

## Azerbaijan must end the blockade of the Lachin corridor: European Parliament adopts resolution on Nagorno Karabakh



**The European Parliament on January 19 adopted an urgent resolution on “Humanitarian consequences of the blockade in Nagorno-Karabakh.”**

Parliament deplores the severe humanitarian crisis caused by the current blockade of the Lachin corridor in Nagorno-Karabakh by self-proclaimed environmentalists from Azerbaijan. With the corridor being the only road connecting the war-torn region with Armenia and the outside world, MEPs urge Azerbaijan to re-open it immediately, in order to enable freedom of movement and ensure access to essential goods and services for the most vulnerable.

The resolution underlines the need for a comprehensive peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan that guarantees the rights and security of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

It calls for international organizations to be granted access to the area, in order to provide necessary humanitarian assistance, as well as for a UN or OSCE fact-finding mission to travel to the Lachin corridor to assess the humanitarian situation on the ground.

In addition, MEPs condemn the “inaction” of Russian peacekeepers present in the area and consider that these should be replaced by OSCE international peacekeepers. They also encourage the EU to ensure that Nagorno-Karabakh’s inhabitants “are no longer held hostage by Baku’s activism, Russia’s destructive role or the inactivity of the Minsk group.”

The resolution was adopted by show of hands.

*The full text of the resolution read on page 11.*

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## Armenian FM talks to UN chief, highlights the need for a fact-finding mission to Artsakh

The recent developments in the region were discussed during a phone conversation between Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and UN Secretary-General António Guterres on January 16.

Ararat Mirzoyan briefed his interlocutor on the details of the humanitarian crisis unfolded in Nagorno-Karabakh as a result of the blockade of Lachin Corridor, particularly stressing the need for a targeted response and effective steps by international institutions, particularly, the United



Nations.

Minister Mirzoyan underlined that

Azerbaijan grossly violates the provisions of the November 9 Trilateral Statement and the principles of international humanitarian law.

Under these circumstances, the Armenian side highlighted the importance of sending a fact-finding mission to Nagorno-Karabakh and Lachin Corridor, as well as ensuring unhindered humanitarian access to Nagorno-Karabakh for relevant UN bodies.

## NATO interested in ensuring stability and peace in the South Caucasus, special envoy tells Armenian PM



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Caucasus and Central Asia Javier Colomina Píriz. The parties discussed issues related to Armenia-NATO

cooperation, as well as the processes taking place in the South Caucasus.

The Prime Minister referred to the humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh caused by the blocking of the Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan. Nikol Pashinyan stressed that with its provocative step, Azerbaijan once again violates the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020 and emphasized the importance of the international community's attention and appropriate response to the situation.

The special representative of the NATO

Secretary General expressed concern about the situation caused by the blocking of the Lachin Corridor and emphasized the importance of ensuring the uninterrupted operation of the corridor. Javier Colomina added that NATO is interested in ensuring stability and peace in the region and expresses support for the efforts made by international partners in this direction.

During the meeting, the interlocutors also discussed other issues of mutual interest.

## Armenia-Cyprus-Greece partnership highlighted at political consultations between foreign ministries of Armenia, Cyprus

Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Cyprus were held in Yerevan. The Armenian delegation was headed by Deputy FM Paruyr Hovhannisyan, and the Cypriot one by Secretary General of the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kornelios Korneliou.

As Noyan Tapan was informed from the MFA Armenia, during the consultations, the interlocutors discussed a wide range of issues of the Armenian-Cypriot bilateral political agenda, emphasizing with satisfaction the high level of political dialogue. The sides exchanged thoughts on a number of regional and international issues

of mutual interest, including cooperation within the EU. The parties expressed readiness to make efforts to fully realize the existing potential of bilateral cooperation.

The importance of the trilateral cooperation formed between Armenia, Cyprus and Greece was particularly emphasized.

Paruyr Hovhannisyan presented details of the consequences of blocking the free movement of people and goods through the Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan, stressing that Artsakh is facing the threat of a humanitarian crisis. He also emphasized that the illegal actions, belligerent rhetoric, and maximalist approach of the leadership of Azerbaijan are seriously undermining the

efforts to achieve peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

On the same day, the Cypriot delegation visited the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute and Memorial to pay tribute to the memory of the Armenian Genocide victims.





## Pashinyan, Blinken discuss humanitarian situation in Artsakh caused by Azerbaijan's blocking of Lachin Corridor



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan had a telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on January 18.

The interlocutors discussed the severe humanitarian situation in Nagorno-Karabakh caused by Azerbaijan's blocking of the Lachin Corridor. The Prime Minister noted that by closing the Lachin Corridor, Azerbaijan once again resorted to a provocative action and actually violated the obligation assumed by the trilateral declaration of November 9, 2020.

The US Secretary of State emphasized the importance of the uninterrupted opera-

tion of the Lachin Corridor and expressed the US readiness to continue contributing to the solution of this problem.

The interlocutors exchanged ideas on the issues of normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, protection of the rights and security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, unblocking of regional infrastructures, and normalization of Armenia-Turkey relations.

## Armenian Parliament Speaker draws the attention of international partners to the blockade of Lachin corridor

Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly Alen Simonyan has addressed an official letter to the heads of parliaments of more than 30 countries and presidents of international parliamentary organizations, drawing attention to the blocking of the Lachin Corridor, the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia.

The letter states that the blocking of the Lachin Corridor, which is under the control of the Russian peacekeeping force, is a gross violation by Azerbaijan of the international obligations assumed by the tripartite statement of November 9, 2020.

Referring to the 120,000 Armenians living in Artsakh under siege, the Speaker noted that the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno Karabakh is deepening day by day. "The danger of malnutrition is becoming more and more tangible. 41 kindergartens and 20 schools are closed. Thousands of children are denied the right to education."

Moreover, he said, "this blockade prevents the free movement of the people of



Nagorno-Karabakh. At least 1,100 civilians have been stranded along the highway in recent weeks, unable to return to their homes.

Reference was also made to the 270 minors who received temporary asylum in Armenia, while their parents are in Artsakh.

The Speaker informed that today Nagorno Karabakh lives in conditions of isolation, with an extreme lack of electricity, without access to services and goods vital for life.

"This siege is nothing but a bright continuation of the consistent policy of ethnic

cleansing carried out by Azerbaijan," he said.

The letter mentions that a number of governments, including France and the United States, along with the European Union, the European Parliament and many national parliaments, the United Nations, human rights organizations, prominent international organizations dealing with genocide issues, have condemned this illegal and hostile act and called to immediately and unconditionally unblock the corridor.

"Once again emphasizing the determination of the Armenian side to build peace and stability in the region, we call on our international partners to take additional measures to prevent the difficult situation unfolding in Nagorno-Karabakh, including the application of sanctions against Azerbaijan," the Speaker said.

Alen Simonyan had addressed another similar letter to colleagues on December 14, 2022.

## Secretary of Security Council of Armenia presents the humanitarian crisis in NK to French President's advisor

On January 19, Security Council Secretary Armen Grigoryan had a telephone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron's diplomatic advisor Isabelle Dumont.

As Noyan Tapan was informed from the Office of the Security Council of Armenia, Armen Grigoryan presented Isabelle Dumont with the humanitarian crisis

created in Nagorno-Karabakh, which was caused by the blocking of the Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan. The Secretary emphasized the importance of making international efforts to resolve the situation.

The parties emphasized the holding of continuous bilateral consultations in order to ensure stability and peace in the region.



## U.S. describes Armenia-Azerbaijan process as “personal priority” of Blinken, hopes to see constructive dialogue

The United States has seen “setbacks” when it comes to Nagorno-Karabakh and wants to see constructive dialogue put back on track, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said at a press briefing.

“We’re going to do what is ultimately most helpful. And at the end of last year, there were a couple meetings that the Secretary chaired between his counterparts, a trilateral meeting between Armenia, Azerbaijan, with Secretary Blinken in the middle. We did that at Blair House. We did that in New York. Of course, we’ve seen setbacks when it comes to Nagorno-Karabakh of late. We want to see constructive dialogue put back on track. We stand ready to engage bilaterally. We stand ready to engage with and through partners, through the OSCE or, if and when appropriate, tri-

laterally, as we have done in the past,” Price said.

Price said Secretary of State Antony Blinken will have an opportunity in the coming days to speak to Azeri President Aliyev.

“So the Secretary did have an opportunity today to speak to the leader of Armenia. I do expect that he will have an opportunity in the coming days to speak to President Aliyev,” Price said.

Furthermore, Price described the Armenia-Azerbaijan process as a “personal priority” for Secretary Blinken.

“So, of course, Ambassador Reeker did retire from the Department of State after an illustrious 30-year career just last week. But there are a number of individuals in



this department who are deeply invested in this process, not the least of whom is Secretary Blinken himself. This is a personal priority of his. But people like Toria Nuland, people like Karen Donfried, people like a number of the senior officials in our Bureau of European and Eurasian affairs, will remain deeply engaged in this,” Price said.

## Lavrov calls on Azerbaijani Foreign Minister to unblock the Lachin corridor

During a phone conversation with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on January 17, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stressed the need for the soonest complete unblocking of traffic along the Lachin corridor.

“The Russian side stressed the need for the soonest complete unblocking of traffic along the Lachin corridor in accordance with the parameters set out in the tripartite statement of November 9, 2020,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said.



Lavrov emphasized the importance of reaching mutually acceptable decisions on all related issues in order to resume comprehensive work on the key tracks of the

Armenian-Azerbaijani normalization on the basis of agreements reached between the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.”

On December 12, 2022, a group of Azerbaijanis, who introduced themselves as environmentalists, blocked the Lachin corridor – the only road connecting Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh, where the Russian peacekeeping contingent is stationed.

## Armenia Security Council Secretary, National Security Advisor to India PM emphasize development of friendly relations

Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan had a phone call with Ajit Doval, the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.

They discussed the regional security situation and Grigoryan presented the deteriorating humanitarian crisis with all its

consequences in Nagorno Karabakh resulting from the Azerbaijani blockade of Lachin Corridor, Grigoryan’s office said in a read-out.

Grigoryan and Doval were pleased to note the stable dynamics of development of the Armenian-Indian friendly relations and the existing high level of political dialogue.



## US calls on Azerbaijan and Russia to restore unhindered transit through Lachin corridor



The United States is gravely concerned that the Lachin corridor has now been obstructed for more than 30 days, creating critical shortages of food, medicine, and other supplies in Nagorno-Karabakh, US Ambassador to OSCE Michael Carpenter said at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting initiated by Armenia.

“These facts are indisputable. We call on Azerbaijan and Russia to restore unhindered transit immediately in keeping with prior commitments, which clearly include guarantees for the “security of persons, vehicles and cargo moving along the Lachin

Corridor in both directions.” The ongoing disrupted passage of private and commercial traffic on the Lachin road could have severe humanitarian consequences for the people living in Nagorno-Karabakh,” the Ambassador said.

He thanked the ICRC for providing critical aid, and called on Azerbaijan to ensure the individual rights, safety, and well-being of the population living in this area are respected. “All OSCE participating States have an obligation to protect the safety of persons on their territory without regard to ethnicity,” Mr. Carpenter added.

“I also look forward to a substantive discussion on the recommendations of the Polish Chair’s Needs Assessment Team under the stewardship of North Macedonia. The OSCE and its various institutions are well placed to assist Armenia and Azerbaijan based on our comprehensive approach to security and anchored in our values, principles, and commitments. We

have an extensive toolkit that could be utilized in this conflict and we should discuss how we can do so,” he said.

“The United States calls on Azerbaijan and Armenia to reengage in meaningful negotiations to resolve their disputes. A comprehensive peace agreement is the only true path to long-lasting peace based on normalization of relations and mutual recognition. We also call on Azerbaijan and Armenia to investigate alleged atrocities and to hold perpetrators accountable,” the Ambassador continued.

“The United States looks forward to working with North Macedonia and the OSCE to improve security for all people in this region. We will continue to work with Azerbaijan and Armenia bilaterally, multilaterally through partners such as the European Union, and through international organizations like the OSCE to reach a comprehensive and sustainable settlement for this conflict,” he concluded.

## EU intends to deploy new monitoring mission to Armenia - RFE/RL

The European Union intends to deploy a new monitoring mission to Armenia with a term of at least two years; RFE/RL’s Armenian service Azatutyun reported citing unnamed sources.

The monitoring mission will be deployed in a month and will patrol in the entire territory of Armenia rather than only along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border like the first mission did. The monitors will



be unarmed, like the first team.

According to Azatutyun, the EU monitoring team will include nearly 200 monitors.

The draft decision was adopted last week in the Political and Security Committee of the Council of Europe and yesterday received approval at the main body dealing with monitoring missions – the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management, according to Azatutyun.

## ECtHR notifies CoE Committee of Ministers of interim measure against Azerbaijan

The European Court of Human Rights on January 16 decided to notify immediately the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe of the interim measure indicated to Azerbaijan at the request of Armenia on 21 Dec 2022 on reopening of Lachin Corridor.

At the same time, the Court rejected Azerbaijan’s request to apply interim measures against Armenia.

On December 21 the European Court

of Human Rights decided to indicate an interim measure in the case Armenia v. Azerbaijan.

The request concerned the blocking of the Lachin Corridor, via which Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh access vital services, in particular, medical care.

The request is part of the inter-State case Armenia v. Azerbaijan, which is concerned with allegations of multiple serious violations of

the Convention in the armed dispute around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Measures under Rule 39 of the Rules of Court are decided in connection with proceedings before the Court, without prejudging any subsequent decisions on the admissibility or merits of the case. The Court grants such requests only on an exceptional basis, when the applicants would otherwise face a real risk of irreversible harm.



## Yerevan, Tehran declared sister cities



On an official visit to Tehran, Yerevan Mayor Hrachya Sargsyan met with his

counterpart Alireza Zakani.

Emphasizing the importance of cooperation between the two capitals, Hrachya Sargsyan and Alireza Zakani noted that the relations between the two cities have a great potential for development and expansion.

Following the meeting the Mayors signed a sister-city agreement between Yerevan and Tehran.

Hrachya Sargsyan and Alireza Zakani also signed the cooperation plan between the two capitals, under which the parties will cooperate in transport, urban development, culture, environmental protection and a number of other areas of urban economy.

The mayor of Yerevan invited his counterpart from Tehran on a mutual visit to Yerevan.

## Parliament expands employment opportunities for foreign nationals



Parliament adopted MP Gevorg Papoyan's bill aimed at expanding employment opportunities for foreign nationals in Armenia.

The bill passed with 67 votes in favor. 9 MPs voted against and 23 voted present.

Papoyan said on January 16 that the move is in line with the government's efforts to improve the business environment in Armenia.

"Recently, numerous foreign companies and their staff have moved to Armenia," the legislator said in parliament. "And it turned out, when these foreign companies open a representation here, then the foreign staff of these companies have

work permit in Armenia. But if they open a branch, it means they don't have a work permit. That clause of the law was odd. It turns out that there is a discriminatory approach," Papoyan said.

He said that numerous foreign citizens are traveling to Armenia to work these days. He said it's important to revise policies in this regard. He said the bill authored by him is aimed at enabling foreign nationals to work not only in representations of foreign companies, but also in branches.

## Ltsen-Shamb and Tatev-Ltsen road construction planned to be completed until summer

The construction of the Ltsen-Shamb and Tatev-Ltsen road sections will be completed until summer. The main part of the construction is completed and the roads will have the status of republican significance, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan said.

"The Ltsen-Shamb road is approximately 6 kilometers, and the Tatev-Ltsen road is 20 kilometers. In Shamb-Ltsen, 5 kilometers is asphalted, and 1,2 kilometers is under preparation, we will lay the asphalt soon. In Tatev-Ltsen, 19 kilometers from the 20 kilometers is asphalted, in

the other sections the gravel is laid and is passable for all types of vehicles," he said, adding that many citizens have started traveling along this road after learning that it is passable for cars.

He said a legal process is underway to grant a status of republican significance to these roads, and for there to be maintenance companies.

"The road is envisaged for the Sisian-Goris-Kapan road to pass easier, to access the Tatev village directly from Sisian. The main difficulty is the curved roads of Tatev," Sanosyan said.

"If everything proceeds normally and



we are able to have a contractor this year, the North-South road will be constructed within 5-6 years. We have rather good cargo-trade turnover with Iran. And we believe that in this regard this road will rather facilitate the work and will contribute to partnership between the two countries," Sanosyan said.

## Armenia Engineering City expected to boost international appeal in high-tech sector



The Engineering City is enabling IT companies to work under one roof and have access to the kind of equipment that aren't easy to acquire, Minister of High-Tech Industry Robert Khachatryan told ARMENPRESS.

"At the Engineering City, experts have the chance to work together, speak about their ideas and solve problems through united efforts. The construction of the territory envisaged for the Engineering City

was completed in 2022. We can state that we have a renovated area which is designed for building small offices of individual companies; the entire infrastructure is in place, gas, water, energy supply, paved roads. The landscaping work will follow the construction. In this regard Armenia will become even more attractive for international companies," the minister said.

The project's budget is \$21,000,000, of which \$10,500,000 will be financed with the loan resources provided by the World Bank.

A bidding process is open for Land Improvement and Infrastructure Development. The equipment of the Engineering City has been acquired and installed. The licensing commission confirmed 11 companies as residents [tenants]. Three of these companies have already launched construction of offices.

The process of application admissions from engineering and IT companies for residency status continues.

The Engineering City is an environment created for engineering companies in the high-tech sector with the purpose of facilitating and accelerating the development of complex engineering solutions.

It is a platform where engineering, science, and education come together to tackle the advanced engineering challenges of the 21st Century.

It provides a full range of advanced equipment, research and prototyping labs, machine tooling and production facilities that are accessible to all the resident companies.

The Engineering City Project is a Public-Private Partnership between the Government of Armenia and a Consortium of Private Companies.

## Ground control and downlink station of Armenia's satellite to be ready for operations this year

The images taken by Armenia's ARM-SAT-1 satellite orbiting the Earth can be used in agriculture, environmental protection, emergency situations and a number of other areas, as well as for scientific purposes, Minister of High-Tech Industry Robert Khachatryan told ARMENPRESS.

"All subsystems and devices of the satellite, including the optical and communication systems have been successfully

tested one by one, the results are positive. The testing is proceeding according to schedule," the minister said.

The guaranteed lifespan of the orbiting satellite is at least 4 years, but the factual lifetime of the satellite can exceed this. The satellite will be operated by trained personnel of Armenia's Geocosmos agency.

"ARMAT-1 satellite's control station and ground station [downlink facility] will

be ready for operations this year. The control station will enable us to fully control the satellite from Armenia through our specialists," Khachatryan said.

ARMSAT-1, Armenia's first earth observation satellite, was launched into orbit on May 25, 2022 on a SpaceX rocket from Cape Canaveral in the United States.

## Armenia hopes to complete energy project with Iran in 2023

Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Hakob Vardanyan says it is realistic to complete the construction of the third Armenia-Iran power transmission line by yearend.

Although the construction of the third electricity transmission line between Armenia and Iran was officially launched 17 years ago, the construction on the ground actually began in 2015-2016, according to Vardanyan.

He said the full swing construction began in February-March 2018, and before that only 1-2% of the work had been done.

The work slowed down due to the

COVID-19 pandemic and the war.

"We hope that by yearend we will fully complete the Iran-Armenia program, meaning the line will be ready up to Hrazdan," Vardanyan said.

The third power line will increase the current mutual-flow capacity of 340MW to 1200MW per hour. This means that Armenia will have the capacity to export 7-7,5 billion kWh electric-energy if the electric-energy modes are arranged ideally. On an average it will be possible to export 5,5-6 billion kWh.

The loan for the construction is issued by the Export Development Bank of Iran,

and the contractor is the Iranian company Samir.

Vardanyan explains the delays of the project with various reasons. For example, he said that Samir was experiencing financial problems for some time, as well as there've been problems with land acquisition and so on. But over 90% of obstacles are now resolved, there are no problems from the Armenian side and the Iranian contractor is overcoming its financial problems.

Vardanyan said the Armenian government has provided all possible support to accelerate the program.

## Moscow Unhappy with EU's New Monitoring Mission In Armenia

(RFE/RL) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on January 18 rebuked Armenia for letting the European Union send a new monitoring team to its border with Azerbaijan and refusing a similar mission offered by the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

The EU already deployed 40 civilian monitors to Armenian border areas in late October on a two-month mission agreed during an Armenian-Azerbaijani summit organized by the EU in Prague. Moscow criticized the deployment, saying that it was part of the West's efforts to drive Russia out of the region.

EU member states are expected to approve next week a larger monitoring mission on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border that could last for two years.

"Although we are allies and the CSTO mission is fully ready [for deployment,] the Armenian side prefers to agree to the long-term deployment of a civilian EU mission there," Lavrov told a news conference in Moscow.

"Of course, it's Armenia's right, but one must not forget that we are talking about the border with Azerbaijan and if that mission is deployed without Azerbai-



jan's consent it could produce opposite results and create additional problems instead of boosting confidence," he said.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev likewise warned last week that the planned EU deployment "will not improve security" because it has not been approved by Baku.

Lavrov said that Russia and other CSTO member states offered to send a similar team of monitors to the volatile border during a summit of the Russian-led military alliance held in Yerevan in November. He said Armenia rebuffed the offer because its ex-Soviet allies refused to voice "tough criticism" of Azerbaijani military operations along the frontier.

Yerevan appealed to the CSTO for support during the September 2022 border clashes which left at least 224 Armenian

soldiers dead. Armenian leaders afterwards accused the alliance of ignoring the appeal in breach of its statutes.

During the November summit, the CSTO proposed what its then Secretary General Stanislav Zas called a set of "measures to assist Armenia in this difficult situation." Zas said they included not only a monitoring mission but also "military-technical assistance."

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan rejected the offer, citing the absence of CSTO statements condemning Azerbaijan.

Tensions between Armenia and the CSTO have risen further since then, with Pashinyan continuing to accuse Russia and the bloc as a whole of not defending his country against Azerbaijani aggression. Pashinyan announced last week that his administration has cancelled a CSTO military exercise which was due to be held in Armenia this year.

He also declared that the Russian military presence in Armenia may be putting the South Caucasus country's security and territorial integrity at greater risk. The Russian Foreign Ministry denounced the claim as "absurd."

## Swedish MPs call for immediate reopening of Lachin corridor

The Sweden-Armenia Friendship Group of the Swedish Riksdag, members of the Swedish delegation to PACE and members of the Swedish delegation to OSCE PA have issued a statement regarding the continuing blockade of the Lachin Corridor.

Since December 12, 2022, Azerbaijan has blockaded the Lachin Corridor – the only land route to the outside world for 120,000 Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh. The blockade has hindered the delivery of essential supplies such as food, medicines, gas etc.

"This action by Azerbaijan constitutes a dear violation of human rights and can risk severe humanitarian consequences,"

the Swedish MPs say.

The lawmakers express deep concern over the current situation and condemn the blockade backed by the Azerbaijani government and call for an immediate end to this unprovoked aggression.

They call on Azerbaijan to urgently reopen the corridor to ensure free movement, including for humanitarian and commercial use, through the corridor and security of movement along the corridor, in line with the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020.

"We urge the government of Azerbaijan to fulfill its obligations under this statement and call for utmost restraint in terms of both actions and rhetoric. We also call



on the international community to take action and prevent the humanitarian crisis in the region," the MP say.

They stress that the situation should be settled through negotiations and peaceful dialogue.



## 15 Armenian Soldiers Die in Fire at Military Barracks



**(RFE/RL) - Fifteen soldiers were killed and three others seriously injured in what authorities said was a major fire that broke out at a military barracks in Armenia early on January 19.**

According to the Armenian Defense Ministry, the fire erupted overnight at the barracks of an engineer-sapper company in a military unit in Azat, a village in eastern Gegharkunik province, some 110 kilometers east of Yerevan.

Citing the “preliminary” findings of military investigators, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Defense Minister Suren Papikyan blamed it on a serious violation of fire-safety rules.

Pashinyan said an officer of the unit used a large amount of gasoline to start a fire in a woodstove heating the barracks. He said the Armenian army’s General Staff strictly banned the use of gasoline and other highly inflammable liquids for such purposes in a written order issued as recently as on December 21.

“Primitive compliance with this order would have prevented the accident,” Pashinyan added during a weekly session of his cabinet.

However, another junior military offi-

cer serving in Azat dismissed the official version of events, saying that no gasoline was kept inside the barracks.

“Even if it was, I wouldn’t allow that given the bad things that could happen,” he told journalists. “The investigation must be conducted to the end and all the guilty must strictly punished.”

Papikyan announced during the cabinet meeting that about a dozen senior officers have already been sacked over what was one of the deadliest non-combat accidents ever registered in Armenia’s armed forces.

The sacked officers included Vahram Grigoryan, the commander of the army’s Second Corps stationed in Gegharkunik. Grigoryan’s three deputies and the chief of the Defense Ministry’s fire-safety service were also fired.

Law-enforcement authorities did report any arrests as of Thursday afternoon. According to them, all 15 victims of the fire were army conscripts.

The victims and seven other soldiers stayed in an abandoned village house turned into a barracks. Pashinyan acknowledged that their living conditions were challenging.

“But that doesn’t matter,” he said.

“Fire-safety regulations must be observed in any place of residence.”

The unusually deadly fire sparked uproar on social media. Well-known critics of Pashinyan said it is the country’s political leaders -- and Papikyan in particular -- who are primarily responsible for the 15 deaths and must lose their jobs. Opposition leaders also blamed the government.

“Their entire team should have resigned long ago,” said Seyran Ohanyan, a former defense minister who now leads the parliamentary group of the main opposition Hayastan alliance.

“If I had been in this situation [as defense minister] I would have resigned right after the [2020 Armenian-Azerbaijani] war and I would have done the same today,” Ohanyan told reporters.

Hayk Mamijanian, another opposition lawmaker representing the Pativ Unem bloc, said that the ruling political team will try to dodge responsibility for the soldiers’ deaths.

“Over the past year there have been some 15 cases where both Pashinyan and his defense minister and entire gang of amateurs should have resigned,” he said. “Have they borne responsibility for anything until now?”

Artur Hovannisyanyan, a senior lawmaker from Pashinyan’s Civil Contract party, dismissed the resignation calls, saying that they will be “inappropriate” at least until the end of the criminal investigation into the accident.

“The political authority is responsible for every situation happening in the country,” he said. “But it doesn’t mean that we must try to immediately find scapegoats and blame everything on one person.”

## Nineteen children stranded in Armenia return to Stepanakert, Ombudsman says



Nineteen children separated from their parents and family for more than a month, returned home today though the Goris-Stepanakert road, Artsakh's Human Rights Defender Gegham Stepanyan informs.

The children were accompanied from Goris to Stepanakert by the Russian peace-keeping troops.

The car was stopped by Azerbaijanis in Shushi-Karin Tak section, where the Azer-

baijani government agents pretending to be "eco-activists" and the journalists serving them are stationed. A group of 10-15 Azerbaijanis with cameras and in civilian clothes approached the car; some of them broke into the car and filmed the children in the car.

The provocative actions of the Azerbaijanis caused a commotion in the car, and one of the children fainted as a result.

The Azerbaijanis were removed from the car by Russian peacekeepers. As the car was passing through the blocked section of the road, Azerbaijanis demonstratively shouted in the direction of the vehicles transporting the children.

"This insolent behavior of the agents of the Azerbaijani government is an arbitrary and illegal interference in the private life of children, an illegal encroachment on their psychological integrity, honor and reputation. These criminal actions completely reveal their true goals and desires," the Ombudsman said in a statement.

"The ethnic hatred of Azerbaijanis towards Armenians knows no bounds, targeting even minor children.

This provocative and criminal action once again proves the fact that the road is blocked and that safe travel is impossible, even when accompanied by Russian peacekeepers.

## Longer blackouts expected in Artsakh as blockade continues

The blockade is creating new challenges, Artsakh's Minister of State Ruben Vardanyan said at the meeting of the operational staff set up to coordinate the crisis.

"The blockade changes the economy and the state's priorities. The state is already forced to respond to the problems arising in the economic and social spheres as a result of the blockade, by reviewing its work, approaches and directions," said Ruben Vardanyan.

"At the same time, the blockade and the resulting crisis force us to use available resources more rationally, to identify all problems, including those related to the shadow economy, to introduce more effective management models," he said.

It was also noted that a working group was created to develop measures aimed at alleviating the economic and social consequences of the blockade.

The process of introducing the rationing system was discussed. It was noted that the organizational and technical works are being carried out according to the established schedule. A number of essential products will be sold by coupons through 200 stores in Stepanakert and another 400 stores elsewhere across the country.

The energy supply from Armenia remains disrupted, as the Azerbaijani side does not allow specialists to visit the territory under their control to eliminate the reasons for the interruption. In order to

ensure the minimum energy needs of the population as long as possible, a four-hour rolling blackout schedule will be implemented starting tomorrow, instead of the current two hours.

Officials also briefed on the situation in the food, medicine and diesel fuel markets. It was noted that the measures taken have mitigated the tension in terms of cash circulation.





page 1 ➡

**The European Parliament,**

– having regard to its previous resolutions on Armenia and Azerbaijan,

– having regard to Rules 144(5) and 132(4) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and the outside world, the Lachin corridor, has been blocked by self-proclaimed environmentalists from Azerbaijan since 12 December 2022; whereas this has disrupted access to essential goods and services, including food, fuel and medication, for the 120 000 Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh, effectively placing them under a blockade;

B. whereas the blockade has led to a severe humanitarian crisis, significantly affecting the most vulnerable populations; whereas the transfer of critically ill patients is nearly impossible, with one death resulting from this situation; whereas hundreds of families remain separated;

C. whereas this humanitarian crisis was further aggravated by Azerbaijan's disruption of the natural gas supply to Nagorno-Karabakh, which left houses, hospitals and schools without heating;

D. whereas by sustaining the blockade of the Lachin corridor, Azerbaijan is breaching its international obligations

under the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020, under which Azerbaijan must guarantee the security of persons, vehicles and cargo moving along the corridor in both directions;

E. whereas the impediments to the use of the Lachin corridor set back the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan and undermine international confidence;

1. Deplores the tragic humanitarian consequences of the blockade of the Lachin corridor and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict;

2. Urges Azerbaijan to respect and implement the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020 and immediately reopen the Lachin corridor to enable free movement and ensure access to essential goods and services, thus guaranteeing security in the region and safeguarding residents' livelihoods;

3. Underlines the need for a comprehensive peace agreement, which must guarantee the rights and security of Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian population; calls on Azerbaijan to protect the rights of Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh and refrain from its inflammatory rhetoric that calls for discrimination against Armenians and urges Armenians to leave Nagorno-Karabakh;

4. Urges Azerbaijan to refrain from undermining the functioning of transport,

energy and communication connections between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in future;

5. Strongly condemns Azerbaijan's scapegoating of human rights defenders and CSOs and calls on EU and Member State representations to support their work;

6. Condemns the inaction of Russian 'peacekeepers'; considers that their replacement with OSCE international peacekeepers, under a UN mandate, should be negotiated urgently;

7. Calls for international organizations to be granted unimpeded access to Nagorno-Karabakh to assess the situation and provide the necessary humanitarian assistance;

8. Calls for a UN or OSCE fact-finding mission to the Lachin corridor to assess the humanitarian situation on the ground;

9. Calls for the urgent resumption, without preconditions, of negotiations based on the principles of the Helsinki Final Act;

10. Calls for the EU to be actively involved and ensure that the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh are no longer held hostage by Baku's activism, Russia's destructive role and the Minsk Group's inactivity;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to Armenia, Azerbaijan and international institutions.

## The idea of a meeting between Armenian, Georgian, Azerbaijani leaders being considered – FM Mirzoyan



Armenia is interested in the development of trilateral dialogue between the countries of the South Caucasus, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said in an interview with Armenpress.

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said Yerevan rejected the proposal to create a trilateral format of Armenia-Georgia-Azerbaijan.

“We see the possible Tbilisi as a plat-

form for trilateral regional discussions, not Armenia-Azerbaijan bilateral meetings. The idea of a meeting between the Prime Ministers of Armenia and Georgia and the President of Azerbaijan is circulating now,” the Foreign Minister said.

“The Armenian side has expressed readiness and is still ready for such a meeting, but such a meeting does not seem particularly effective and promising, when it is not possible to agree on even a simple joint statement expressing commitment to the elimination of hate speech and hostility,” FM Mirzoyan stated.

He noted that Armenia is definitely interested in the complete unblocking of transport and economic infrastructures in the region in accordance with the princi-

ples laid down in the tripartite statements of November 9, 2020 and January 11, 2021, and in being part of larger transport projects.

He reminded that the Armenian Cross-road project was put forward by the Armenian government by combining north-south and east-west mechanisms.

“Our proposals for the opening of regional communications are valid and we can do it at any time, within the framework of the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the countries over the roads and the observance of national legislation. Basically, the only and main obstacle here is the groundless demand of the extraterritorial corridor put forward by Azerbaijan,” Mirzoyan said.

## How President Aliyev Became The Corrupt Despot of Azerbaijan

By Harut Sassounian

Journalist Fin Depencier wrote a lengthy exposé in the San Francisco-based Palladium Magazine, titled: “Ilham Aliyev and the Making of Azerbaijan.” The article starts with Ilham Aliyev’s early years in Moscow when his father, Heydar Aliyev, was a member of the ruling Politburo of the Soviet Union. At the young age of 16, Ilham Aliyev “was admitted into Russia’s most prestigious university, the Moscow Institute of International Relations,” through his father’s KGB connections. He graduated with a PhD in history and taught at the university from 1985 to 1990. He learned fluent English and specialized in British history. In 1987, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev dismissed Heydar Aliyev from the Politburo. His son, Ilham, was fired from the University after “Heydar criticized Gorbachev’s government for the killing of Azerbaijani civilians in Baku.” Ilham was blacklisted and could not get a job. “He ended up in the clothing business, purchasing a factory on the outskirts of Moscow.... He then briefly relocated to Istanbul.” In 1993, after Heydar became the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan, he recalled his son to Baku and appointed him vice president of SOCAR, Azerbaijan’s state oil company. When Heydar was involved in a dispute with Western oil companies over Caspian oil rights, he spoke with the newly-inaugurated Pres. Bill Clinton who pressured the companies to accept Aliyev’s conditions. Ilham flew to Houston and signed the agreement which gave SOCAR 20% share in the new oil consortium. The remainder was divided among British Petroleum, Aramco, Russia’s Lukoil, Pennzoil, and others. After his father’s death, Ilham became President of Azerbaijan in a controversial election in 2003. He purged the old guard of oligarchs and officials and jailed “hundreds of functionaries belonging to the main opposition party, the Popular Front of Azerbaijan.” Among those jailed were “hundreds of journalists, activists, and other opponents of the gov-

ernment from the last two decades. As of 2015, Azerbaijan had more than twice the number of political prisoners as Belarus and Russia combined.” Nevertheless, “Aliyev expected most corruption to flow through him and his family.” In 1983, “Ilham married Mehriban Pashayeva, whose grandfather was a famous Azerbaijani writer that already had amassed enormous wealth. He expanded the already-large Pashayev fortune by giving family members positions in government, which they have exploited for personal gain.” Here are several examples: “Nargiz Pashayeva, Aliyev’s sister-in-law, is the rector of Moscow State University’s Baku branch. His father-in-law, Arif Pashayev, runs the national aviation academy. Arif’s brother, Hafiz Pashayev, is a deputy minister of foreign affairs and served as U.S. ambassador for over 13 years. And so on it goes—the Pashayevs are now Azerbaijan’s most wealthy family by far. Their conglomerate, PASHA Holdings, owns seven of the ten largest banks in Azerbaijan, along with interests in tourism and insurance.” In 2017, Pres. Aliyev appointed his wife as vice president of Azerbaijan to be his successor. Aliyev has successfully silenced his foreign detractors “through intimidation and bribery. Azerbaijan manages a network of institutions whose purpose is to distribute funds throughout the West and ensure positive coverage in the media, allies in the business world, and defenders in politics. The network has been most active in Europe: in 2012, the European Sustainability Initiative used the term “caviar diplomacy” to describe Azerbaijan’s practice of bribing EU politicians. Doing state business in Azerbaijan is comfortable. The regime spends lavishly on hotel suites and dinners for its guests. Friendly journalists are offered access to Nagorno-Karabakh and other select locations. In 2017, Aliyev decided to give 255 loyal Azerbaijani journalists free apartments for their service to the regime.” In 2017, the Global Anti-Corruption Consortium “revealed a scheme in which the Azerbaijani government laundered \$2.9 billion through four shell companies in the

UK.... According to the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, other recipients included “at least three European politicians, a journalist who wrote stories friendly to the regime, and businessmen who praised the government.... In some cases, these prominent individuals were able to mobilize important international organizations, such as UNESCO and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, to score [public relations] victories for the regime.” The European Sustainability Initiative described the scheme as the ‘biggest corruption scandal in the history of the Council of Europe.’” Journalist Depencier reported that British Petroleum “won the contract to operate the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. British mining giant Anglo American PLC has large investments in Azerbaijan and has benefited enormously from Azerbaijan’s victory in Nagorno-Karabakh, as mining sites were seized from the Armenians.... In 2021, it was revealed that Aliyev and his family had a secret real estate portfolio in London worth an astounding \$694 million.” British politicians were also coopted. “British Member of Parliament Bob Blackman has taken seven free trips to Azerbaijan since 2011 worth tens of thousands of pounds.” Azerbaijan has also cultivated a close relationship with Israel. “A 2012 Wikileaks report showed that Israel has secret bases in southern Azerbaijan near the Iranian border. The strengthening of ties between Israel and Azerbaijan was encouraged by the United States.” U.S. officials theorized that “the Israel-Turkey-Georgia-Azerbaijan axis, supported by the U.S., would be a counterweight to the Syria-Iran-Armenia-Russia axis. Israel supplies Azerbaijan with 69% of its imported weaponry, and Azerbaijan supplies Israel with 40% of its energy needs in return.” Depencier concluded: “Aliyev rules like a de-facto monarch with unquestionable power. He “isn’t afraid of being called corrupt, tyrannical, or malevolent.” Despite its military alliance with Armenia, Russia did not defend Armenia from Azerbaijan’s repeated attacks. Meanwhile, the West, seduced by Azerbaijan’s oil and gas, turned a deaf ear to Armenia’s plight.



## Aliyev uses false narrative to create artificial grounds for aggression, warns Tatoyan Center for Law and Justice

The President of Azerbaijan in his public speech of January 10, 2023 develops false theses by openly falsifying historical and legal facts: he calls the territories of the Republic of Armenia “Western Azerbaijan” and in connection with it uses the thesis of “Western Azerbaijanis”, the Center for Law and Justice “Tatoyan” foundation said in a statement.

“The President of Azerbaijan in his public speech of January 10, 2023 develops false theses by openly falsifying historical and legal facts: he calls the territories of the Republic of Armenia “Western Azerbaijan” and in connection with it uses the thesis of “Western Azerbaijanis”.

This is his falsification that “Armenia is a country of no value (...) a territory artificially created on ancient Azerbaijani lands”.

That speech of the President of Azerbaijan incites hatred towards Armenians



(Armenophobia) and animosity; he tries to create artificial grounds for military aggression with false facts against Armenia and Artsakh.

In matters of delimitation of state borders, Armenia and the Armenian people are openly threatened with military aggression, with a war by falsification of facts.

Those parts of the speeches of the President of Azerbaijan were separated and with official letters sent to the OSCE, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Ra-

cial Discrimination, the Committee against Racism and Intolerance of the Council of Europe, the Commissioners of Human Rights of the United Nations and Council of Europe and other international bodies by the Center for Law and Justice “Tatoyan” Foundation.

The President of Azerbaijan openly speaks in the language of force and threats, uses degrading words and expressions towards the entire Armenian people, the entire population of Armenia and Artsakh, are terrorizing.

Manifestations of fascism are evident both in this and in his previous speeches, with which he emphasizes the advantages of one people, the Azerbaijani people, over the Armenian people, incites hatred and then talks about peace in these conditions,” the Tatoyan foundation said.

## Israeli academicians, journalists and activists address a letter to Foreign Minister regarding the Lachin corridor

A group of Israeli academicians, journalists and activists from Israel have addressed a letter to Eli Cohen, the new Israeli minister of foreign affairs, asking him to help prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in Artsakh.

“We are academics and artists in varied fields of endeavor, whose activities bring us in various ways into contact with the situation in the South Caucasus, its history and culture. We are writing to ask you to approach two states, both friendly to Israel, Azerbaijan and Russia, which have the ability to prevent a grave humanitarian crisis that may, at any time, exact a high price in human suffering and life,” the signatories write.

Reminding that the Lachin corridor – the only road connecting the Republic of Artsakh to Armenia – has been blocked by Azerbaijanis since December 12, 2022, they write: “Due to this continuing blockade, not only are vital supplies prevented from reaching Nagorno Karabakh, but also thousands of its residents are unable to travel between Karabakh and Armenia. The inhabitants of this enclave suffer daily from a lack of basic food-stuffs, medicine, and energy for light and heat in this cold winter season. The situation is in danger of degenerating and threatening the lives of

these 120,000 inhabitants. The blocking of this road, the so-called “Lachin Corridor,” is contrary to the cease-fire agreement signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia with Russian mediation, in November 2020.

“This agreement left the Lachin Corridor as the only road to and from the enclave of Nagorno Karabakh. We believe that you, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, through your ties with your counterparts in Azerbaijan and Russia, can help to avoid this grave humanitarian crisis. Therefore we ask that you approach them urgently to work for the lifting of the blockade of the Lachin corridor,” the letter reads/

The letter has been signed by:

Ora Ahimeir, author  
Yaakov Ahimeir, journalist  
Prof. Reuven Amitai, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrew University  
Prof. em. Yair Auron, historian  
Irena Badalian, architect  
Dan Biron, journalist  
Prof. em. Israel W. Charny, Hebrew University, executive director of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem and editor of the Encyclopedia of Genocide  
Rabbi Avidan Freedman, CEO Yanshoof

organization

Yiska Harani, lecturer, consultant and expert on Christianity  
Yoav Loeff, lecturer in Armenian History, Hebrew University  
Ilia Mazia, Musician  
Sari Raz-Biron, journalist  
Prof. em. Elihu Richter, School of Public Health, Hebrew University  
Rabbi David Rosen, ecumenical affairs  
Dr. Oded Steinberg, International Relations and European Studies, Hebrew University  
Prof. Donna Shalev, Classical Studies, Hebrew University  
Prof. em. Michael E. Stone, Armenian Studies and Comparative Religion, Hebrew University  
Yaron Weiss, expert on the countries of the Caucasus



## Artsakh war doc “Invisible Republic” announces immediate global release



### *AGBU and Creative Armenia launch Artsakh awareness and education campaign amid ongoing humanitarian crisis*

In light of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Artsakh – with Azerbaijan’s blockade of the Lachin Corridor creating a deepening food, health, and humanitarian crisis for the 120,000 Armenians now trapped in the republic – the producers of *Invisible Republic* have made the film available digitally in every territory of the world. Inspired by the explosive wartime diary of Lika Zakaryan, the award-winning documentary can now be watched by virtual cinema [here](#).

The release is accompanied by a global awareness and education campaign spearheaded by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and Creative Armenia. Physical screenings for governmental groups, human rights organizations, and educational institutions are now being set in London, Paris, Madrid, Berlin, Zurich, and other cities.

For digital viewers, online events are being organized. Watch the film now and then join the live ZOOM Q&A on Tuesday, January 24, at 11pm Artsakh time (11am LA; 2pm NYC; 8pm Paris) to meet writer Lika Zakaryan, director Garin Hovanni-

sian, and producers Serj Tankian and Alec Mouhibian. The Q&A will be in English and will be simultaneously translated into Armenian, Russian, and French. Register [here](#).

“This isn’t just a film about me,” said Lika Zakaryan, who has been separated from her family for **38 days** as a result of the blockade. “It is the story and tragedy of my family, my friends, and my people. And sadly it isn’t over. I look forward to sharing the film with you and meeting with you to discuss the history of Artsakh, what is happening there now, and what we can do to prevent genocide against the Armenian people.”

“This first-hand account of the realities experienced during and after the 44 days of Azeri aggression in 2020 is a critical documentation of the true human experience. Today, Artsakh is threatened by a territorial blockade putting the lives of its citizens at risk. We urge Armenians everywhere to share Lika’s account and leverage this impressive documentary to raise awareness of what is happening today. We cannot remain silent observers when our fellow Armenians need our voices,” urged AGBU Central Board member Ani Manoukian.

AGBU and Creative Armenia ask their

communities to –

- **WATCH**

Watch *Invisible Republic* by virtual cinema [here](#). The film (which is available in English, Armenian, Russian, and French) is not only a dramatic on-the-ground account of the 44-day war in Artsakh in 2020, but also a comprehensive account of its recent history and important context for the current crisis. Virtual tickets are \$10 and all proceeds will be donated to Artsakh humanitarian and relief funds.

- **LEARN**

- Learn about Artsakh by joining our digital events to hear from Lika and the filmmakers, starting with the live ZOOM Q&A on Tuesday, January 24.

- **SHARE**

- Share the film with someone who doesn’t know about the issue or who could bring influence or awareness to Artsakh. Share Lika’s story by clicking on “give as a gift” here.

“We initially made this film to educate the non-Armenian world about Artsakh & to raise awareness about the 44-day Artsakh War of 2020,” said the film’s producer Dr. Eric Esrailian, who is also an AGBU Central Board Member and a Founding Member of Creative Armenia. “But the darkest chapter of war may be yet to come. We have decided to move up distribution plans and share Lika’s story with the world, in hopes that it will move hearts and minds to stand with the people of Artsakh at this moment of crisis.”

The entirety of the proceeds of the film’s release will be donated to Artsakh-related humanitarian and relief charities, including AGBU’s Global Relief Fund.



# ARMENIA

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## Armenian Identity Card

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

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

The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID)

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

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

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

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