

Ombudsman: Azerbaijan seeks to isolate Armenian civilian settlements



The Azerbaijani authorities are pursuing a targeted policy of isolating Armenian civilian settlements and causing humanitarian problems, all that under the guise of unblocking the region's roads, Armenian Human Rights Defender Arman Tatoyan has said.

Tatoyan believes the real reason behind Azerbaijan's decision to open border and customs checkpoints on a key interstate road in the south of Armenia is the established policy of propaganda of hatred and enmity against Armenians under the auspices of the Azerbaijani state.

"In addition, the Azerbaijani authorities are clearly well aware that the blocking of the Goris-Kapan Road or the so-called Azerbaijani border and customs control will lead to violations of the rights of civilians, serious humanitarian problems, including the isolation of a number of settlements," the Ombudsman said.

"Consequently, especially since November 11 there have been violations of human rights, including those of the residents of the communities of Syunik (children, people with disabilities, the elderly, etc.) and serious humanitarian problems in general."

He said communication between the villages is either disrupted or significantly reduced, while the new road built to replace the one periodically blocked by Azerbaijan has become significantly overloaded.

"There are restrictions on fast and efficient access to food (bread, other foodstuffs) and basic necessities, medical care and services in these areas. People are faced with the problem of earning a family income (for example, by selling agricultural products)," Tatoyan said.

"The deployment of Azerbaijanis on said roads was carried out with overt threats of war, which is absolutely unacceptable from the point of view of the rule of law and international human rights standards."

The Ombudsman said the reports and facts collected during his staff's trips to the region will be sent to the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the OSCE, as well as various agencies in Armenia

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Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan met with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs Andrew Schofer (USA), Igor Khovayev (Russia) and Brice Roquefueil (France) in Paris.

The interlocutors discussed a wide range of issues related to the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Ararat Mirzoyan stressed that a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is possible only through peaceful means, under the mandate of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, based on the principles and elements known to the parties.

The interlocutors attached importance

Comprehensive settlement of NK conflict is possible only under the mandate of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs – FM Mirzoyan

to the Co-Chairs' visit to the region with a view to getting acquainted with the situation on the ground. They prioritized the implementation of clear steps aimed at de-escalation of the situation in the region.

In this regard, Ararat Mirzoyan condemned the attacks on the civilian population in Nagorno Karabakh, which resulted in casualties, and stressed the unacceptability of the continuous anti-Armenian rhetoric.

The Armenian Foreign Minister and the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs exchanged views on humanitarian issues requiring urgent solution. In this context, Ararat Mirzoyan stressed the need for immediate, unconditional repatriation of Armenian prisoners of war, hostages and other detainees, as well as clarification of the fate of the missing and preservation of the Ar-

menian historical and cultural heritage.

On the same day, the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan was hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France Jean-Yves Le Drian and mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

During the five-party meeting, the Armenian Foreign Minister expressed the position of the Armenian side, noting that the process of peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship should be fully restored.

Ararat Mirzoyan reaffirmed the positions expressed at the meeting with the Co-Chairs, including the need for de-escalation, the settlement of humanitarian issues, as well as the inadmissibility of provocations and anti-Armenian rhetoric.

Armenian cultural heritage in areas controlled by Azerbaijan needs protection, Foreign Minister tells UNESCO chief

Preventive measures on the part of the international community are needed to protect the Armenian cultural heritage in Artsakh territories currently under Azerbaijani control, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat said at a meeting with UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay in Paris.

Ararat Mirzoyan congratulated Audrey Azoulay on her re-election. The interlocutors commended the effective cooperation between Armenia and UNESCO over the years.

Minister Mirzoyan noted that Armenia has always made every effort to assist UN-

ESCO in carrying out its strong mission based on common values in the fields of education, science and culture. In this context, he stressed that Armenia's candidacy for membership in the UNESCO Executive Council for 2021-2025 stems from the consideration of increasing the effectiveness of those efforts.

Reference was made to the issue of protection of the Armenian historical, cultural and religious heritage in the territories that went under Azerbaijani control due to the aggression against Artsakh last fall.

Ararat Mirzoyan stressed that in the

conditions of deliberate destruction or distortion of the identity of the Armenian historical and cultural monuments of Artsakh, which are part of the universal cultural heritage, preventive measures by the international community, are simply imperative. In this context, the Armenian Foreign Minister stressed the need to implement the proposal of the Director General to send an independent assessment mission to the region, in particular, under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

PM Pashinyan holds farewell meeting with UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received on November 10 United Nations' Resident Coordinator Shombi Sharp on the occasion of completion of his mission in Armenia.

Pashinyan highly appreciated Mr. Sharp's work in developing the cooperation between Armenia and the UN agencies. Nikol Pashinyan also attached importance to the UN's support to Armenia in fighting the coronavirus pandemic and expressed regret that the UN humanitarian aid is still not available to the people of Nagorno

Karabakh. In the context of Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, the PM highlighted the importance of the 2021-2025 UN Sustainable Development Partnership framework document for Armenia, which was signed between the Armenian Government and the UN in June, 2021.

Thanking for the appreciation, Shombi Sharp said it was a great honor for him to serve in Armenia, adding that he leaves the country with warm impressions. He highly valued the partnership with the Armenian Government, the evidence of which are the

effective joint programs. He said that the UN will continue to stand by Armenia and the Armenian people, assist the implementation of reforms, overcome the difficult challenges.

The sides exchanged views on the agenda of the Armenia-UN partnership, the agenda of peace and stability in the region.

PM Pashinyan wished good luck to Shombi Sharp in his future activities, stating that Mr. Sharp will remain the good friend of Armenia and its people.



On anniversary of Karabakh ceasefire, the US calls for release of all detainees

This week, the United States and the international community recognize the one-year anniversary of the ceasefire declaration that ended 44 days of intense fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces in the South Caucasus, the US Department of State said in a statement.

“We extend our deepest condolences to the families of those killed and injured

during the hostilities last year. We call for the return of all remaining detainees, a full accounting of missing persons, the voluntary return of displaced persons to their homes, comprehensive humanitarian de-mining of conflict-affected areas, and access by international humanitarian organizations to those in need. We also call for an investigation into alleged human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law,” the State Department said.

“The United States remains committed to promoting a secure, stable, prosperous, and peaceful future for the South Caucasus

region. U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs Erika Olson is currently in the region to discuss bilateral issues with all three countries and to explore opportunities for regional cooperation,” the statement reads.

It urged Armenia and Azerbaijan to continue and intensify their engagement including under the auspices of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs to find comprehensive solutions to all outstanding issues related to or resulting from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

EU calls for release of Armenian POWs

On the first anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in and around Nagorno Karabakh following the ceasefire agreement signed by Armenia and Azerbaijan, the European Union calls for immediate release of all prisoners and full cooperation on demining.

“The EU regrets the loss of life inflicted during these hostilities and extends its condolences to the families of those who were killed or injured. While hostilities have ceased, many pending issues still need to be addressed in order to move towards a negotiated, comprehensive and sustainable settlement. We call in particular for the strict respect for the ceasefire, the immediate release of all remaining prisoners, full cooperation on demining, and the de-escalation of tensions in border



areas,” Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Peter Stano said in a statement.

“The EU remains committed to promoting a peaceful and prosperous South Caucasus and it is actively engaged contributing to peace-building and post conflict rehabilitation. It has played an important role in the release of prisoners and the handing-over of minefield maps. The EU has also supported people affected by the conflict with more than €17 million

in humanitarian assistance, including for demining and early recovery. The EU is also ready to support border de-escalation and delimitation by providing technical assistance, as needed by the sides, and encourages connectivity and the reopening of economic cooperation in the South Caucasus,” the Spokesperson said.

“Looking ahead, a comprehensive settlement is necessary to put an end to more than three decades of conflict and suffering. To achieve this goal, the EU will continue to be in active contact with relevant international partners, particularly the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, and fully supports them in carrying out their mandate by working with Armenia and Azerbaijan on a comprehensive solution to all outstanding issues,” he added.

US State Department’s Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs condemns violence that caused the death of Armenian civilian

The US State Department’s Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs has condemned the violence that caused the death of an Armenian civilian on November 8.

“We urge Armenia and Azerbaijan to intensify their engagement including through the Minsk Group Co-Chairs to resolve all outstanding issues related to or

resulting from the Nagorno Karabakh conflict,” the Bureau said in a Twitter post.

One civilian was killed, three were wounded as the Azerbaijani forces opened fire in the direction of citizens working on water pipes at the intersection near the city of Shushi, the National Security Service of Artsakh reported on Monday.





(RFE/RL) - Former President Robert Kocharyan pledged to topple Armenia's current government "through barricades or elections" on November 8 as his opposition alliance launched what it called a "nationwide resistance" campaign with a rally held in Yerevan.

The rally attended by thousands of supporters of the Hayastan (Armenia) alliance was held on the eve of the first anniversary of a Russian-brokered ceasefire that stopped the war over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Kocharyan and his political allies again blamed Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for Armenia's defeat in the six-week war that left at least 3,800 Armenian soldiers dead. They also reiterated their allegations that Pashinyan is intent on making more unilateral concessions to Azerbaijan.

Kocharyan singled out Yerevan's read-

Kocharyan's bloc announces new push for regime change

iness to embark on a demarcation of Armenia's long and contested border with Azerbaijan where tensions are still running high one year after the Karabakh war. He claimed that such a process would amount to Armenian recognition of Azerbaijani sovereignty over Karabakh and a narrow land corridor connecting the disputed territory to Armenia.

The ex-president also accused Pashinyan of breaking his promises to improve living standards, eliminate corruption and create a level playing field for all businesses. Poverty in the country has actually increased under the current government, he said.

"We are going to fight," Kocharyan told the crowd rallying in Yerevan's Liberty Square. "Rest assured that we will oust them through barricades or elections or in other ways. And I will be with standing with you, leading you on those barricades."

Kocharyan and other speakers at the rally gave no details of their stated push for regime change. Nor did they announce dates for their next demonstrations.

A Hayastan declaration read out at the end of the rally said the "resistance" campaign could "last for a week or months" before achieving its key goal.

"We are starting to get organized," it said. "Our presence in the National Assembly will serve to strengthen the resistance. As soon as conditions are ripe, we will move our struggle only to the streets and squares."

Kocharyan, who had ruled Armenia from 1998-2008, cautioned on October 4 that the opposition must "generate" greater popular anger at the government before trying to topple it with street protests. "The biggest problem is that a considerable part of our people has come to terms with this situation and voted for these ones," he said, referring to Pashinyan's political team.

Pashinyan's Civil Contract party won Armenia's June 20 parliamentary elections with almost 54 percent of the vote. Hayastan came in a distant second with 21 percent, according to official election results rejected by it as fraudulent.

Activities of Minsk Group Co-Chairs will focus on solving humanitarian issues – Lavrov

The activities of the co-chairs will be focused on resolving humanitarian issues, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters on November 13.

Summing up the results of his visit to France, Minister Lavrov said the issue of Nagorno Karabakh settlement was touched upon in the context of the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs – Russia, France and the United States.

"A few days ago, the three Co-Chairs met with the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Paris. Everyone

supported the agreement reached on November 9, 2020 by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikolai Pashinyan," Lavrov said.

He added that progress in the activities of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in resolving a number of humanitarian issues was noted.

"We outlined a number of areas where more needs to be done. In this sense, in the near future the activities of the Co-Chairs will focus on resolving humanitarian is-



issues, creating conditions for the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in the region to establish an atmosphere of trust, to resolve everyday issues in the spirit of constructive compromises," the Russian Foreign Minister stated.

Azerbaijan continues to torpedo implementation of agreements reached, Armenian Deputy PM says

Despite its commitments, Azerbaijan continues to torpedo the implementation of the agreements reached, Armenian Deputy Prime Minister said at the sitting of the Council of CIS Heads of Government.

He stressed that Azerbaijan is still holding many Armenian prisoners of war captive, which is not only a gross violation of Article 8 of the November 9, 2020 statement, but also a gross violation of international humanitarian law.

"By distorting the provisions of the trilateral statements of November 9, 2020

and January 11, 2021 on the unblocking of infrastructure in the region, Azerbaijan is manipulating the idea of a "corridor" accompanied by threats of force," Mher Grigoryan stated.

"The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict cannot be resolved by force. The settlement of the conflict can be achieved through peaceful negotiations, exclusively within the framework of the mandate of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs," the Deputy PM said.

He stressed that in order to defuse the

situation and enter the stage of peaceful development in the region, it is necessary for Azerbaijan to adopt a constructive position, renouncing the policy of hatred, aggressive rhetoric and hostile actions.

Mher Grigoryan noted that as a result of the war unleashed by the Republic of Azerbaijan against Artsakh, 40,000 people were left homeless, 17,000 civilian facilities and infrastructure were destroyed, thousands of people, including civilians, were killed and wounded, the fate of many is still unknown.



Member of Parliament Tim Loughton on November 9 submitted a bill to the UK House of Commons, requesting Her Majesty's Government to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide to establish an annual commemoration to the victims of the genocide.

The UK can help right an "appalling historical injustice" by recognizing the Armenian genocide, the MP said.

Mr. Loughton, who chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Armenia, noted

Armenian Genocide recognition bill passes first reading at UK House of Commons without objections

that despite the fact that no fewer than 31 countries now officially recognize the Armenian genocide, the UK has still "failed to follow suit."

"Refusing to recognize the Armenian Genocide risk conveying a dangerous message of impunity that a crime unpunished is a crime encouraged or downplayed," he said.

Mr. Loughton insisted "glossing over the uncomfortable inconveniences of past history is not the basis for strong and constructive relationships."

He told MPs: "We cannot legitimately call out and stand up to genocide still going on in the 21st century by sidelining and neglecting the genocides of the 20th century.

"Refusing to recognize the Armenian

Genocide risk conveying a dangerous message of impunity that a crime unpunished is a crime encouraged or downplayed."

He noted that the bill is strongly supported by members from at least five parties across the House, before adding: "We have the opportunity to do our best to help right an appalling historical injustice and as a leading advocate of human rights on the international stage, send out a clear message that we recognize genocide wherever and whenever it has been committed, as the worst crime against humanity and we will call it helped defend the victims and bring the perpetrators to justice."

The next reading will take place on March 18, 2022.

Armenia has emerged successfully from a serious political crisis, say PACE monitors

Armenia has emerged successfully from the serious political crisis caused by its defeat in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which is in itself a real success, said Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland, SOC) and Boriania Åberg (Sweden, EPP/CD), co-rapporteurs of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) for the monitoring of Armenia's obligations and commitments, speaking at the end of their visit to the country from 3 to 5 November 2021.

"The crisis was resolved by the holding of early elections, organized in a democratic manner, despite a highly polarized environment," they added.

"This polarization is unfortunately present in the National Assembly and does not favour the establishment of a true parliamentary culture where majority and opposition confront each other in a constructive and respectful manner on clearly identified and divergent political orientations. On the other hand, it is clear that institutional balances are being built, and that certain checks and balances, such as the Human Rights Defender, are in place. We

can only encourage the Armenian authorities to continue along this path and, where necessary, to secure the independence of other institutions, such as the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, for example by giving it constitutional status.

We are well aware that the confidence of the Armenian population and the authorities in the judiciary is low and has been for several years. If the reform of the judiciary is therefore necessary, it must be done in compliance with European standards, in particular with regard to the principle of the security of tenure of judges, in a climate where the dignity of their office is preserved and where their integrity is not collectively and publicly questioned.

As regards the situation of the media, we are aware that the Armenian authorities are facing an unprecedented level of disinformation and hate speech since the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This may explain their willingness to tighten the framework for freedom of expression, by increasing fines for insults or by criminalizing 'serious insults' as they did in March and July respectively. However, there are other



tools available than exclusive preventive sanctions, and we call on the Armenian authorities to develop a comprehensive medium- and long-term strategy that addresses the issues of transparency of media ownership, possible media concentration, the precarious status of journalists and self-regulation mechanisms, as these issues are directly linked to the proliferation of hate speech in the media sector.

Armenia has not emerged unscathed from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Our visit to the border town of Yeraskh reminded us, if it were necessary, that in the absence of a comprehensive peace agreement, insecurity persists and civilians are paying the price. However, Armenia has been able, in a difficult context, to continue to progress on the path of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, and this deserves to be welcomed," they concluded.



The Luxembourg parliament unani-

Luxembourg Parliament urges Government not to support deepening of Azerbaijan-EU ties until Armenian POWs are released

mously passed a resolution on November 10 calling on the government not to support the deepening of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the European Union until

all Armenian prisoners of war and civilian detainees illegally held in Azerbaijan are returned, the Armenian Embassy in the Netherlands and Luxembourg informs.

Iran, Armenia to establish joint industrial park

Head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said the two countries plan to establish a joint industrial park in the near future, Tehran Times reports.

Hervik Yarijanian said the two sides also have the potential to cooperate in other fields like banking, finance, agriculture, and extraterrestrial farming.

“We are negotiating with Armenian authorities to provide the necessary basis for the two sides’ businessmen to be able to invest and produce goods together with the aim of gaining access to more distant markets such as Europe and Canada,” he said.

“Currently, the preferential tariff between several European countries and Canada with Armenia is four percent, and in this situation, if a joint product with

investment between Iran and Armenia is produced and exported to these markets, it can be actually exported to those markets with a four-percent customs duty.”

Referring to a meeting between an Iranian trade delegation and the Armenian Economy Minister a few weeks ago, Yarijanian said: “The Armenian Economy Minister welcomed the development of trade relations between the two countries and is planning to allocate about 50 hectares of land for establishing a joint industrial park.”

“In fact, Iran’s industrial zones, in cooperation with Armenia’s industrial parks, are set to build a joint industrial zone, and this could lead to the transfer of technology and capital from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the processing and

export of goods from Armenia,” he explained.

Noting that currently there is no particular challenge to the development of Iran-Armenia trade, he said: “The problem with Iran-Armenia trade in recent years was that the two countries have relied heavily on energy exchange; That is, the Islamic Republic of Iran received electricity from Armenia in exchange for gas exports. But given that the Armenian government has banned the import of more than 1,000 commodity items of goods from Turkey, the conditions are now quite favorable for the development of trade between the two countries and the increase of Iran’s exports to Armenia.”



On November 12, the European Commission and Armenia have signed the agreement granting the Republic of Armenia the association status to Horizon Europe, the EU’s research and innovation programme (2021-2027). Armenian researchers, innovators and research entities can now participate in the €95.5 billion programme, under the same conditions as entities from the EU Member States. The Horizon Europe Association Agreement will start producing legal effects after its entry into force that is once Armenia completes its ratification process and an

Armenian scientists become eligible for the EU’s largest funding program

exchange of diplomatic notes takes place between the European Commission and the Armenian authorities.

Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, said:

I welcome Armenia to our Horizon Europe programme. Armenia has continuously increased its participation in the previous Horizon 2020 programme and has supported the acceleration of the reforms of the Armenian national research and innovation system in the past few years. Armenia will build on its past successes in Horizon Europe.

Signe Ratso, the Horizon Europe Chief Negotiator and Deputy Director-General of the Commission’s Directorate-General of Research and Innovation and Ms Anna Aghadjanian, Horizon Europe Ambassa-

dor, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Armenia to the Kingdom of Belgium, Head of the Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the European Union signed the association agreement in Brussels. The signature ceremony took place in a hybrid format in the presence of Mr. Artur Martirosyan, Deputy-Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Republic of Armenia.

The association supports the ‘Global Approach to Research and Innovation’ and reconfirms Europe’s commitment to a level of global openness needed to drive excellence, pool resources for faster scientific progress and develop vibrant innovation ecosystems in a set of common priorities, such as the twin green and digital transition.

Iran, Armenia trade can exceed \$1 billion – Ambassador

Iranian Ambassador to Armenia says the trade between Iran and Armenia is on the rise and adds that with a good plan, in near future, the level of turnover between the two neighboring countries could exceed from the current \$400 million to one billion dollars a year, IRNA reports.

Abbas Zohouri made the remarks at a meeting with members of the Tehran Stock Exchange, who are in Yerevan to attend the

meeting of the Federation of Asian and European Stock Exchanges.

He said that the level of trade ties between the two countries is increasing, and with proper planning, the level of trade ties between the two countries can reach from the current \$400 million to \$1 billion a year in the near future.

Reminding of the insufficient mutual knowledge of the economic activists of



the two countries about the mutual capacities, Zohouri stressed the capacity of Aras Free Zone in Iran and Meghri Free Zone of Armenia, as well as the possibility of the presence of a large group of Armenian investors in the Iranian stock exchange.



On 12 November, the Kamar Business Centre, home to the British Embassy in Yerevan, was lit up in green to mark the conclusion of the COP26 Climate Change Conference, co-hosted by the UK in Glasgow, from 31 October to 12 November.

Climate change is the greatest global risk facing us all. The 26th annual Climate Change Conference – known as the Conference of Parties, or COP26 – was hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy, representing the world's best opportunity to get climate change under control. The Conference brought together around 120 world leaders and tens of thousands of experts, government representatives, businesses and citizens from around the world to drive forward the urgent action needed to avoid

British Embassy lights up Kamar building in Yerevan in green to mark the conclusion of the COP26 Conference in Glasgow

catastrophic climate change.

The UK is committed to tackling climate change, and has been engaging closely with all countries – including Armenia – to set ambitious commitments and targets to limit global warming.

The UK was delighted to welcome the Armenian Delegation – led by President Armen Sarkissian – to COP26. We welcome the ambitious goals set by the Government of Armenia to tackle climate change as set out in their Nationally Determined Contributions.

COP26 is the world's last, best chance to reach agreement on the action needed to avert catastrophic climate change and support those already experiencing its effects. Above all, nations must take action to honor the goals of the Paris Agreement and keep a 1.5-degree limit on temperature rises within reach. The evidence has never been clearer, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said in its re-

port, this is a code red for the climate. The Conference outcomes are expected to be announced in the coming days.

Today, the British Embassy in Yerevan, in collaboration with Kamar Business Centre, lit up the office building in green to highlight the end of the Conference and the joint global efforts on climate action and green growth.

The British Embassy selected Kamar Business Centre due to its status as the first building in Armenia to be certified by BREEAM – the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method developed by British BRE Global Company, which is used to assess standards of eco-efficiency and sustainability. The British Embassy in Armenia is delighted to collaborate with Kamar Business Centre to symbolically highlight the importance of green growth through the lighting of the building. We thank our partners in Kamar for sponsoring this initiative.

Three cities in Armenia to receive 30,000 EUR grants to promote cultural development

The EU4Culture program, with the support of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, will provide EUR 30,000 grant to three selected cities in Armenia to prepare the Cultural Development Strategies.

The call for grant applications was launched in May 2021. It aims to support non-capital cities and towns to develop and implement Cultural Development Strategies, following the European Capitals of Culture approach. Overall, 70 cities from 5 Eastern Partnership countries participated in the call. After evaluating the submitted applications, the following 3 towns from Armenia were selected: Charentsavan, Ijevan and Sevan.

Selected cities will receive up to 30,000 EUR grants to develop the Cultural Devel-

opment Strategies. At the final stage of the call, one town out of these 3 will be awarded a grant of up to €300,000 to implement its strategy.

The representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, Deputy Minister of ESCS Ministry, mayors of the three cities, EU4Culture project representatives will attend the event.

The awards will be handed over at a ceremony at the Goethe-Zentrum-Eriwan on November 15. The event will open with a welcoming speech of EU Ambassador Andrea Viktorin, followed by the speeches of other invitees and an award ceremony. The head of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia will officially award grants' certificates to the mayors of the selected cities. A Q&A with the media



representatives will follow.

EU4Culture is a four-year project funded by the European Union to support the culture and creative sector, focusing on non-capital cities and towns in the Eastern Partnership Countries. The project aims to contribute to making culture an engine for growth and social development across the region. EU4Culture is implemented by the Goethe Institut (lead), Institut Francais Georgie, Danish Cultural Institute, Czech Centers.

Dog walk, skate park commissioned in Yerevan

The skate park, the dog walk and the renovated 6th part of the Circular Park in Yerevan have been commissioned, Mayor Hayk Marutyan informs.

"Committed to our election platform, we are restoring Yerevan's green zones and recreation areas. We are putting into operation the 6th part of the Circular Park, with an area of more than 12 hectares," the mayor said in a video, as he presented the work done.



"We cleared the garden of illegal constructions, cleaned about 50,000 square meters of concrete and planted greenery, refreshed the trees and planted 8,600 flowers, planted more than 4,400 square meters of lawn, installed a new lighting network with 111 new luminaires, introduced a new irrigation system with 5,450 linear meters of pipes. We established two theme parks in the area: a dog walks and a skate park," the mayor said.

Armenian FM addresses UNESCO, urges international effort to protect cultural heritage in Artsakh

Armenian foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan has called for international efforts to prevent the Armenian cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh from sharing the tragic fate of 28.000 annihilated properties of the Armenian cultural heritage of Nakhijevan.

“Along with the physical destruction of Nagorno-Karabakh’s religious and cultural heritage, we witness unacceptable cases of distortion of the identity and changing of the architectural appearance of the Armenian cultural and religious heritage in the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh currently controlled by Azerbaijan with more than 1.500 cultural property and 19.000 museum exhibits,” Minister Mirzoyan said in an address to the 41st Session of the UNESCO General Conference.

Below is the full text of Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan’s speech:

Mr. President,

Mr. Chair of the Executive Board,

Madame Director-General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like, first of all, to congratulate His Excellency Mourao on his election as President of the 41st session of the General Conference and to extend my wishes of success in his mandate.

I would also like to congratulate Madame Azoulay for being re-elected.

We also thank all the Member States for supporting Armenia’s candidature as one of the Vice-Presidents of the General Conference.

The extraordinary challenges that the world faces today from armed conflicts to COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of climate change, emphasize the importance of expanding cooperation in the fields of education, sciences, culture, communication and information. Therefore today, as we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of UNESCO, we reiterate our commitment to the values of UNESCO and support its Strategic Transformation process.

In 2022 Armenia will mark the 30th anniversary of its UNESCO membership, during which Armenia has been and continues to be firmly committed to UNESCO’s mandate to advance universal values



and fulfill our common goals, including those defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That is why we have decided to stand for the Executive Board of UNESCO by submitting our candidacy for the 2021-2025 term.

Armenia is committed to promoting a future of education based on the principle of equal opportunities for all. We think that Global citizenship education is an important tool to respond to global challenges. We also believe that education and awareness-raising are vital for advancing the prevention of hate speech and identity-based discrimination. This is also one of the main ideas behind establishing the UNESCO Chair on Education and Prevention of Genocide and other Atrocity Crimes in 2020 in Yerevan State University.

Armenia strongly supports UNESCO actions for Global Priority Africa and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). These actions should be further reinforced with special attention to the fields of education and culture.

Armenia supports UNESCO’s efforts to safeguard cultural heritage in conflict zones and condemn the attacks on cultural symbols because of their diverse origin or identity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh and its people last fall, the armed forces of Azerbaijan have been deliberately targeting civilian infrastructures, including schools, kindergartens, as well as Armenian cultural and religious heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh. As a result, more than 22.000 children of Nagorno-Karabakh have been deprived of their right to education.

Also, it has been almost a year since

Armenia alerted the Director-General and the Member States of UNESCO on the severe threats to the Armenian cultural property located in the territories fallen under Azerbaijani control.

We are grateful to Madame Azoulay for her efforts to send an independent technical mission in and around Nagorno-Karabakh in line with the 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of armed conflict.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijan continues to block the implementation of this mission. This obstructive attitude makes us fear the worst for the state of the Armenian cultural heritage under Azerbaijani controlled territory. Both during the military hostilities and after the establishment of the ceasefire, there have been numerous documented cases of deliberate destruction and acts of vandalism by the Azerbaijani armed forces against the Armenian cultural and religious heritage, and the most notorious example is the double precise drone strikes on the Holy Saviour Ghazanchetsots Cathedral of Shushi on October 8th, last year.

Along with the physical destruction of Nagorno-Karabakh’s religious and cultural heritage, we witness unacceptable cases of distortion of the identity and changing of the architectural appearance of the Armenian cultural and religious heritage in the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh currently controlled by Azerbaijan with more than 1.500 cultural property and 19.000 museum exhibits.

It is crucial to spearhead international efforts and act appropriately to prevent the Armenian cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh to share the tragic fate of 28.000 annihilated properties of the Armenian cultural heritage of Nakhijevan.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to conclude by stressing the importance of promoting a culture of peace, tolerance, mutual respect, and dialogue between cultures as an essential tool for bringing people together and promoting peaceful co-existence. It will enable us to achieve all of the Organization’s priorities.

Thank you.



The guarantee of the right of the Armenians of Artsakh to safe and dignified life in their homeland under the jurisdiction or control of Azerbaijan is impossible, the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on the anniversary of the November 9 statement that put an end to the hostilities unleashed against Artsakh. The statement reads:

In order to halt the aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan on September 27, 2020, against Artsakh and its people, with the direct involvement of Turkey and foreign terrorist fighters, on November 9, 2020, with the mediation of the President of the Russian Federation a Trilateral Statement on complete ceasefire and termination of all hostilities in the area of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was signed, which resulted in deployment of peacekeeping forces of Russia in Artsakh.

Today we once again bow before the brave Armenians who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the right of the Armenian people to live and build their own future, preventing the attempt of the aggressors to completely annihilate the Armenians from Artsakh.

The 44-day war, accompanied by mass violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure and cultural monuments, use of prohibited weapons and other war crimes by Azerbaijan, resulted in thousands of casualties, tens of thousands of wounded, displaced people and mass devastation. As a result of the war, a number of regions of Artsakh were subjected to ethnic cleansing, and the population became victims of war crimes and mass atrocities committed by Azerbaijan. In particular, 40,000 people lost their homes and property, more than 17,000 civilian facilities and infrastructure were destroyed, hundreds of civilians were killed or injured, and the fate of many still remains unknown.

Armenia and Artsakh have consistently implemented the provisions of the Trilateral Statement, while just a month after the sign-

Safe and dignified life of Artsakh Armenians under the jurisdiction or control of Azerbaijan impossible – MFA

ing of the latter, despite the commitment to stop in the current positions at the time of signing, Azerbaijani armed forces infiltrated into Khtsaberd and Hin Tagher villages of Hadrut region of Artsakh, killing and capturing Armenian servicemen. Moreover, after the withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the regions mentioned in the document, the Azerbaijani side responded with the infiltration and continued illegal deployment of its armed units into the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia from the very same territories.

Azerbaijan has not yet implemented the paragraph 8 of the November 9 Statement, holding numerous Armenian prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons in captivity, which is not only a gross violation of the Trilateral Statement but also of international humanitarian law.

The ceasefire regime established by the Trilateral Statement is periodically violated by the Azerbaijani armed forces, accompanied by targeting not only the positions of the Armenian Armed Forces and Artsakh Defense Army, but also peaceful settlements and civilians, leading to human and material losses.

Deliberately distorting and arbitrarily commenting the provisions on unblocking regional infrastructure enshrined in Trilateral Statements from November 9, 2020, and January 11, 2021, Azerbaijan circulates the idea of a so-called “corridor” and threatens with the use of force, which not only contradicts the letter and spirit of those statements, but also aims to undermine efforts of de-escalation in the region.

The consistent Armenophobic policy blatantly conducted by the highest leadership of Azerbaijan, the ethnic cleansing in the territories of Artsakh fallen under the Azerbaijani control as a result of the use of force, the destruction and desecration of the Armenian cultural and religious heritage, as well as the obstruction of the access of international humanitarian organizations to Artsakh demonstrate the fact that the guarantee of the right of the Armenians of Artsakh to safe and dignified life in their homeland under the jurisdiction or

control of Azerbaijan is impossible.

The realities created as a result of the use of force by Azerbaijan against Artsakh and its people cannot create basis for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Azerbaijan’s claims that as a result of the war the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and Nagorno-Karabakh itself does not exist in the international arena any more are also violations of the November 9 Trilateral Statement, as Nagorno-Karabakh is presented as a territorial entity right in the latter.

Only the full implementation of the Trilateral Statements from November 9, 2020 and January 11, 2021, particularly the immediate resolution of urgent humanitarian issues, first of all, the unconditional repatriation of all prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons, the clarification of the fate of missing persons and the investigation of the cases of enforced disappearances, protection of the Armenian cultural and religious heritage, as well as the full resumption of the process of peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can create conditions for ensuring lasting peace and stability in the region.

The comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict is only possible through peaceful negotiations under the mandate of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship, which assumes the clarification of the status of Artsakh, ensuring conditions for the safe return of displaced Armenians of Artsakh to their places of residence throughout Artsakh, and realization of the right of the Armenians of Artsakh to safe and dignified life in their homeland, based on equal rights and self-determination of peoples.

Armenia reiterates its readiness to undertake practical efforts towards the de-escalation of the situation in the region, gradually overcoming the atmosphere of hostility, opening an era of stability and peaceful development. At the same time, for the effectiveness of this process, Azerbaijan should adopt a constructive position, renouncing its policy of Armenophobia, aggressive rhetoric and actions.

Senate Armed Services Committee set to consider amendments on Azerbaijani war crimes, Turkish killer drones

Senate Armed Services Committee, chaired by Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed, is set to consider three key amendments:

- 1) Cutting off US aid to Azerbaijan (enforcing Section 907)
- 2) Investigating U.S. parts/technology in Turkey's killer drones
- 3) Mandating a U.S. Department of State war crimes report

Earlier this month Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) introduced a powerful amendment that would end U.S. presidential waiver authority of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, an Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA)-backed measure that would effectively block U.S. military aid to Azerbaijan.

The amendment (#4177) is one of three amendments to the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that deals with U.S. aid to Azerbaijan as well as Azerbaijani and Turkish war crimes committed against Artsakh and



Armenia during the 2020 war. The amendment removes all references to presidential waiver authority of Section 907, a provision first put in place in 2001, and utilized by successive U.S. presidents – including President Biden, even in the wake of Azerbaijan's 2020 brutal aggression against Artsakh in Armenia. Since 2016, the U.S. has provided over \$120 million in U.S. military assistance to Azerbaijan, in the face of objections by Members of Congress and the ANCA, which has long raised alarms about the Aliyev regime's belligerence in region.

Senator Menendez also offered a second amendment (#4150) to the NDAA which calls for a joint State Department

and Defense Department report on Turkey's use of U.S. technology in its Bayraktar drones, with a special focus on whether their sale to third countries, like Azerbaijan, violates U.S. export laws. The ANCA has identified a number of U.S. parts used in Bayraktar drones that targeted Artsakh and Armenian civilians during the 2020 Artsakh war. In addition to the ANCA, Amendment #4150 also has the support of a coalition of ethnic, civic, and faith-based groups including the Hellenic American Leadership Council, American Friends of Kurdistan, the Hindu American Foundation, and the Middle East Forum.

A third amendment (#4251) introduced by California Senator Alex Padilla (D) calls for a joint State Department and Defense Department report, in response to Azerbaijani war crimes during the 2020 Artsakh war, including the use of U.S. technology during the attacks; the use of white phosphorous, cluster bombs, and other prohibited munitions; and the hiring of foreign mercenaries.

Monument to the officers of Russian helicopter “accidentally” shot down by Azerbaijan unveiled in Yeraskh

Major Yuri Ishchyuk and Senior Lieutenant Roman Fedin were devoted servicemen who fell while fulfilling their allied obligations to ensure the security of the Republic of Armenia.

Deputy Minister of the Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Armenia Hovhannes Harutyunyan said during the solemn opening ceremony of the monument to the officers of the Russian helicopter shot down by Azerbaijan unveiled, in fact, questioning the claim of the Azerbaijani side that the shooting down of the Russian helicopter in the airspace of Armenia was “accidental”.

“This tragic incident, which the Azerbaijani side calls “accidental,” took place outside the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, where no military clashes have

taken place. And today we are present at the opening of a monument, which eternalizes the memory of pilots Major Yuri V. Ishchyuk and Senior Lieutenant Roman V. Fedin, two devoted servicemen who fell while fulfilling allied obligations to ensure Armenia's security”, the deputy minister said, expressing solidarity with the family members and relatives of the killed servicemen.

The opening ceremony of the monument took place in the village of Yeraskh, Ararat Province of the Republic of Armenia, on the initiative of the “MIR” International Humanitarian Foundation.

The event was also attended by Ararat Governor Razmik Tyonyan, Commander of the Armenian-Russian Joint Troops, Lieutenant General Tigran Parvanyan, MPs

Armen Khachatryan, Arman Yeghoyan, Head of “MIR” IHF Andranik Nikoghosyan, President of the Eurasian Women's Union Naira Charchyan, politicians Edmon Marukyan, Arman Abovyan, Luiza Sargsyan and others.

A Russian Mi-24 military helicopter was shot down over Armenia near the border with Azerbaijan on November 9, 2020, the day of signing the trilateral declaration on ending the war in Nagorno Karabakh. Two crewmembers died and the third pilot was wounded. Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry admitted that the helicopter had been shot down by the Azeri armed forces by mistake and stated Baku was ready to pay compensation to Moscow over the incident.

European Parliament’s Friendship Group with Armenia relaunched

On 9 November the European Parliament’s (EP) Friendship group with Armenia was relaunched. The event also marked the 30th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia, the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy informs.

One of the main goals of the activity of the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD) is to broaden the circle of the friends of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh in order to defend the Armenian state interest and for the sake of justice. In order to achieve this goal, the EAFJD traditionally actively cooperates with the diplomatic staff of the Mission Armenia to the EU.



As in the previous two legislative terms of the European Parliament, this time the EAFJD actively worked towards the relaunching of the cross-party friendship group with Armenia which consists of Members from all the main political groups of the European Parliament. The

President of the friendship group is MEP Loucas Fourlas (EPP, Cyprus). In the previous legislative term, the friendship group with Armenia was presided by MEP Dr. Eleni Theocharous (Cyprus).

In his remark during the event the EAFJD President Kaspar Karampetian thanked Loucas Fourlas for his initiative, all the participants of the friendship group as well as the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia H.E. Anna Aghadjanian for the extensive work. “We are sure that the friendship group will take initiatives to defend justice and help our people in Armenia and in Artsakh,” Karampetian concluded.



On 13 November, at the graduation ceremony of COAF’s English Access program, Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) Managing Director Koryun Khachatryan, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia Lynne M. Tracy, and Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports Zhanna Andreasyan signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding extending the pilot initiative “English-Speaking Rural Schools.” The new venture aims to drive forward the promotion and dissemination of English language at formal education level across 24 schools and 22 rural communities in the Lori region of Armenia. By running parallel to COAF’s ongoing extracurricular English Access programs, this new deal will extend the present efforts of COAF and the U.S. Embassy on English education beyond the scope of after-school programs.

Building English language proficiency in Armenia is critical to strengthening competitiveness and employment opportunities in local and international markets. To help de-

Armenia’s ministry of education, US Embassy and COAF sign memorandum of understanding

velop skills and competencies in the world’s language of business and bring cultural diversity to Armenia’s most overlooked communities, COAF and the U.S. Embassy have collaborated closely for the past 10 years and taken necessary steps to promote English proficiency: what started with 100 students has grown to reach 1,465 rural youth.

The new partnership with the Ministry of Education will expand the geographical coverage of this initiative to help over 2,400 students attain an advanced level of English proficiency (C1). Simultaneously, to enhance the teachers’ qualifications, English language and professional skills substantially and sustainably, 24 local teachers will participate in the Certification to Teach English as a Foreign Language (CTEFL) Program offered by the highly acclaimed American University of Armenia. Alongside nurturing modern methods of teaching, this certification will enable teachers to obtain credits within the framework of compulsory attestation by the Ministry of Education and Science.

As a fitting tribute to this joyous initiative, over 300 attendees of COAF’s extracurricular English Access Program graduated on the

day of the signing, paving the way for the next generation of participants to join our ongoing Access programs in 7 rural communities in January 2022.

The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that employs community-led approaches aimed at improving the quality of life in rural Armenia, with a particular focus on children and youth. COAF’s target development areas are education, healthcare, social and economic development. COAF launched its programs in 2004, starting in one village and expanding to 64 villages in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak, and Tavush regions, impacting more than 107,000 beneficiaries.

Since 2015, COAF has developed and started implementing the SMART Initiative. COAF SMART is designed to advance a generation across the rural world through education that will benefit individuals, societies, and the environment. As an exemplary model of development, COAF SMART will be replicated in other regions and communities throughout Armenia. The first COAF SMART Center was inaugurated on May 27, 2018, near the village of Debet, Lori Region.

“Garni” Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve

“Garni” Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve occupies an area of 3.5 hectares and includes a number of historical and cultural buildings and cultural values - the Fortress of Garni (B.C. III-II centuries), pagan temple (B.C. 77) mosaic floor bath with a bottom, ruins of palace buildings and adjacent economic structures, the Church of Saint Zion (VII century A.C.), the adjacent chapel, a stone monument called “Dragon” with a cuneiform inscription, a stone with a Greek inscription, etc. The Lord of Urartu (Van Kingdom) gives accurate, ancient information about Garni Arishtu I (B.C.781-760), in a cuneiform document found in 1963 near the ancient temple. Next evidence has been given by Cornelios Takitos, a I st century Roman historian. From the long-term archaeological excavations in Garni, it is known that it is one of the oldest settlements of the local tribes of the Armenian Highlands where the life has been continuously preserved since B.C. IIIrd millenium until late Middle Ages.

Being built millenia ago and preserved until our days, Garni reflects in its own way the Armenian nation passed in many centuries, with its historical, social, political, economical, cultural and ritual various stages.

Having a convenient position and a powerful strengthening system created with the high construction art of time, it has always been a north-eastern stronghold for the protection of Armenian capitals in the Ararat Valley, - a military base, and during the Armenian Kingdoms of Yervandunis, Artashesians, Arshakunyats’ -the summer residence of the Armenian kings, an umbrella. In IV-V centuries turned to an important spiritual center. Garni, destroyed in the XIII-XVII centuries by numerous invasions of foreign invaders, finally collapsed in 1679 ‘cause of an earthquake:

Works of the monuments bunch study began in the late XIX century.



In 1909-1911, thanks to periodic excavations led by Academician Nikolay Marr, Babken Arakelyan, - from the 1950s, and later Zhores Khachatryan, the remains of a number of monuments were discovered on the territory of the complex, valuable archaeological materials appeared. Based on the research conducted, the remains of some of the complex monuments (church, bathhouse, palace building, walls, etc.) were strengthened, and the pagan temple was completely restored in 1968-1974 in accordance with the project of the famous architect Alexander Sahinyan.



The Temple

The most significant building in the Garni Fortress is a unique pagan temple built in Hellenistic style preserved in Armenia. The walls which are built of smooth basalt large (up to 1.5 m long) stones which are connected with iron bands, with no mortars, and the knots are filled with lead. According to its general composition, the temple is a Greek peripteros placed on on a high platform (podium). The layer is a rectangular hall (“Cella”) surrounded by 24 pillars of Roman style on the outside.

The Bath

The bathhouse is located about 50 m northwest of the Temple. The project has a clear view consisting of four rooms following each other in the same direction: The project has a clear composition consisting of four rooms following each other in the same direction: The building is facing northeast. The first of the four rooms of the Garni bath was a dressing room, the second was a bathroom with cold water, the third was a warm water compartment, the fourth was a bathroom with hot water and a section for heating water. Of the great scientific and artistic value is the mosaic made on the floor of the first room which is one of the unique monuments of monumental painting of pre-Christian Armenia known to us.

The Church of St. Zion.

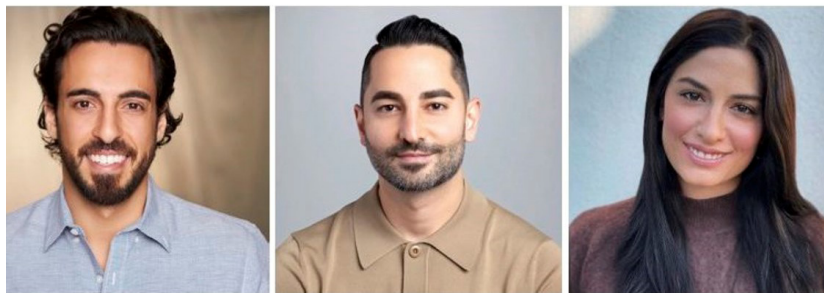
Round in plan, cruciform in the center structure of the central dome church dates back to the early Middle Ages that was found in excavations, was built in the 7th century. The four tabernacles of the Church form the four wings of the framed cross, in which four small rooms for sacrifice. The Church is located adjacent to the pagan temple on the west side. A manuscript dated back to 1346 says that the church was built in 681 C.E. by Cyros ordered by Fr.Nerses at a landpiece of Garni territory..

It is built of tufa stone and is considered a Zvartnots-type structure, since it has the same – round in plan - shape of the base and columns with a bas-relief of the Cross.

The complex of the palace structures consisted of several buildings. During excavations remains of the royal chamber of more than 40m long and some 15m in width were opened. A large 1:2 arched hall was found in the southeastern half, and numerous rooms of various sizes and purposes were placed in the other half.

Young Armenians recognized for leadership in entertainment industry

Young Armenians currently making waves in the entertainment industry were recognized this week in year-end rankings in top industry



publications Variety and The Hollywood Reporter, Asbarez reports.

Aram Yacoubian, who is Netflix's 31-year-old Director of Animation Film was recognized in Variety's "Hollywood's New Leaders of 2021" list published on Thursday. Last week, The Hollywood Reporter published its "Next Gen 2021: The Hollywood Reporter's 35 Rising Executives 35 and Under" that included 34-year-old co-founder of Proximity Media Kev Ohanian and his entertainment attorney sister, 31-year-old Ramela Ohanian, who is an Associate at Sheppard Mullin.

Yacoubian has been working in Netflix's animation unit since its early days. He now co-leads its independent animation division, overseeing sourcing, development and production of independent animation producers. He brokered a deal with Aardman Animation, with "Chicken Run 2" on deck; brought in catalog titles from Studio Ghibli; and developed global hit "Mighty Little Bheem," Variety reported.

"Animation had a major impact on me as a kid. It opened my eyes to a much

larger world than I thought existed and encouraged my imagination to run wild," Yacoubian told Variety. "As I grew older, and my perspective began to expand and I developed a new appreciation for the sophistication of animated storytelling. There are endless possibilities in the medium."

As outside counsel to Amazon Studios, Ramela Ohanian handled overalls and first-looks for Jordan Peele, Barry Jenkins and John Krasinski.

After studying philosophy at UCLA, she went on to Loyola Law School, then landed a job as a production attorney at Awesomeness TV in 2016. When the company called to request an interview, she already had two competing offers on the table and persuaded Awesomeness to let her come in that day. That drive quickly caught the attention of Sheppard Mullin, one of several places she had interned, and she's been there ever since. In addition to her work for Amazon Studios, the Los Angeles native counts Nickelodeon, Keshet Studios and Gunpowder & Sky among her clients.

She told The Hollywood Reporter that she is "dying to work with" her brother, fellow 2021 Next Gen honoree Sev Ohanian. "We each made it into the industry on our own, but we'd love to work together one day," she said.

After working with Ryan Coogler on Fruitvale Station, Sev Ohanian is now building a slate that includes "Space Jam: A New Legacy and Creed III."

The Hollywood Reporter called him, "a rare exec who can negotiate with business affairs and punch up dialogue."

Ohanian has traveled to Sundance with films he's produced (2013's Fruitvale) and written (2018's Searching). The L.A. native skipped out on the last year of his graduate program at USC's film school to produce Coogler's breakout Fruitvale Station.

"I had a hard time being taken seriously and getting attached to good scripts," Ohanian told The Hollywood Reporter. So, he co-wrote Searching with Aneesh Chaganty and produced it with his now wife, Natalie Qasabian.

He was asked by The Hollywood Reporter with whom would he trade places for a day, and he responded, "My sister," fellow 2021 Next Gen honoree Remela Ohanian. "So I could find out what it's like to be my parents' favorite."

Israeli lawmakers submit bill to recognize Armenian Genocide

Several opposition Members of Knesset (MKs) have submitted a bill on November 9 to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide and hold a memorial day for it every April 24, The Jerusalem Post reports.

The bill was submitted by Shas MKs Ya'acov Margi, Haim Biton and Moshe Arbel alongside Likud MKs Yuli Edelstein, Israel Katz and Yoav Kish.

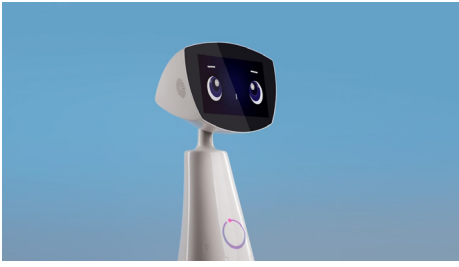
This is not the first time an attempt has been made in the Knesset for Israel to offi-



cially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

In 2018, Meretz MK Tamar Zandberg proposed a bill to recognize the massacre as genocide, but the bill was canceled due to government resistance.

In 2019, a number of high-profile members of Knesset like Yair Lapid and Gideon Sa'ar voiced support for the move, but again it did not proceed due to little government support.



The TIME magazine has listed Armenian Robin the Robot among the 100 best inventions of 2021.

Every year, TIME highlights inventions that are making the world better, smarter and a bit more fun.

This year's list of 100 groundbreaking inventions—including vaccines for COVID-19 and malaria, an emotional support robot for hospitalized children, an environmentally friendly dye for jeans and a brand new pasta shape, things that are changing how we live, work, play and

TIME lists Armenian Robin the Robot among 100 best inventions of 2021

think about what's possible.



“When an 8-year-old pneumonia patient at a clinic in Armenia had barely eaten for two days, the medical staff brought a new face into her room: Robin the Robot. After about 20 minutes of discussing favorite animals and playing a game of I Spy, Robin said goodbye, vowing to return only if the patient promised to eat. Sure enough,

she dug in,” TIME writes.

With big, googly eyes and a cheerful personality, Robin is an AI-based companion designed to ease anxiety and loneliness among children in hospitals and clinics.

“The goal was to create a technology that's not just a device—but a peer and friend,” says entrepreneur Karen Khachikyan, Robin's proud parent.

The robot is like a real-life Pixar character that can recognize a child's emotions and respond based on stored memory, even explaining medical procedures in a simple way. Robin is being used in 12 facilities worldwide and is set to be deployed in another 100 in the US over the next 12 months.

Armenia-Cyprus Friendship Park inaugurated in Nicosia

The Armenia-Cyprus Friendship Park was inaugurated on Armenia's Street in Nicosia on November 10, Gibrahayer e-magazine reports.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Annita Demetriou opened the statue symbolizing the Armenian-Cypriot friendship.

Attending the event were representatives of the Armenian community, high-ranking officials representing the Cypriot government.



After the national anthems of the two countries were played and prayers were uttered, speeches were offered by Representative of Archbishop Chrysostomos

II, Head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Cyprus, Pontifical Vicar of Cyprus Archbishop Khoren Toghramadjian, Mayor of Strovolos Andreas Papacharalambous, Armenian Representative in the House of Representatives Vartkes Mahdessian, Armenia's Ambassador to Cyprus and Greece Tigran Mkrtchyan and Parliament Speaker Annita Demetriou, who represented President Nicos Anastasiades.

The solemn ceremony was followed by reception.

Slovakia donates over 60,000 doses of Moderna vaccine to Armenia

On 9 November 2021, 60,700 doses of Moderna vaccines were delivered to Armenia. This donation is made by the Slovak Republic for the Armenian people, under the Team Europe using the support of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

The Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Armenia Miroslav Hacek and Head of Political, Press and Information Section of the EU Delegation to Armenia Jan Plešinger handed over the donation to the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia at Zvartnots Airport. RA Deputy Minister of Health Artak Jumayan, and the

representative of the Slovak Republic Ministry of Health were also present.

“As part of Team Europe, Slovakia is very happy to provide a donation of Moderna vaccine to Armenia. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and all the others at the time of the pandemic. We hope this will help the Armenian government accelerate the vaccination campaign,” said Ambassador of Slovak Republic to Armenia Miroslav Hacek.

Jan Plešinger highlighted: “The provision of new vaccines to Armenia in the current situation with COVID-19 cases in the country is very timely in our opinion.

These efforts will continue to increase people's access to safe and effective vaccines to end the pandemic and protect the health and lives of Armenian citizens.”



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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.

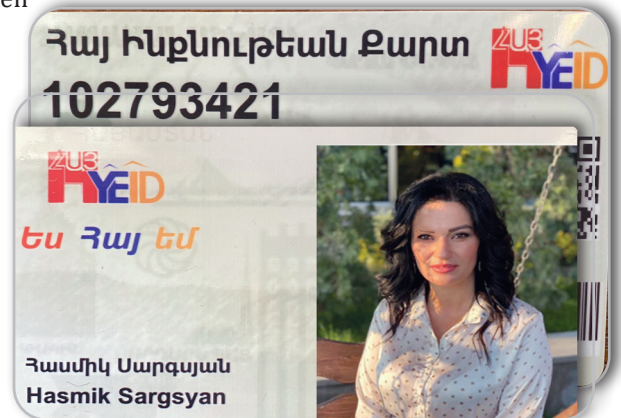
The Armenian Identity Card (HyeID) cardholders who live in the Diaspora intend to utilize the possibilities made available through HyeID to form a Diaspora representative body — Diaspora Armenian Parliament — through democratic elections.

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