

Yerevan expects the CSTO to accelerate work with Baku to ensure withdrawal of troops from Armenian territory



Leaders of the Collective Security Treaty Organization member states held a summit in Yerevan, Armenia, on November 23, 2022.

Armenia expects the CSTO to accelerate the necessary political and diplomatic work with the Azerbaijani side to ensure the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Azerbaijani troops from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia to their original positions as of May 11, 2021, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the CSTO summit on November 23.

Addressing the leaders of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan at a meeting in Yerevan, Pashinyan said that during the past two years Armenia's sovereign territory has been subjected to at least three instances of aggression from Azerbaijan.

Pashinyan said the kind of attitude

was "causing huge damage to the CSTO's image" not only inside Armenia, but also abroad.

"Such position is important not only for restoring the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia, but also for deterring Azerbaijan from further aggressive actions against our country. The fact that the risk of a new aggression by Azerbaijan against the territorial integrity of Armenia remains was reported by CSTO Secretary General Stanislav Zas at an extraordinary meeting of the Collective Security Council on October 28 this year," PM Pashinyan said.

"Under these conditions, the lack of a clear political assessment of the situation and the failure to make the above decision

may mean not only the CSTO's refusal of allied obligations, but may also be interpreted by Azerbaijan as a green light from the CSTO for further aggression against Armenia," he said.

"And this contradicts not only the letter, but also the spirit and meaning of the fundamental documents of the CSTO. Therefore, based on this, at the moment I believe that the draft "Declarations of the CSTO CSC and on joint measures to provide assistance to the Republic of Armenia" submitted for signing is not sufficiently finalized, and with all due respect, I am not ready to sign these documents in this form," Nikol Pashinyan stated.

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Armenia ready for a meeting with Azerbaijani side in the format agreed in Prague – MFA



Armenia is ready for a meeting with the Azerbaijani side on December 7, based on agreements and format reached in Prague, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vahan Hunanyan told *Armenpress*.

He reminded that the previous meeting in Prague was held in quadrilateral format and added that “logically, the format of the meeting and the composition of the participants should be the same.”

The comments come after [Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said](#) the meeting in Brussels would not take place as Armenia insists on the participation of France as mediator. Aliyev accused France of taking sides with Armenia.

“All the statements of the Azerbaijani side that the Armenian side is trying to disrupt the meeting and the peace process have nothing to do with reality. The Re-

public of Armenia is ready for the meeting on December 7, according to the agreement and format reached in Prague,” he said.

Hunanyan also stated that Azerbaijan is yet to respond to Armenia’s proposals on a peace treaty, which were presented on November 7 in Washington during a meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries.

The leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan met in Prague on October 6 with the mediation of the President of the EU Council, Charles Michel, and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Pashinyan, Siebert exchange thoughts on the activities of the EU observation mission in Armenia



Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan received Michael Siebert, the Managing Director for Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, Regional Cooperation and OSCE of the European External Action Service, and the delegation led

by him, Noyan Tapan was informed from the Office of the Prime Minister.

Assessing the Armenian-EU partnership as effective, the Prime Minister highlighted the EU’s support for the reform implementation process in our country and noted that the Armenian government is committed to continuing democratic reforms. The Prime Minister of Armenia expressed satisfaction in connection with the holding of the meeting of the European Political Community in Prague on October 6 of this year, and in that context recalled the quadrilateral meeting between himself, the President of Azerbaijan, the President of France and the President of the European Council within the framework of the summit.

Michael Siebert noted that, according to the EU’s assessment, democracy in Armenia is recording progress, as evidenced by reforms in various fields, the vigorous activity of civil society, and the EU will continue to support our country in this process. The high-ranking EU official thanked the Armenian Prime Minister for his high assessment of the European Political Community Summit, noting that the idea of making it continuous is under consideration.

Issues related to Armenia-EU partnership, regional security, Eastern Partnership initiative were discussed at the meeting. The sides exchanged thoughts on the activities of the EU observation mission in Armenia.

Armenian FM welcomes Canada’s decision to open Embassy in Yerevan

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan received Ambassador of Canada to Armenia, Alison LeClaire (residence in Moscow).

The sides emphasized the further development of Armenian-Canadian relations based on common democratic values and mutual trust. In this context, the Foreign Minister welcomed the decision of the Government of Canada to open an embassy in Yerevan and expressed conviction that this step will give a new impetus to bilateral cooperation.

Considering that this year marks the

30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and Canada, the interlocutors commended the current level of political dialogue and the dynamics of interstate contacts.

The readiness of the Government of Canada to support the strengthening of democracy in Armenia was noted.

Ararat Mirzoyan and Alison LeClaire highlighted the importance of expanding Armenian-Canadian trade and economic ties.

The Armenian side presented the consequences of the recent Azerbaijani aggression against the territorial integrity and



sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia. Minister Mirzoyan underlined that Azerbaijan poses impediment for the establishment of peace and stability in the region with its maximalist position and aggressive actions.

Armenian PM hints at “positive signals” regarding railway reconstruction



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at a government sitting on November 24 that he received “positive signals” during talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Yerevan on the restoration of the railway between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“We may need a large investment within the framework of the Armenian

Crossroads project in the near future,” he said.

“I mean the Horadiz-Meghri-Ordubad-Sadarak-Yeraskh railway. It is a project, I am sure, that all partners will show great interest in. During the negotiations with the President of the Russian Federation yesterday, we received certain signals, which means that there may be a significant and serious opportunity for us to start the railway restoration work,” the Prime Minister said.

Referring to the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council held in Yerevan on Wednesday, the Prime Minister said: “Unfortunately, we did not manage to reach an agreement on two very important documents. I also want to say that in my

opinion, a very open, honest and positive discussion took place, and those two documents were sent for revision.”

“I hope we can work it out and reach an agreement. In general, despite this fact, the declaration of the Collective Security Council was not adopted, we did not sign the declaration and the decision on the CSTO response to the escalation of September 13 was not adopted. But I want to say again that in general, I consider the discussion positive, I also consider that the negotiations with the Russian Federation in a bilateral format were positive. I hope that we will implement the agreements that were recorded as soon as possible,” the Prime Minister said.

Armenian government replaces lifetime security for ex-leaders with 7–10-year term

The Armenian government approved the separation of the State Protection Service from the National Security Service. After the parliament’s approval the agency will become subordinate to the Prime Minister.

Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan said at the Cabinet meeting that this change is being made as part of the security system reforms.

In addition, the reforms envisage lifting the lifetime state protection for former presidents and prime ministers and substi-



tuting it with a fixed term.

“In the past the regulations envisaged lifetime state protection service for the president. Now this service will be given

to the president for another 7 years since leaving office. In case of the prime minister the term will be 10 years,” he said.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said there will be a possibility of extending the term in case of necessity.

“The National Security Service must work in three main directions – counter-intelligence, fight against terrorism and protection of constitutional order. We must enhance the service’s capabilities and possibilities, and we are doing it,” Pashinyan said.

French Development Agency to open permanent representation in Yerevan



A 100,000,000-euro loan will be pro-

vided to Armenia by a loan agreement signed with the French Development Agency for financing the state budget deficit, finance minister Tigran Khachatryan said.

Given the increasing cooperation volumes the French Development Agency decided to open a permanent representation in Yerevan, he added.

The loan is provided in two tiers with a 20-year term. “We can apply to receive the two at once. We plan to apply and receive at least one by yearend,” the minister said.

Khachatryan added that the government has also approved another loan agreement, with the Asian Development Bank, for the allocation of another 100,000,000-dollar support for Armenia.

Aliyev cancels planned meeting with Pashinyan



Paris cannot participate in the peace process between Baku and Yerevan, the meeting on December 7 will not take place, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said at the international conference “Along the Middle Corridor: Geopolitics, Security and

Economics.”

“Less than a week after the meeting in Prague, French President Macron in his interview criticized Azerbaijan and accused us of what we did not do. It was followed by a well-known resolution of the French Senate followed, which is absolutely unacceptable and offensive,” the politician said.

This, Aliyev recalled, was followed by “another anti-Azerbaijani resolution” by the French National Assembly and an “attack attempt” through the La Francophonie summit, which, according to him, is “unacceptable.”

The President also claimed that the Azerbaijani side has the original text drawn up by France in tandem with Armenia, which, according to him, is “full of accusations and insinuations.”

“Given all this, it is clear that France cannot take part in the peace process. And this is not our, but their fault, since neither the United States nor Russia has ever officially taken sides. This means that the meeting of 7 December will not take place. And we will consider other alternatives. Let’s see who will act as an intermediary and on what platform,” Aliyev said.

CSTO Summit In Yerevan Accompanied by Protests

(RFE/RL) - Hundreds of Armenian civil society activists as well as a group of Ukrainians and Russians staged a protest in central Yerevan on November 23 against a summit of the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) hosted by Armenia and attended by Russian Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin. ically, while the other CSTO members did absolutely nothing,” Ioannisian said.

The activist referred to the lack of condemnation by the CSTO of Azerbaijan’s aggression against Armenia in September whereas the United States and the European Union called on Azerbaijan to withdraw its troops from the Armenian territory seized by its forces during border clashes two months ago.



dent Vladimir Putin.

Armenian activists called on the leadership of their country to end Armenia’s membership in the CSTO that they said has failed to take any practical steps to defend Armenia in its conflict with Azerbaijan.

Daniel Ioannisian, programs coordinator at the Union of Informed Citizens, claimed that instead of providing security for Armenia, the Russia-led defense alliance, which also includes Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, gave its political support to Azerbaijan.

“We, in fact, got a situation where Russia and Belarus supported Azerbaijan polit-

Furthermore, during a virtual conference with other CSTO leaders on October 28, the authoritarian leader of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, bluntly rejected Armenia’s appeal for military assistance, opposing any CSTO intervention in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

The participants of protest, therefore, described it unacceptable that Yerevan should host the leaders of the CSTO, including Putin.

“Putin, Lukashenko and others should not

have set foot in this country,” Ioannisian said.

In his public remarks earlier this week Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev boasted that Baku has more friends in the CSTO than Armenia.

Armenian political analyst Ruben Mehrabyan, who also participated in the protest in Yerevan’s Freedom Square, said he partly disagreed with the Azerbaijani leader. “Aliyev is wrong. And his mistake is that Armenia has no friends in the CSTO and cannot have any,” he emphasized.

Meanwhile, a group of Ukrainians wrapped in their national flags protested Russia’s ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine. They held posters with the names of Ukrainian cities and towns where they said occupying Russian forces committed war crimes during the invasion lasting since February.



Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Armenia receives NATO Advisory Group

Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia Major General Edward Asryan received the NATO Advisory Group, the General Staff of the Armed Forces issued a statement.

From November 21 to 24, the advisory group of the NATO “Partnership for Peace” consortium of the “Development of Defense Education” program in Armenia held a seminar titled “The role and importance of the professional sergeant system in the



modern armed forces” for representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of Armenia.

Within the framework of the event, the foreign partners presented the features and development trends of the professional sergeant system in the modern armed forces, its role in the armed forces and modern warfare.

Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, First Deputy Minister of Defense, Major General Edward Asryan received the Advisory Group of the “Development of Defense Education” Armenian program. During the meeting, the results of the event were summarized, the ways of further interaction were outlined.

No country should have any aspiration over Armenia’s Syunik, Iran’s Ambassador says

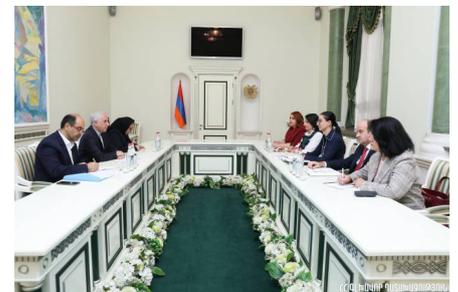
No country should have any ambitions regarding Armenia’s Syunik province, Ambassador of Iran to Armenia Abbas Badakhshan Zohouri said at a meeting with Armenia’s Prosecutor General Anna Vardapetyan on November 22.

During the meeting, Anna Vardapetyan highly valued the cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of the two countries, which, she said, is based on a rich experience of diplomatic relations, and assured that it will expand and gain new

quality based on bilateral productive work.

The Iranian ambassador noted, in turn, that the 3,000-year-old historical and cultural ties between Iran and Armenia are a good base for the development of the relations in all directions.

Abbas Badakhshan Zohouri added that the relations with Armenia are a priority for Iran. He emphasized the importance of Armenia’s Syunik province for Iran and stated that no country should have any aspiration with regard to the province.



The sides discussed a number of issues of mutual interest, mainly related to the extradition of prisoners, legal support on criminal cases, etc.

Time for EU to liberalize visas for Armenian nationals – Marukyan



It is time for the EU to make a decision on liberalizing the entry of citizens of Armenia into the countries of the Schengen zone, Edmon Marukyan Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on the 5th anniversary of signing of the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Cooperation Agreement.

“Armenian citizens should travel to EU

countries without Schengen visas. Armenia earned that right with its reforms,” he said.

“The ball is in the EU court, and it has to make the decision as soon as possible,” Marukyan said.

“I hope that thanks to our efforts we will also reach that important milestone in 2023,” he concluded.

Armenian Deputy PM, Iranian Ambassador discuss prospects of launching railway between the two countries

Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan received Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Armenia Abbas Bada-khshan Zohouri.

Welcoming the Ambassador, the Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the development of relations with friendly Iran and thanked for the targeted statements made by Iran regarding Azerbaijan's aggression against the sovereign territory of Armenia.

During the meeting, key issues of the bilateral agenda were discussed, in partic-



ular, reference was made to cooperation in the fields of energy and transport. The importance of launching the railway be-

tween Armenia and Iran and the prospects of expanding cooperation under it were particularly emphasized in case of possible unblocking of regional transport links.

An agreement was reached to organize a meeting of the committee following the implementation of the memorandum of understanding of the 17th session of the Armenian-Iranian intergovernmental commission in Iran in the near future, during which issues of bilateral interest will be discussed in more detail.

Armenian, Russian leaders commend bilateral economic ties

Our bilateral economic ties are developing rapidly, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin following the CSTO summit in Yerevan.

"I noticed that this year the export from Armenia to the Russian Federation has increased by 80%. Of course, this is due to some changes in the supply chains, but in general, this is a fact that creates new opportunities for economic cooperation," Pashinyan said.

Referring to the sitting of the CSTO Collective Security Council, the Prime Minister said: "Of course, today we have already discussed and will continue to discuss regional issues, issues of regional security. There are many issues, and I also spoke about this during the CSC meeting – about the observance of tripartite agreements, statements that we adopted with



the President of Azerbaijan with your help and with your mediation. These are very important issues that, of course, we must discuss, and discuss the agenda, which, we hope, will lead to long-term peace in our region."

Vladimir Putin, in turn, expressed gratitude for the invitation and congratulate Pashinyan on successful chairmanship of the CSTO.

"Indeed, Armenia carried out this work at a very high level. Of course, perhaps never, or very rarely, it is possible to reach agreements on all issues, but on the whole, the work proceeded very intensively and profitably," he said.

He stressed that the bilateral relations are of allied nature, and have ancient, deep roots.

"As for today, indeed, if last year the trade turnover grew by 12 percent, then in the first nine months of this year it has grown by 67 percent. Yes, this is due to the peculiarities of the current situation, but, of course, it will be a good contribution for the future, we have no doubts here," Putin said.

"I am very glad that there is an opportunity to hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of today's events," he added.

Armenia to import 87 German MAN buses in 2023

Eighty-seven 12-meter MAN buses are expected to be imported to Armenia in 2023.

Yerevan Mayor Hrachya Sargsyan, Deputy Mayor Tigran Avinyan and Director of Yerevan Bus CJSC Elbak Tarposhyan are on a working visit to the city of Sta-

rachowice, Republic of Poland, at the invitation of MAN Truck & Bus SE company.

During the visit, the members of the Yerevan delegation followed the bus production process and got acquainted with the capacities of the first bus produced for Yerevan.



Switzerland approves \$1 million in aid for resilience and economic recovery of border communities in Armenia

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC has approved CHF 960,000 (\$1 million) in aid for Armenia to improve border communities' resilience towards crisis situations. Partnering with the World Food Programme (WFP) for implementation, Switzerland provides immediate humanitarian and long-term economic support to Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Syunik with the "Resilience and Economic Recovery of Border Communities in Armenia – REBCA" project.

Armenia's recent progress with its socio-economic reform agenda has been challenged by external factors such as COVID-19, military conflict in 2020, and international external economic shocks particularly from the war in Ukraine.

Furthermore, due to the military escalations in September 2022, six Armenian communities in the areas bordering Azerbaijan in Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor regions (totaling 133 settlements and 133,165 people) are directly affected, including in terms of economic livelihood and food security.

The 12-month REBCA humanitarian

project will protect and reestablish the livelihoods of people living in border areas in Armenia and provide economic means to improve resilience towards crisis situations. The project targets 15 conflict-affected border settlements of Vardenis (Gegharkunik), Sisian (Syunik), and Jer muk (Vayots Dzor) enlarged communities by directly responding to the needs of more than 1000 households.

The Swiss-funded REBCA project is jointly designed and implemented by the WFP with the involvement of the World Vision Armenia (WVA), the Child Development Foundation (CDF) and the Strategic Development Agency (SDA), each responsible for specific interventions in the required fields of expertise. The project will be also supported by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia (MLSA), the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia (MTAI), and local authorities of the selected target regions.

An important feature of the project is the combination of immediate humanitarian response with efforts towards long-

term economic recovery and growth. In collaboration with its subcontractors, WFP will deliver cash assistance, social work support, resource and capacity development of local communities, support in agricultural activities, and promotion of (self-) employment.

REBCA project translates principles and objectives of Switzerland's foreign policy and development cooperation into action. With its Swiss Cooperation Programme for the South Caucasus 2022 – 2025, Switzerland supports the transition of Armenia towards a market economy and inclusive economic development. REBCA is another expression of a longstanding tradition of Swiss humanitarian assistance to Armenia in time of need, which started with the Spitak earthquake of 1988.

Additionally, the REBCA intervention feeds into the Team Europe Initiative "Together for Syunik" launched early November 2022 by the EU Delegation and five EU member states, the European Investment Bank and Switzerland as an external partner.

We should congratulate Armenia for this year's economic indicators. Senior ADB official

Eugene Zhukov, Director General for Central and Western Asia of the Asian Development Bank, notes that due to the situation in Ukraine, there is a large inflow of capital and professional skills to Armenia, and he congratulates Armenia on the economic activity index of the first 10 months of this year, Zhukov said at a press conference held in Yerevan, answering the question of ARMENPRESS.

He noted that at the beginning of this year, when military operations began in Ukraine, such partners as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank were making very gloomy predictions about the global economy this year. "But during the year, not only in Armenia, but also in the whole world, the economic situation was much better than had been predicted," said the



Director General for Central and Western Asia of the Asian Development Bank.

Zhukov emphasized that it may sound strange, but Armenia and neighboring countries benefited from the military operations in Ukraine in a certain way, noting the significant inflow of capital and professional skills to Armenia, and the relocation of certain companies to Armenia.

Referring to the observation that ac-

cording to the latest published indicators, the economic activity index of Armenia increased by 14.5 percent in 10 months, Zhukov said. "Taking into account the numbers you presented, we should congratulate Armenia for this year's economic indicators. But there are hidden risks. Is this effect permanent or temporary? I think some analysts could argue that this effect could be a one-off. We all believe that the Armenian government should continue the reform process to ensure that economic growth continues."

According to the indicators published by the Statistical Committee of the Republic of Armenia on November 25, the indicator of the economic activity of Armenia in January-October 2022 increased by 14.5 percent compared to the same period of the previous year.

Armenian NPP's new power unit must be ready for operation in 2036 – deputy minister

Armenia plans to have a new power unit of the Nuclear Power Plant in 2036 and fully operate it. The option of building a unit with 1000 or 1200 MW capacity is being discussed. Works are underway for the technical-economic study of the new unit, Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Hakob Vardanyan told reporters at a briefing in Sochi on the sidelines of the ATOMEXPO International Forum.

The deputy minister said some documents have already been signed, for example, the memorandum with Rosatom on constructing a new unit. There are meeting protocols and an action plan.

“Currently, the option of building units with a capacity of 1000 or 1200 MW is being discussed. These preliminary technical-economic works are being done in order to see whether these units could be combined with our energy system”, he said.

He added that specialists are now conducting examinations and a final decision will be made only after that. The deputy minister didn't rule out that as a result of these examinations they could decide to build a unit even with a smaller capacity.



But the initial desire is to build power units with 1000 or 1200 MW capacity.

As for the timeframes, the deputy minister said: “In 2036 the new power unit must already be ready for full operation. The tests to connect the network must already be done in 2034-2035 so that in 2036, in parallel with the second power unit, the new unit will start to operate fully. This means that it must have passed the testing stage at least a year”.

Thus, having a new power unit in 2036 is a target.

As for the funding, the deputy minister said it's too early to talk about it. “But it is an accepted practice in the world – funds are attracted from a country the technology of which we use. For example, it's very difficult to imagine the construction of a new nuclear power plan with the Russian

technology through a funding provided by another country. No private financial structure can finance such a large-scale program without the government's support. And it's natural that if we construct an NPP with the Russian design, there will also be a Russian funding”, he said.

The deputy minister said they move forward in accordance with the timeframe. For instance, meetings and discussions are planned now as well, and ATOMEXPO platform is used for this purpose. The Armenian delegation is going to have meetings with the executives of Rosatom to discuss issues relating to both the construction of the new power unit and the double lifetime extension of the NPP's second power unit. The next meeting is scheduled in late December.

The term of the operation of the Armenian NPP's second power unit has been extended until 2026 after upgrading works. Currently, works are underway to extend it until 2036. The Armenian Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure and the Russian state corporation Rosatom are working on this direction within the frames of a working group.

Azerbaijan's president directly threatens peaceful people living in Armenia's towns and villages - MP



Armenia's parliamentary delegation participated in the autumn meeting of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliament's press service said.

MP Sargis Khandanyan delivered re-

marks about Azerbaijan's military aggression against the sovereign territory of Armenia.

“Azerbaijan's unjustified and unprovoked aggression against Armenia's sovereign territory launched on September 13 this year resulted in grave humanitarian consequences for the peaceful population living close to the eastern border of Armenia. Shelling of 36 towns and villages, displacement of 7600 civilians, including 1500 children, the targeting of hundreds of residential houses, hotels, schools, medical facilities, media personal, killing of 211 Armenians, including civilians. Days after

this aggression horrific videos appeared in Azerbaijani social media showing the extrajudicial executions of unarmed Armenian soldiers.

A couple of weeks ago, two years after the Nagorno Karabakh war, the President of Azerbaijan delivered a hate filled speech glorifying these crimes and justifying the occupation of the sovereign territory of Armenia”, he said.

The MP said that these locations are towns and villages in Armenia where thousands of peaceful people live. “The president of Azerbaijan directly threatens these people”, he stated.

Japan donates 39 ambulances to Armenia



The Japanese government donated new ambulance vehicles to Armenia as part of the Economic and Social Development grant agreement signed in June, 2020.

The donation is comprised of 39 ambulances worth 3,5 million dollars. 4 of the

vehicles are mobile intensive care units.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Healthcare Minister Anahit Avanesyan, Vice Mayor of Yerevan Tigran Avinyan, Member of Parliament Arsen Torosyan, Japanese Ambassador to Armenia Masanori Fukushima and other officials attended the ceremonial handover.

“I am very happy today that the Japanese government is donating the new generation ambulance vehicles to Armenia. Armenia and Japan have developed the friendly relations over the past 30 years,” Ambassador Fukushima said.

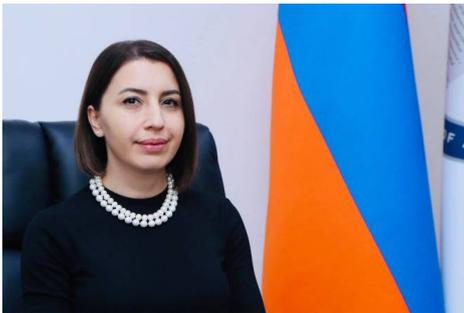
He said that the improvement of health-



care services is among the priorities of Japan’s support to Armenia.

Healthcare Minister Anahit Avanesyan said the donation will definitely increase the quality of medical services.

Ombudswoman participates in General Assembly of European Network of National Human Rights Institutions in Brussels



The Human Rights Defender of Armenia, Ms. Kristinne Grigoryan, participated in the General Assembly of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) in Brussels, held on November 22-23, her Office said.

The purpose of the General Assembly meeting was, among other topics, to examine the activities and progress of the ENNHRI in 2022, as well as discuss the actions for 2023 and adopt a new strategic plan.

At the meeting, attended by the representatives of NHRIs of more than 40 countries, the third Annual Report of ENNHRI on the state of the rule of law in Europe, the current challenges presented in the mentioned report, and the progress recorded in various fields were discussed.

Within the framework of the Assembly, the NHRIs discussed the challenges of the ombudsperson institutions in the new

security situations and agreed to continue the work, first of all, in the direction of increasing the resistance of the institutions by developing and approving projects for ensuring the resistance.

Ms. Kristinne Grigoryan presented the work and challenges of the Human Rights Defender’s institution of Armenia during and after the aggression on Armenia on September 13-14 of this year, considering the widespread nature of human rights violations and a large number of war crimes.

The heads of NHRIs also discussed the preliminary action plan of ENNHRI for 2023, and presented observations and recommendations.

Pashinyan holds meeting with Macron at Francophonie summit

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, within the framework of the 18th summit of the International Organization of La Francophonie, held in Djerba, Tunisia, had a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, the Prime Minister’s Office said.

“The interlocutors highly appreciated Armenia’s presidency of the International Organization of La Francophonie and referred to the discussions taking place within the framework of the summit held in Tunisia. Issues related to the organization’s priorities and future plans were discussed.

Nikol Pashinyan and Emmanuel Macron also exchanged ideas on the results of the quadrilateral meeting of the leaders of Armenia, France, Azerbaijan and the President of the European Council held in Prague in October this year. Implementation of steps aimed at strengthening stability and security in the South Caucasus was emphasized.

Prime Minister Pashinyan stressed the need to eliminate the consequences of Azerbaijani aggression, and of immediate withdrawal of Azerbaijani units from the sovereign territory of Armenia.

The leaders of Armenia and France



also discussed issues related to the further development of the Armenian-French bilateral cooperation,” the Prime Minister’s Office said in a readout.

No “peace” and “prosperity” through genocide: Lemkin Institute supports Artsakh people’s right to self-determination

The Lemkin Institute has voiced its solidarity with and support for the people of the Republic of Artsakh, who turned out in Stepanakert on October 30th in historic numbers to rally for self-determination.

In a statement the Institute reminds that Artsakh has been inhabited by a majority Armenian population for thousands of years, and mentions of Armenians in the region date back at least to the 6th century BCE.

The Institute briefly presented the history of the region and the Artsakh wars.

“At the heart of this conflict are two factors that are common in genocidal scenarios: The

weakening of one group or groups through genocide and the continuing impunity (and genocidal ideology) of perpetrator groups. In this case, we have, on the one hand, the consequences of the Armenian genocide in the region, which completely eradicated the Armenian presence in Western Armenia (today’s eastern Turkey) and substantially reduced Armenians’ fighting capacity and political leverage in the Caucasus in the late 1910s and early 1920s. On the other hand, we have the development of Azeri nationalism as an anti-Armenian phenomenon and the ongoing and unchecked genocidal hostility of Azeri nationalists towards Armenians. Neither of these issues should be ignored by the international community in constructing policy towards the region,” the statement reads.

The Lemkin Institute says “there seems to be the misperception among many members of the international community that Artsakh should simply be “given up” — handed over to Azerbaijan due to the territorial losses suffered by Armenians in 2020.”

“In fact, many Western governments seem to be promoting policies that will



lead to Azerbaijani control over Artsakh in the name of “peace” and “prosperity,” two terms repeatedly used by US officials at a November 16 Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on “Assessing U.S. Policy in the Caucasus.” The origin of this Western view is, once again, a desire to please Turkey and to gain access to Caucasus oil as well as to strategic positions in Central Asia. Such a view negates Artsakh’s legitimate right to self-determination and risks collusion with a genocidal state.”

It emphasizes that “What the Western world, and particularly NATO, fails to understand is that “giving up” Artsakh would mean condoning genocide against Armenians: the forced displacement and persecution of Armenians, widespread atrocity crimes, destruction of cultural heritage, and one of the largest humanitarian crises in the Caucasus region in the past decades, involving a huge influx of refugees to Armenia proper.”

“Importantly, given the current red flags for genocide in Turkey and Azerbaijan, as well as what we know about the genocidal process in general, it is inconceivable that “giving up” Artsakh will put an end to conflict in the region, much less lead to “peace” and “prosperity.” The genocidal designs of Azerbaijan and its strong ally Turkey almost ensure that aggression against Armenian territory will continue. The anti-Armenian hatred pro-

moted by both countries, and especially by the Aliyev regime, will not abate with the depopulation of Artsakh,” the statement reads.

It notes that the depopulation of Artsakh should be seen as the beginning of a much larger push to erase the Armenian presence from the region once and for all.

“The people of Artsakh deserve to have their calls for self-determination heard and taken seriously by the international community,” the Institute said, reminding that the right to self-determination is one of the most important fundamentals of the international legal system along with the equal sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

“The fundamental right to self-determination should not become another legal fiction; instead, it should be understood as an essential element of lasting international peace and security. Furthermore, the international community’s responsibility to protect identity groups is an essential norm that must be exercised in this case, where the world has the rare chance to prevent genocide before mass killing has begun,” the Lemkin Institute notes.

“Only when these rights are fully protected and respected will the world be able to fulfill the long-awaited promises of the United Nations Charter,” it says.

The Lemkin Institute calls for the creation of an independent international commission to study the issues involved in Artsakh, with the aim of establishing a just outcome and a stable peace.

“Azerbaijan must not be allowed to use force to claim Armenian territory and the international community must make clear that it will vigorously defend Armenian life against a renewal of the genocide of 1915,” the statement concludes.

Armenians Need to Assess French Senate's Positive Resolution Cool-Headedly

By Harut Sassounian

Throughout their long history, Armenians have always expected that some foreign power would rescue them from their enemies. Over the centuries, they hoped for assistance from the Romans, Byzantines, Russians, French, Americans, and now Iranians. But, no one has ever come to save them. One would think that after such a long string of disappointments, Armenians would finally learn the lesson that no one will rescue them. They need to save themselves.

Given such unrealistic expectations, Armenians keep going from one potential rescuer to another, attempting to find anyone that would assist them. No one helped save the Armenians when Ottoman Turkey was committing genocide against them; no one saved them when the survivors returned to Cilicia only to be attacked and killed by Atatürk's armies; no one helped them in the late 1980's and early 1990's when Azeris were massacring Armenians in Artsakh; and no one helped Armenians when Azeris with the support of Jihadist terrorists, Israel and Turkey conquered most of Artsakh, killing and maiming thousands of Armenian soldiers and civilians.

After all of these disappointing experiences, Armenians were hoping that Russia would step in and save Artsakh. When that didn't happen, Armenians loudly complained that Russia had betrayed them. Armenians kept demanding that the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) protect Armenia from repeated Azeri encroachments on its borders.

Armenians don't seem to understand that each nation's priority is to defend its own national interest, not that of Armenia. No one is obliged to help Armenia, even when a treaty of mutual defense is signed, which is viewed as a mere "a piece of paper." Rather than abandoning their unrealistic expectations, Armenians have now turned to France and the United States hoping they would come to their rescue!

It is encouraging that in recent months

Armenia signed contracts with India to purchase a large number of missiles and artillery. Finally, the Armenian Government is realizing that it needs to defend the country rather than rely on the mercy of others.

Last week, Armenians around the world were elated that the French Senate adopted a pro-Armenian resolution. However, Armenians should neither exaggerate nor minimize the significance of this resolution. The French Armenian community has carried out commendable lobbying activities for many years to create such a sympathetic atmosphere about Armenians and Armenia. That is the main reason why this resolution was adopted by the French Senate with the near unanimous vote of 295 in favor and one against.

The comprehensive French resolution strongly condemned Azerbaijan's invasion of the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia and demanded:

- The immediate withdrawal of Azeri forces from Armenia;
- The release of all Armenian prisoners of war held by Baku since the 2020 war;
- The preservation of Armenian cultural and religious monuments;
- That the French government with the United Nations Security Council refer Azerbaijan's aggression to the International Criminal Court;
- That France sanctions Azerbaijan, seize the assets of its leaders, and place an embargo on the importation of Azeri oil and gas;
- The establishment of a French humanitarian office in Artsakh;
- The strengthening of the defense capability of Armenia;
- The deployment of an interposition force under the aegis of the international community;
- The recognition of the Nagorno Karabagh (Artsakh) Republic;
- That France ensures Azerbaijan engages in peaceful negotiation with Armenia to establish a lasting peace.

Azerbaijan reacted harshly and con-

demned the French Senate for adopting this resolution. By taking counter-measures, Azerbaijan risks disrupting its diplomatic and economic relations with France. However, for this non-binding resolution to have any effect, it must be adopted by the French National Assembly and backed by the President and Government of France.

Armenians need to have a cool-headed assessment of the French Senate resolution. They should not expect France to save Artsakh or Armenia. They need to continue developing Armenia's military so they can defend the country's borders, while welcoming the assistance of any country, without having any unrealistic expectations. Remember that the French Senate and Parliament adopted resolutions after the 2020 war, urging the French government to recognize the Artsakh Republic, which did not materialize. This is not surprising as Armenia itself does not recognize the independence of Artsakh. To avoid further disappointments, Armenians need to view the French Senate resolution as an important moral and diplomatic support, but not a military one.

Another message of support for Armenia and Artsakh came this week when 120 prominent celebrities and intellectuals issued a joint statement in the French "Le Figaro Magazine," including Claudia Cardinale, Gerard Chaliand, Costa-Gavras, Alain Delon, Bernard-Henri Levy, Yves Terson, etc. They wrote: "More than a century after the perpetration of the genocide of Armenians by the Ottoman leaders in 1915, the same people are once again victims of two authoritarian regimes which, in Baku as in Ankara, provoke inter-ethnic hatred to endow their unchallenged power with a bloody new trophy...."

It is now up to the Armenian Government and Armenians around the world to see to it that the French Senate resolution and the statement of the 120 celebrities are used to provide additional support for Armenians in Armenia and Artsakh.

New opportunity for Armenian teens: TUMO announces partnership with Rise



TUMO Center for Creative Technologies is partnering with Rise, a global initiative of [Schmidt Futures](#) and the Rhodes Trust, that finds exceptionally talented young people around the world and supports them as they work to serve others throughout their lives. The partnership aims to encourage youth ages 15-17 (as of July 1st, 2023) to apply to the [Rise Challenge](#).

As the anchor program of a broader \$1 billion philanthropic commitment from Eric and Wendy Schmidt to support global talent, Rise focuses on identifying promising young people and providing them with opportunities, resources, and support. As part of the Rise Challenge, Rise will select 100 Global Winners from tens of thousands of applicants to join the 2023 Rise Cohort. The program is designed to encourage a lifetime of service and learning by providing support that could include scholarships, career services, and funding opportunities to help these leaders serve others for decades to come.

Since its inception, Rise has welcomed over 150,000 people from over 170 countries to its community and selected 200 Winners from 69 countries of origin who have showcased their brilliance—from making education more accessible to mitigat-

ing global warming and developing tools to better detect cancer. Schmidt Futures is a philanthropic initiative that brings talented people together in networks to prove out their ideas and solve hard problems in science and society.

Rise recognizes that talent is created equally, but opportunity is not, which is why they partner with 30+ global organizations, including TUMO, United World College (UWC), Manchester United Foundation, Teach for All, Amideast, and Latin American Leadership Academy, to scour the globe to find brilliant young people who are passionate about building a better world.

“With aligned missions to seek out, cultivate and enrich talent, Rise is proud to team up with TUMO to find and support a network of extraordinary people from diverse backgrounds across Armenia who have the potential to serve others together for life,” said Rise Executive Director, Mark German.

“We’re happy to partner with Rise in Armenia and to support the next generation of young problem-solvers on their paths to building a better world. With Rise, Armenian teens can get access to invaluable resources and opportunities. We’re targeting every 15- to 17-year-old who is eager

to create a socially meaningful project to solve emerging issues and address global challenges,” said Pegor Papazian, TUMO’s head of development.

Rise Global Winners will receive individualized and flexible support to achieve their goals. The program is designed to encourage a lifetime of service to develop innovative solutions to solve society’s hard problems. Rise provides all applicants, regardless of Winner status, with access to its global network, free online courses, and curated opportunities from partners.

All Rise Global Winners receive the following benefits upon selection:

- **Residential Summit:** A fully-funded, three-week residential summit with other members of the Rise Global Winner cohort.
- **Global Winner Network:** Access to the Rise Global Winners network to connect on common interests, make service commitments, launch enterprises, and collaborate.
- **Counseling and Career Support:** Advice and support for applying to university and selecting a career.
- **Programming:** Access to specialized programs, courses, and other opportunities through Rise partners.
- **Higher Education Scholarships:** A four-year, post-secondary scholarship at any accredited university, including tuition and a living stipend, based on need and where not already covered by financial aid.
- **Technology:** A technology package, such as a laptop or tablet, to be determined annually.

In addition, all Rise Global Winners can apply for the following benefits:

- **Partner Network:** Matching to programs, secondary school scholarships, internships, and other benefits from partners who are part of the Rise network.

French docu-comic keeps the memory of the Armenian genocide alive



A bracing graphic novel released this year explores a horror that cannot be forgotten – the Armenian genocide, *Euronews* reports.

With ‘Une Histoire du Génocide des Arméniens’ (‘A History of the Armenian Genocide’), French comic book writer Jean-Blaise Djian (Djian) and French press editor, film producer and scriptwriter Gorune Aprikan have merged fiction and archival material in a docu-comic. It is an essential artwork that aims for the reader to better understand the complex history of the Armenian genocide and, above all, to keep its memory alive.

By presenting the daily life of an Armenian family shattered by the deportations, this unique comic book addresses one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century. Through documentary pages, illustrated with archive photographs, it shows how, from 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire massacred and deported at least 1.5 million Armenians in what is now Turkey.

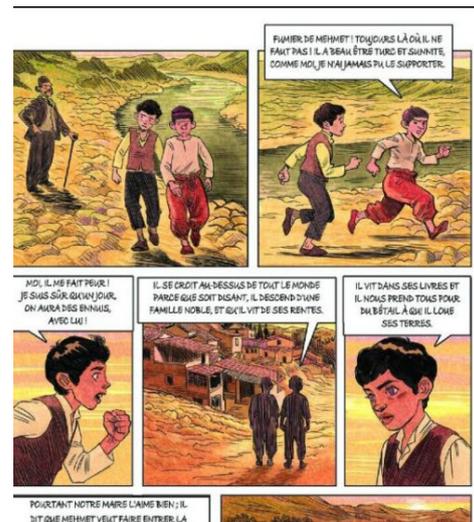
“There was the feeling that this was a topic that had yet to be treated,” Gorune Aprikan tells Euronews Culture.

“It’s important that the denialism regarding the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide is addressed in classrooms, and we felt that there was a need to give pupils, but also teachers and adults, a tool to

Ottoman Empire has been tense for many years, the Turkish and Armenian populations live in cordial harmony in Dendil, a small mountain village where the Hagopian family lives. But while the European powers are fighting in the trenches, a general extermination plan of the Armenians is put in place by the Ottoman government.

The father, Arakel, like all Armenians in the village, is falsely mobilized to take part in the war and will be shot by the Ottomans. The remainder of the family is forced to be deported.

The focus shifts to Mikael, the Hagopian’s teenage son, who has to hide for four long years in Dendil to try to escape the deportation and find his family.



better understand the issues at stake in this matter.”

Set in 1915, ‘Une Histoire du Génocide des Arméniens’ follows the Hagopian family.

Although the political situation in the

- **Funding Opportunities:** Apply for funding to experiment with innovative ideas to address major problems in local communities or around the world—ranging from seed money to start a social enterprise to a grant for a non-profit.
- **Education Support:** Apply for scholarship funds for a graduate degree.

How to Apply?

The online applications are now open on the [Rise website](#) and are available until January 25, 2023, at 16:59 GMT.

The Rise 2023 Challenge has three stages:

- **Submission:** Applicants introduce themselves through videos, create an individual project that demonstrates their talents and benefits their communities, and peer review other applicants’ projects, among other activities.
- **Interview:** Rise then selects up to 500 Finalists to advance to “Finalist Days,” where they demonstrate their motivations, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork skills in an inno-

vative interview format.

- **Global Winner Selection:** From the Finalists, Rise selects 100 Global Winners to receive a lifetime of benefits as they work to serve others.

“We’re planning to organize online and face-to-face sessions with all interested candidates and their parents. We will do our best to help them understand and navigate the application process,” said Papazian. “We’re eager to have young Armenians join the Rise community and reach their maximum potential.”

Armenian Ambassador in Italy expresses gratitude to journalist Stefania Battistini for Artsakh war documentary



During an event in Rome the Armenian Ambassador to Italy Tsovinar Hambarzumyan expressed gratitude to the Assadakah Center for their pro-Armenian activities.

In particular, the Ambassador highly appreciated Italian journalist Stefania Battistini's activities.

After the 44-Day War Battistini visited Armenia and Artsakh and prepared a documentary film about the Armenian historical

and cultural heritage in Artsakh and presented the atrocities committed by Azerbaijan during the war and its aftermath.

"Her work is extremely important. I know that Stefania is from Milan, but she's almost never in Milan. Instead, you can see her in hotspots like Artsakh and Afghanistan, where human lives are in danger. She is a warrior herself, and today the professional journalism needs people like her," the Armenian Ambassador said.

Battistini was present at the event.

The Armenian Ambassador spoke about Battistini's courage, and how she tried to break the international community's indifference with her work.

She specifically spoke about the courage shown by the Italian journalist, who tried to break the indifference of the international community with her work. "For 44 days, Nagorno-Karabakh was under fire, residential houses, schools, hospitals, maternity hospitals, women and children were under fire, but the world was silent. Stefania Battistini was one of the few who did not keep silent. She told the Italian public, in Italy and beyond, on RAI 1, everything that was happening in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, in a small country that has been fighting for freedom, democracy and the right to life for 30 years."

Stefania Battistini thanked for the award and noted that it was an honor for her to do this work in Armenia. "I would particularly like to thank you, because you gave me the opportunity to do this work with great freedom, which does not always happen, because the country under attack often encloses in itself," she said, emphasizing the importance of free journalism, and thanking again for that honor reserved to her.

Strasbourg raises Armenian flag in front of City Hall in a sign of solidarity



The flag of Armenia has been raised in front of Strasbourg City Hall as a sign of

solidarity with Armenia.

Attending the ceremony were the Mayor of Strasbourg Jeanne Barseghian and Armenia's Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe, Arman Khachatryan.

On November 7 the City Council of Strasbourg adopted a Motion of support for Armenia in the face of the aggression by Azerbaijan. As a sign of solidarity, it was decided to raise the flag of

Armenia in front of the City's administrative center.



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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.

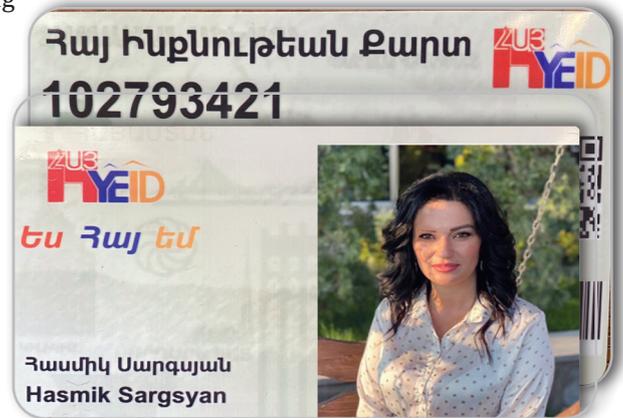
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