
2. Ensuring the possibility of inspecting the section of the only high-voltage line entering Artsakh from the Republic of Armenia, which is under the control of the Azerbaijani armed forces, in order to carry out restoration works by the specialists of "Artsakh Energy" CJSC and restore the electricity supply to the Republic of Artsakh;
3. Conducting an one-time visual tour by an Azerbaijani specialized group on the territories of Kashen and Drmbon mines;
4. Complete opening of the

Stepanakert-Goris highway.

In his opening remarks, the commander of the peacekeeping troops presented the participants of the meeting as parties of the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Azerbaijan. After that, the head of the Artsakh group clarified to the Azerbaijani side the powers of the group he leads, that is the discussion of the above-mentioned specific issues and finding solutions.

At the beginning of the discussions, the head of the Azerbaijani group tried to lead the conversation towards the need for integration of Artsakh people with Azerbaijan, presenting prospects of obtaining possible socio-economic benefits in that case. However, the head of the Artsakh group called for discussion on clearly defined issues. The latter also emphasized that these contacts on urgent humanitarian and infrastructural issues cannot address the main issues of comprehensive settlement of the conflict, and for this it is necessary to establish a format with broad international support.

The other members of the Azerbaijani group were engaged in the discussion of the above-mentioned four specific issues and the search for solutions, accordingly, the subsequent course of the meeting was fully complied with the framework defined by the agenda.

As a result of the discussion of all the above-mentioned issues, specific agreements were reached, which the Azerbaijani side undertook to report to the higher authorities, and in the coming days to inform the Artsakh side about the results through the peacekeeping mission.

During the meeting, an agreement was reached on establishment of the stable two-way communication mechanism

between the parties.

"At the meeting, the parties agreed to publish only general information for the time being, given that the process is still in the working stage. However, shortly after the meeting, the head of the Azerbaijani group gave interviews on various information platforms of his country, in which he spread disinformation, completely deviating from the actual content and process, in particular announcing that the meeting discussed "issues of the reintegration of the Armenian population of the Karabakh region into Azerbaijan." Unfortunately, some representatives of the Armenian media took this trick of Azerbaijani officials and media, thereby creating a false impression that issues related to the comprehensive settlement of the conflict are allegedly being discussed in Artsakh-Azerbaijani contacts. Meanwhile, as we mentioned, the meeting on March 1, in which the commander of the Russian peacekeeping troops participated as well, was dedicated only to the discussion of steps aimed at lifting the blockade of Artsakh and relating issues," the Security Council says.

Another misinformation of Azerbaijan, according to which the next meeting of the official representatives of the parties "may take place in Ganja or Aghdam" and without the participation of the Russian peacekeeping troops, is without substance as well.

The Security Council urges the public not to succumb to the fabrications of the Azerbaijani propaganda machine and to be sure that the public will be given exhaustive information about the above-mentioned process and its results.

Senate Committee on California, Armenia and Artsakh Mutual Trade, Art, and Cultural Exchange re-established – Portantino

Senator Anthony J. Portantino (D – Burbank) announced that the Senate Select Committee on California, Armenia and Artsakh Mutual Trade, Art, and Cultural Exchange has been re-established for the 2023-24 Legislative Session. The Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Senate Pro Tem Toni G. Atkins, reauthorized the committee on February 15, 2023.

“California and the Republic of Armenia have a long history of partnership, cooperation, and trade,” stated Senator Portantino. “I am proud to once again serve as Chair of the Select Committee on California, Armenia, and Artsakh Mutual Trade, Art, and Cultural Exchange. By approving this Select Committee, the California State Senate expresses its commitment to expanding relations not only with Armenia, but also with the Republic of Artsakh. Given the recent tragic events that have devastated the country, it is more important than ever that California reaffirms its commitment to Artsakh’s sovereignty and that we continue to strengthen this important partnership.”

At the request of Senator Portantino, the California State Senate Rules Committee first established the historic Senate Select Committee on California, Armenia, and Artsakh Mutual Trade, Art, and Cultural Exchange in 2017 to expand business opportunities through trade, economic development, cultural awareness, and education



between California, Armenia, and Artsakh. Senator Portantino also helped negotiate the historic Memorandum of Understanding between California and Armenia and joined Governor Newsom in New York for its historic, official signing.

Both California and Armenian benefit from collaboration and cooperation. Armenia has a flourishing high-tech industry, robust arts community, and a digital business corridor that is underutilized. California is at the forefront of these sectors and continues to be a leader in these areas. Tourism is also a place where California would benefit from direct marketing of our modern Golden State, while also highlighting the amazing and vast historical sites and landmarks of Armenia.

As California recently passed Armenian Genocide Education Curriculum for inclusion in social studies textbooks, the opportunity to encourage teacher training and professional development trips would also be a priority of the committee. Armenia’s educational systems are

highly respected, including the after school programs at TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, an institution that is highly regarded across the globe.

Senator Portantino was instrumental in securing state financial support for the Armenian American Museum in Glendale. In addition, he facilitated state funding for the City of Glendale’s Tech Week grant to the Hero House Incubator. Hero House has an office in Yerevan and Glendale.

California has the largest population of Armenian Americans in the country, with the 25th Senate District having the largest concentration. The continued work of the Senate Select Committee will have a direct role in building stronger economic and cultural ties between California, Armenia, and Artsakh.

Members of the Senate Select Committee on California, Armenia, and Artsakh Mutual Trade, Art, and Cultural Exchange include Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), Senator María Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles), Senator Melissa Hurtado (D-Sanger), Senator Brian W. Jones (R-Santee), Senator Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park), Senator Henry I. Stern (D-Los Angeles), Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), Senator Caroline Menjivar (D-San Fernando Valley), and Senator Scott Wilk (R-Santa Clarita).

Armenian law enforcement agencies seek to introduce electronic tagging for domestic violence cases



Armenian law enforcement agencies seek to introduce electronic monitoring to

deter repeat domestic violence offenders from reoffending and to keep victim-survivors safe.

Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan presented a bill on introducing electronic tagging in preventing domestic violence at the plenary session of parliament on March 1.

The current law enables law enforcement agencies to conduct either “urgent intervention” or institute a “protection measure” in domestic violence cases, with

the latter requiring a court order.

Citing international experience, Sargsyan said the electronic monitoring will increase effectiveness of protecting the victims.

The bill seeks to enable relevant authorities the power to order the offender wear the ankle or arm monitor, while the victim will have a notification device designed to issue a warning (both to the victim and police) in case of the offender approaching them.

The UN has sent letters of allegation to Azerbaijan and Turkey for involving mercenaries in the 44-day war

The UN sent allegation letters to Azerbaijan and Turkey for involving mercenaries in the war unleashed against Artsakh in 2020, ARMENPRESS reports the members of the UN working group on the use of mercenaries, who have arrived in Armenia, said in a press conference.

The group's mandate was formed at the initiative of the UN Human Rights Council. The mandate of the group covers broad areas, including involvement of mercenaries and the use of private military and security companies from the perspective of human rights violations. Within the framework of that mandate, the working group conducts visits to countries, and the visit to Armenia is one of them. The group receives reports of alleged human rights violations from various sources.

"Our group has already received a report in 2020 about the use of mercenaries. And back at that time we had already responded, acted, presented an appropriate message," said group member Jelena Aparac from Croatia.

The group's visit to Armenia has been

prepared for a long time with the Armenian authorities.

"At the moment, the information that has reached us mainly concerns the two mercenaries who were taken prisoner, who were charged, a court process was started, hearings were held. We are still collecting information on all that," she said.

The group acts on the basis of information provided to it, which may be provided by NGOs or any other source. Fact-finding is done through a formal process, that is, information is obtained from an official source, and based on that information, they can determine who is responsible for the given incident. Ravindran Daniel, a member of the task force, stressed that they cannot act based on information that is not provided by official sources.

"We have a tool called 'allegation letter'. We present it to states and non-state structures," said Jelena Aparac.

Referring to the clarifying question whether letters of allegation have been sent to Azerbaijan and Turkey, she gave

a positive answer.

The task force noted in its 2020 thematic reports that the use of mercenaries and private security firms is increasing globally. As for the consequences of letters of allegation, unfortunately, the task force's mandate on that matter is quite limited. "We can get answers. Those answers are public. And then other concerned parties should use our allegation letters, responses to them and take measures based on them: these can be NGOs, international organizations, other states," said Jelena Aparac.

Ravindran Daniel noted that as a result of their work, problems became more visible, which happened in 2020.

The members of the working group positively assess that Armenia has ratified the UN International Convention "Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries".

The working group has submitted a request to pay a visit to Azerbaijan, but has not yet received a response.

TUMO announces the launch of TUMO Academy

TUMO launched the TUMO Academy in Yerevan on February 27. The purpose of the six-month educational program is to provide people over the age of 21 with the opportunity to pursue a new profession and build a career at TUMO. The project was introduced by TUMO CEO Marie Lou Papazian and the head of TUMO Academy Narine Davtian.

TUMO Academy provides intensive training in TUMO's 21st-century learning areas and offers students who successfully complete the program jobs at TUMO's regional centers. The program does not require area-specific knowledge or experience. Participants will be provided with a monthly stipend. Upon successful completion, they will join the TUMO team as workshop leaders. The project will focus on training workshop leaders for the TUMO centers in Kapan, Koghb, and Dilijan in its first phase, and will later be launched in all the regions of Armenia as TUMO continues to expand. "We are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking project, one that will have a lasting impact for decades to come. Our

mission is to expand TUMO's reach in the regions of Armenia and Artsakh, and provide every young person with an equally exceptional and progressive education. Our vision is to ensure that every teen receives the same quality of education – whether they attend a TUMO center in a city or a TUMO box in a rural community. To achieve this goal, we require a large team of professionals, including coaches, workshop leaders, center managers, and other professionals," said CEO Marie Lou Papazian during her opening speech. "Participants will gain a competitive, 21st-century profession while contributing to the development of the regions of Armenia," she added.

TUMO Academy will enable participants nationwide to learn and teach, acquire a new profession, stay in their communities, and work in TUMO's innovative educational environment. In the first phase following its launch, the program will provide training in eight learning areas: music, animation, photography, filmmaking, game development, 3D modeling, drawing, and writing. In the future, the

program will go on to cover all 14 of TUMO's learning areas and will train workshop leaders who will work in the regions of Armenia, as well as TUMO Yerevan.

"Our team of workshop leaders will be working with the students of the Academy. It consists of top specialists in each of the eight learning areas, which includes our colleagues with years of teaching experience at TUMO as well as experts who have recently joined us. They have helped develop the program and will pass on the specifics of TUMO's educational method to the students of the Academy," said Narine Davtian, the head of the program.

The only prerequisite for joining the program is to be at least 21 years old. Participants who complete the application form by April 1st and pass the application, interview, and task stages will join the program in May 2023. Those who have completed the first stage of the program will go through a paid hands-on training starting September 2023. Graduates of the academy will become employees of the TUMO team starting December 2023.

Performance report 2022 of the Urban Development Committee presented to the Prime Minister

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan visited the Urban Development Committee and got acquainted with the performance report 2022 of the Committee the Office of the Prime Minister informs.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Ministers Mher Grigoryan and Tigran Khachatryan, Head of the State Supervision Service Romanos Petrosyan, Chairman of the Urban Development Committee Armen Ghularyan, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister Bagrat Badalyan, Deputy Minister of Finance Vahan Sirunyan, the leadership of the Committee, and other officials.

The progress and results of the activities of the Urban Development Committee were reported to the Prime Minister. In particular, the works carried out during the previous year in the fields of architecture and urban development, construction policy, management of housing stock and utility infrastructure, capital construction projects, introduction of modern technologies in the field and other directions were presented. Nikol Pashinyan was also presented with the works to be carried out in 2023-2024.

It was reported that in terms of architecture and urban development, the issue of ensuring the entire territory of Armenia with spatial planning documents by 2024 has been solved by almost 70%. The conceptual documents resulting from the micro-regional planning document aimed at the complex development of settlements and the creation of new poles of growth are being developed. It was noted that within the framework of the measures, preparations are being made for the development of the general program of resettlement of Armenia, the deadline of which is 2024, but taking into account the importance of the document, the works have already started.

According to the report, in terms of architecture and urban planning, a document regulating the large-scale construction works carried out in the republic, the order of the territory planning project, is being developed, which is aimed at drawing up a document aimed at the joint solution of problems and taking into account the needs of the public, excluding local-episodic solutions.

It was emphasized that works are also being carried out in the direction of clarifying and strictening the legal regulations, in order to prevent inappropriate interventions in the environment created during the construction works currently being carried out in the capital and to protect



the center of the capital from overloading and ensure balanced development.

Currently, the process of development, localization and modernization of the regulatory and technical system is underway. It was noted that the system of normative and technical documents is one of the main tools of the state for the regulation of urban development activities. In 2022, 20 normative and technical documents were approved and put into use. The developed norms refer to the following directions considered as priority by the government: civil defense structures, increasing energy efficiency, school and preschool institutions, hydro technical and road structures, safety techniques in construction, including the organization of construction sites.

In the framework of the presented events, it was also reported on the modernization of the construction pricing methodology, the approval and application of the list of multiple-use projects, the possibilities of introducing new technologies and materials in construction, ensuring the legal basis for increasing the reliability and seismic resistance of buildings and structures, implementation of urban development projects in the most dangerous landslides, ensuring the accessibility of a number of important facilities for persons with disabilities. There was also reference to the process of introducing the passport system of buildings and constructions, to the reforms of the licensing process.

Presenting the work on housing stock issues, it was noted that during the reporting period, the concept of reforming the housing stock management system was developed, the rules for the maintenance, operation and modernization of multi-apartment buildings were developed and approved.

There was a reference to the shacks installed after the earthquake, the decision recording the approaches and priorities of the government on which has been adopted. According to the decision, in 2023, approval of lists, budget planning and implementation of works that do not require financing will be carried out.

During the reporting period, the Committee also developed a State Assistance Program for Energy Efficient Renovations, which subsidizes interest rates on renovation loans. 1245 loans were provided under the program in 2022, with a portfolio of about 2.6 billion AMD. The amount of subsidy was 40 million AMD.

Regarding the progress of capital programs, it was reported that over the course of 3 years, there was a 6-fold increase in allocations, and their sectoral proportions are entirely based on the priorities set by the Government Action Plan, namely, the building, reconstructing and renovating 300 schools, 500 kindergartens and 50 health facilities.

Regarding the works carried out in the direction of introducing modern technologies in the sector, it was reported that from January 1, 2022, design and construction permits in the enlarged communities of Nairi in Kotayk Province, Echmiadzin in Armavir Province, Masis in Ararat Province and Vanadzor in Lori Province will be provided exclusively electronically, through the e-Permits system.

The principle of determining the amount of fines applied in case of non-completion of construction in time has been regulated. Administrative measures for non-compliance with demolition permit requirements have been provided.

The website of the Committee has been upgraded, which includes a search system for normative and technical documents, as well as a map of capital expenditure programs implemented by the government.

Prime Minister Pashinyan emphasized the importance of providing the entire territory of Armenia with spatial planning documents by 2024 and emphasized that it is of strategic importance. The Prime Minister added that this will contribute to the overall development of the urban development sector. Nikol Pashinyan also emphasized the digitization of building permits and other services. Referring to the projects implemented in different communities, the Prime Minister emphasized the paving of sidewalks and parks with stones. "Our task should be increasing the efficiency of capital expenditures, including through the introduction of new project management mechanisms," said Nikol Pashinyan. The Prime Minister also emphasized the implementation of consistent steps in the direction of management of landslide zones, maintenance of accessibility standards in public buildings.

Monument commemorating victims of 2008 post-election unrest inaugurated in downtown Yerevan

A monument commemorating the victims of the 2008 post-election unrest, colloquially known as the March 1 events, was inaugurated on March 1 near City Hall in downtown Yerevan.

President Vahagn Khachaturyan, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan, Yerevan Mayor Hrachya Sargsyan, other government officials, members of the public and family members of the victims attended the inauguration.

"I want to underscore that March 1 is not a day of mourning," PM Pashinyan said in his speech. "Because, of course, we mourn and commemorate the victims, but March 1 has a wider context, and the meaning of the life and struggle of our killed brothers is about something completely different. After the 2021 parliamentary election I had various occasions to say that for the first time in the history of Armenia, elections became not the cause of a domestic crisis but the way to overcome the domestic crisis. This is also my personal conclusion from the 1 March 2008 events because as you know I was personally significantly involved in those



events and the conclusion is that March 1 was actually about the lack of democracy, it was about breaking the people's free expression, deforming it, depriving the people of expression and making decisions. And this is how we must perceive the meaning of March 1. And at least from this perspective the struggle and sacrifice of March 1 reached its goal, because vote rigging is a closed chapter in Armenia and there won't be a return to it."

He described the Armenian people as the "guarantors" for never allowing a return to vote rigging and said that the vision of the people is to live a free, happy and fruitful life in a strong, independent and sovereign country.

Deputy Mayor of Yerevan Tigran

Avinyan noted that the monument is being opened 15 years since the events. "The meaning of March 1 teaches us a lesson that there should never be a dividing line between the government and the people. And whenever the government and people have these lines it leads to crimes like March 1," Avinyan said.

The sculptor of the monument, Albert Vardanyan, said his creation "came from his heart" because "everyone shared the pain" of those days. "This is an ode to the people and government, so that we never again see such days."

Eight protesters and two police officers were killed in the violent suppression of anti-government street protests that followed a disputed presidential election held in February 2008 which saw Serzh Sargsyan take office. Former President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the main opposition candidate in the ballot, rallied his supporters to protest against alleged vote rigging.

Ter-Petrosyan's supporters held non-stop rallies in Liberty Square until they were forcibly dispersed by riot police early on March 1, 2008.

Australian city of Ryde to donate \$10,000 in relief aid to Syrian Armenians

On Tuesday, 28th February 2023, Armenian-Australian Mayor, Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM moved a Mayoral Minute, which was unanimously adopted by the City of Ryde Council to donate \$10,000 to the Armenian-Australian community's #TogetherForSyria earthquake relief efforts, reported the Armenian National Committee of Australia.

Earlier this week, the Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC-AU) appealed to councillors, urging them to support the community's relief efforts by providing direct aid to the Armenian Relief Society Inc. in order to assist Armenians in Aleppo.

The financial contribution seeks to assist those affected by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Turkey and North-West Syria, which has claimed the lives of over 40,000 innocent civilians.

Mayor Yedelian said: "Many residents of Ryde have family members or know of people, who live in the affected areas,

and the local community has been working hard to provide tangible assistance to those facing unimaginable hardship."

Yedelian acknowledged the Armenian-Australian community's efforts to assist those affected and highlighted that they successfully raised in excess of \$100,000 as part of the #TogetherForSyria Telethon last week before urging the City of Ryde Civic service budget to allocate \$10,000 to the initiative.

The passage adopted resolved that the most Armenian-populated municipality in Australia will donate \$10,000 to the Armenian Relief Society of Australia, coordinating relief efforts in the city of Aleppo and cities bordering Turkey and Syria.

The Council and all in attendance also participated in a Minute of Silence to acknowledge all those who tragically lost their lives in this devastating earthquake.

ANC-AU Executive Director Michael Kolokossian and members of the Armenian Relief Society of Australia were present

during the Mayoral Minute and hand-delivered a letter of thanks to the Council for this initiative.

"Syria's city of Aleppo has been home to our vibrant community since they were forced to march the Syrian desserts during the Armenian Genocide of 1915. This generous donation will go a long way to assist during the moment of deep loss, trauma and heartache," said Kolokossian.

"We thank all Councillors and in particular, Mayor Sarkis Yedelian, for their support during this crucial time for Syrian-Armenians," said Armenian Relief Society of Australia Chairperson Nina Kaprielian.

In 2020, the City of Ryde also donated \$10,000 to assist with humanitarian relief efforts following the Beirut Blast, from which Ryde City Council contributed \$2,500 to support fundraising efforts of the Armenian-Australian community in Lebanon.

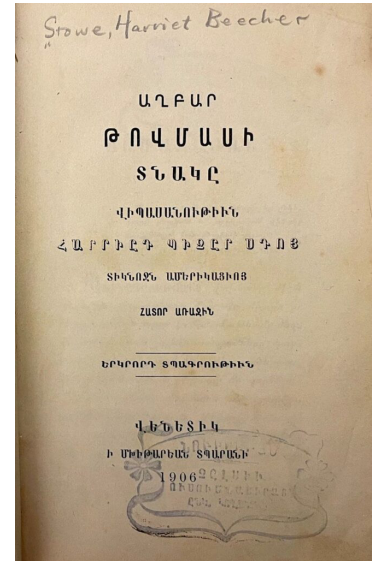
Library of Congress spotlights Armenian translation of Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin"

One of the earliest translations of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was done in Armenian, the Library of Congress says in a Facebook post.

In 1854, just two years after the publication of the groundbreaking anti-slavery novel, the Armenian Catholic Mkhitarist congregation in Venice published the first translation, with an introduction railing against the horrors of slavery and the importance of its abolition.

In subsequent decades, the horrors of slavery depicted in the novel seem to have hit a nerve with the Ottoman Empire's Armenian readership, the publisher's main market. Several editions of the translation followed.

African and Middle Eastern Division holds copies of the second edition of the 1854 translation, published in 1906 and a subsequent edition published in 1928.



Forbes describes Armenian Krisp and Podcastle as "Mind-Blowing AI Tools"

Forbes magazine included Two Armenian applications in a list of "14 Mind-Blowing AI Tools."

Forbes contributor Bernard Marr included Krisp and Podcastle in the *Beyond ChatGPT: 14 Mind-Blowing AI Tools Everyone Should Be Trying Out Now* article.

Marr described Krisp as "another conference calling application, this one uses algorithms to remove background noises, echo, and other distracting elements in real-time, ensuring that you always come across in a clear and professional manner."

Describing Podcastle, the author



wrote: "An audio recording and editing platform with integrated AI tools that helps you create clear, super-smooth recordings that sound as if they've been edited professionally, automating tasks like cleaning up messy sounds and creating transcripts."

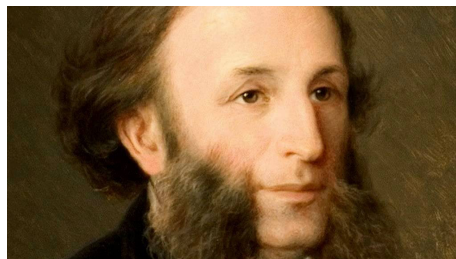
The list includes ChatGPT, Dall-E 2, Stable Diffusion 2, Soundraw, Gen-1 and other apps.

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) is going through something of a 'hot topic' moment, as applications such as ChatGPT show the world just how powerful and capable it is becoming. The emergence of this new breed of 'generative' AI tools has made it clear in recent months that it is no longer something that is only important in the realm of academic research or Silicon Valley tech giants," the article said.

Metropolitan Museum of Art revises information on Aivazovsky to reflect his Armenian identity

The world-renowned Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has revised the way it identifies famous seascape painter Hovhannes (Ivan) Aivazovsky to reflect his Armenian heritage following complaints from community members, *Asbarez* reports.

Originally, the Met had identified Aivazovsky as Ukrainian, including in the biographical notes that he was "born into an Armenian family."



In the revised iteration, the Met has added his Armenian birth name next to his professional name and has amended

the "Ukrainian" moniker with "Armenian, born Russian Empire [now Ukraine]."

In his biography, the Met has also emphasized Aivazovsky's Armenian heritage by writing, "As a member of the city's longstanding Armenian community, Aivazovsky had a rich cultural and linguistic background. He worked and exhibited widely, including in cities in present-day Armenia, Georgia, Italy, Russia, Turkey, and mainland Ukraine."

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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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