

The ideology of the Real Armenia - Prime Minister addresses the nation



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan addressed the nation on February 19 with an ideological message, presenting the draft of the ideology of the Real Armenia.

The Prime Minister's message is presented below:

PROJECT

The Ideology of the Real Armenia

The Real Armenia is the Republic of Armenia, with an internationally recognized area of 29,743 square kilometers.

The vision of the progress and development of the Republic of Armenia, based on the ideology of the Real Armenia, is multi-layered and must be reflected in all spheres of state and public life.

1. The motherland is the state, if you love your motherland, strengthen your

state – The motherland is one of the most cherished concepts of the linguistic determinism of Armenians. But it does not relate to the system of rights and obligations, and has geographical perception options. This ideology of Real Armenia identifies the motherland with the internationally recognized state, the Republic of Armenia, and patriotism with the interests of that state, the system of rights and obligations defined in it. For the development of this model of patriotism, it is essential that the people, the citizen perceive themselves not only as the founder of the state, but also as the source of the legal order established in the state, perceive the constitutional order established in the state as a national consensus of coexistence achieved with their own participation. The adoption of

the new Constitution through a national referendum is essential for this system, since all previous referendums held to adopt the current Constitution have a serious lack of legitimacy, at least in public perception. The strategic goal of adopting the new Constitution is the transition from the residual system of functioning of a stateless nation to a system of functioning of state-building people.

2. As the soul becomes a person with the body, so the nation becomes people through the state - The concepts of nation and people are often equalized. But from a political point of view, they differ significantly, continuing to be interconnected with each other. A nation, accordingly, is a collectivity with

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Defence Minister Papikyan, Ambassador Decottignies discuss Armenia-France defence cooperation

On February 21, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Armenia Suren Papikyan received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to the Republic of Armenia Olivier Decottignies, the defence ministry said.

During the meeting, the sides discussed ongoing programs and upcoming



initiatives within the framework of Armenia-France defence cooperation, as well as the progress of agreements reached between the Defence Ministers of the two countries.

Additionally, they exchanged views on recent international and regional developments.

Italian Senate's Committee on EU Policies holds Armenia hearing

Armenian Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan has participated in hearings dedicated to Armenia at the Italian Senate's Committee on EU Policies.

Simonyan delivered a speech at the session and comprehensively presented the Armenian government's stance regarding various matters, and answered questions from



Italian parliamentarians, the Armenian

parliament's press service said.

The discussions focused on issues pertaining to the peace treaty with Azerbaijan, the Armenian government's Crossroads of Peace project, Armenia's EU integration agenda, priorities of the ongoing democratic reforms in Armenia, as well as the issue of achieving the release of Armenian prisoners held in Azerbaijan.

Speaker Simonyan is in Rome on a working visit. He earlier participated in the Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).

Armenian Speaker of Parliament meets Italy's Chamber of Deputies President in Rome

Speaker of Parliament Alen Simonyan has met with President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy Lorenzo Fontana in Rome.

Speaker Simonyan thanked for the warm reception and said that the protocol signed between him and Lorenzo Fontana in April 2024 in Spain is gradually entering the phase of implementation, the parliament's press service said in a readout.

Lorenzo Fontana welcomed the Speaker's visit to Italy and noted that the trip is a good opportunity to discuss the collegial relations between the



two countries and parliaments, as well as issues pertaining to Armenia's EU integration.

Fontana presented the recently adopted [resolution](#) in the Senate which binds the Italian government to promote the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan and contribute to the establishment of peace in the region.

Speaker Simonyan spoke about the issue of the Armenian prisoners of war who are still held in Azerbaijan.

Simonyan invited his Italian counterpart to visit Armenia.

Text of new constitution must be ready before next general election, says minister

Minister of Justice Srбуhi Galyan said on February 20 that the development of the text of the new Constitution is underway.

Galyan told reporters that the concepts of constitutional changes are ready, since there have been many attempts to develop such concepts in the past few years.

She said the text of the draft constitution must be ready before the next elections, i.e. 2026, and then a decision will be made regarding a referendum.

Galyan denied claims that the constitutional changes will be held because of Azerbaijani leader Ilham Aliyev's demands. She said that such changes have been planned ever since 2018.



The amendments will cover a wide range of issues while unamendable clauses will maintain the same logic. "Only the commission in charge of [developing the draft] is authorized to reveal details and make comments. We plan to organize many discussions with the civil society,"

the minister said, adding that everyone will have the opportunity to give an opinion.

The powers of the President will be discussed, but the system of administration of the country will remain the same.

Some adjustments will likely be made in the electoral system.

"Perhaps we will make some adjustments pertaining to the electoral system, based on the proportional system, in order to rule out the presence of many majority elements, which implies changes not only in the constitution but also the parliament rules of procedure," the minister said, adding that discussions are underway.

Top official denies link between Pashinyan's constitutional amendments proposal and Aliyev demand



A top Armenian official denied claims that Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan signaled the need for constitutional

amendments because Azerbaijan has demanded it.

Secretary of the Security Council Armen Grigoryan told reporters that the issue of constitutional amendments has always been a domestic matter in Armenia and cannot be linked with any foreign process.

"We've been talking about constitutional amendments since 2020," he said when asked whether PM Pashinyan's

statement has something to do with Azeri leader Ilham Aliyev's demands for constitutional changes in Armenia. Aliyev has been falsely accusing Armenia of having territorial aspirations against his country enshrined in the constitution. PM Pashinyan has numerous times said that Armenia doesn't have territorial aspirations against any country.

"The issue of constitutional changes in Armenia has always been a domestic process and it can't be linked to any foreign process. It has been and will continue to be a domestic process," Grigoryan added.

Armenia-US strategic partnership discussed at the Pentagon – Ambassador

Armenia's Ambassador to the United States, Lilit Makunts, held discussions at the Pentagon.

"Had a great engagement at the Pentagon. We spoke about Armenia-US strategic partnership and the peace process in the



South Caucasus region," the Ambassador said in a post on X.

"Armenia values the collaboration with the US Department of Defense and looks forward to continuing our partnership," she said.

Italian Senate adopts resolution calling for support to Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process

The Italian Senate has adopted a resolution supporting the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process, the Embassy of Armenia in Italy has said.

The Resolution On Initiatives to Support the Peace Process Between Armenia and Azerbaijan was adopted unanimously on February 19.

The resolution was presented by over 70 senators representing all factions from the ruling party and the opposition.



It calls on the government of Italy to promote diplomatic efforts aimed at

the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace process, strengthen its commitment by urging both countries to abandon the use of force in the future and maintain peaceful, constructive and open dialogue, provide substantial support to the dialogue between the two countries and contribute to the strengthening of trust, adopt economic initiatives aimed at achieving intensive and balanced economic ties with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Armenian lawmaker reaffirms Armenia's commitment to peace at OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Addressing closed borders and advancing peace with Azerbaijan are key pillars of our efforts to build a more secure and interconnected region, Lilit Minasyan, a member of the Armenian National Assembly delegation, emphasized in her speech at the OSCE PA Winter Meeting's Committee on Political Affairs and Security.

"Armenia is committed to a foreign policy that prioritizes peace, cooperation, and the strengthening of our sovereignty and democracy.

In this context, addressing closed borders and advancing peace with Azerbaijan are key pillars of our efforts to build a more secure and interconnected region," she said.

Minasyan reminded that last year, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a protocol on the joint activities of the commissions on the delimitation of the state border between the two countries, basing the

delimitation process on the Alma-Ata Declaration.

"The Constitutional Court of Armenia has confirmed that this decision fully complies with our Constitution. The protocol was ratified by the Parliament of Armenia and the President of Azerbaijan. It represents the first interstate document between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

A finalized peace treaty with Azerbaijan will be a historic achievement.

Out of 17 points in the draft peace treaty, we have reached full agreement on 15. We presented constructive suggestions on the remaining two points and looking forward to the positive response from the Azerbaijani side."

Minasyan added that it would not only transform the relations between our two countries but also unlock new opportunities for regional cooperation in trade, transport, and energy.

"However, as we make progress in peace negotiations, we believe that the opening of borders will become a natural guarantee of a lasting peace.

Furthermore, the Republic of Armenia has submitted a written proposal to Azerbaijan on providing railway transportation from Azerbaijan to Azerbaijan and internationally through the territory of Armenia, and from Armenia to Armenia and internationally through the territory of Azerbaijan, and is awaiting Azerbaijan's positive response.

Last but not least, let me reiterate Armenia's commitment to peace, stability, and regional cooperation. Together, we can build a future where borders are crossroads, where conflicts are resolved through dialogue, and where the people of our region can thrive in peace and security," Minasyan said.

Investigative Committee Chairman of Armenia, Iranian Ambassador discuss cooperation against transnational crimes

Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia, Artur Poghosyan, received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Armenia, Mehdi Sobhani.

According to the Investigative Committee of Armenia, Chairman Poghosyan welcomed the ambassador and commended the high level of cooperation between the

Investigative Committee and the Iranian Embassy, particularly in international legal cooperation.

Emphasizing the multifaceted relations between the two countries, Sobhani highlighted the joint efforts of the Investigative Committee and the Embassy in addressing various issues.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the Investigative Committee discussed

flexible cooperation mechanisms in combating transnational crimes. The discussion also focused on exchanging relevant information regarding citizens of both countries involved in criminal proceedings and increasing the efficiency of investigative inquiries.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in the field of justice through mutual efforts.

Brussels sees EU Mission in Armenia as a useful tool to contribute to stability in the South Caucasus – Markus Ritter

The number of incidents along the border and the Line of Control between Azerbaijan and Armenia has significantly decreased since the arrival of the EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA), Head of Mission Markus Ritter said in an interview with [Armenpress](#).

“I am sure that it is also an impact we have, our patrolling along the border, and our presence that helps decrease incidents. It is not only us, but also the political environment, the talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia, that help decrease incidents. I am confident that with our presence, we support this general process,” he said.

Mr. Ritter noted that the EU decision to extend the mandate for another two years shows that the European Union sees the Mission as a useful tool to contribute to stability in the South Caucasus.

Responding to Azerbaijan’s accusations of being engaged in intelligence



activities, the chief of Mission said: “From the very first day that we have been here, we have been doing the same thing we are doing now, and we never change that. We are patrolling openly along the border and the Line of Control. When we appear somewhere on the border, somewhere, we always stay in a position where both sides can see that we are there. Everything is visible.”

“We are observing what is happening on the border. This means that we are not only looking at what the Azerbaijani side is doing; we are also observing what the

Armenian side is doing, because Brussels wants to know from us what the situation at the border is like. They do not want us to report only on what Azerbaijan is doing. So we are observing both sides because we want to report to Brussels on the situation and what is going on. Therefore, we always patrol openly. We never hide somewhere or stay covered,” Marcus Ritter noted.

He said the patrols are reporting that the situation on the border is quite calm. “There are no incidents at the moment. Both sides are fortifying their positions. Both sides continue to be prepared for the worst, which is obvious. But we are not seeing any tension at the moment, and this has been the situation for a month, we are confident that the region is on a good path. And we always say: be prepared for the worst, but be ready for the best. So it seems to us that both sides are following this advice.”

Armenia, EU hold 14th Human Rights Dialogue in Brussels

On 17 February, the European Union and Armenia held their 14th Human Rights Dialogue in Brussels.

The EU welcomed the progress related to human rights-related legislation, policy as well as the implementation of the Human Rights Strategy and deriving Action Plan for 2023-2025, and readiness of the government of Armenia to take further measures to address the remaining issues.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to the shared principles and values of democracy, freedom, rule of law, and to the promotion of respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights, also in the context of the ongoing visa liberalization dialogue.

The EU and Armenia agreed on the need to effectively safeguard the rights to freedom of assembly, association and of expression and preserve civic space. They underlined the importance of ensuring accountability of the police and noted the new legislation in this regard. The EU praised Armenia’s progress in human rights related aspects of reforms of law enforcement and reforms in the area of migration. They also acknowledged the

need to improve detention conditions and strengthen the culture of human rights in the armed forces. The EU called for limiting the use and duration of pre-trial detention.

Armenia and the EU highlighted the importance of free and fair elections and the outstanding efforts to increase public’s trust in the electoral process. Both sides acknowledged recent legislative amendments to further improve the Electoral Code. They also discussed how best to address the rising level of disinformation, including foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI).

The EU and Armenia agreed on the importance of strengthening equality and combatting discrimination. In this regard, the EU called for the adoption of an encompassing Equality law and Gender Equality Strategy. Welcoming Armenia’s commitment to the rights of persons with disabilities, the EU encouraged further measures to ensure accessibility and community-based services. The EU also called for further efforts to counter domestic violence. Both sides discussed the need to combat hate speech and hate crimes,



including against LGBTI persons. The EU and Armenia recognized the efforts made regarding the rights of the child agenda, and the EU highlighted the need to conclude the new legal package and to ensure sufficient funding for its implementation. They further discussed how to strengthen the labor protection.

The parties agreed to further strengthen their cooperation also in international human rights fora.

The EU delegation was headed by Dorota Dlouchy-Suliga, Head of Division in the European External Action Service. The Armenian delegation was headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Vahan Kostanyan.

Armenia-UAE trade turnover doubles - Minister

Armenian Minister of Economy Gevorg Papoyan participated in the “Made by Armenians” 2025 exhibition in the city of Ras Al Khaimah, UAE.

According to the Ministry of Economy, the event was attended by the Crown Prince of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Mohamed Musabbeh Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Ras Al Khaimah Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Armenian Ambassador to the UAE Karen Grigoryan, as well as businessmen, investors, and government officials from Armenia, the UAE, and other countries.

During the opening ceremony, Minister Papoyan emphasized the ongoing development of economic relations between Armenia and the UAE, noting that in 2024, the trade turnover between the two countries exceeded \$5.7 billion, doubling compared to 2023.



He also highlighted the significant expansion of Armenian goods exports to the UAE, noting that the growing demand and

strengthened business ties are evidence of this progress.

New venture capital funds to enter Armenia soon

New venture capital funds will soon enter Armenia, Vice Speaker of Parliament Hakob Arshakyan has said.

Arshakyan spoke to reporters after the annual congress of the Union of Advanced Technology Enterprises on February 19.

“In terms of the investments environment we have a rather good and appealing investment environment in the startup

community,” he said, adding that the government is working to further improve legislative mechanisms.

“Soon you will see the entry of new venture funds and new mass solution programs into Armenia,” Arshakyan added.

He said new institutional mechanisms pertaining to education, science and industry in the public-private sector

cooperation will be discussed at the UATE board meeting on February 26.



Free trade zone agreement between Eurasian Economic Union and UAE to be signed soon

The agreement on a free trade zone between the Eurasian Economic Union and the United Arab Emirates will be signed in a couple of months, a top Emirati official has said, according to TASS news agency.

Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, the UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, said that the agreement will be signed in two or three months.



“The work around this agreement lasted almost a year and a half. We are looking forward to signing the agreement in two or three months,” he said at the Made In Russia expo in Abu Dhabi.

The negotiations around the free trade agreement began in 2023.

The Eurasian Economic Union members are Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Pashinyan, Cabinet members discuss mechanisms to promote non-cash transactions



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan chaired a consultation on February 20 with Cabinet members, focusing on the potential impacts and alternative mechanisms for promoting non-cash transactions.

The Prime Minister welcomed the

increasing volume of non-cash payments, noting that such transactions have now surpassed cash payments.

“Of course, we welcome this result, as we considered this outcome highly desirable back in 2018-2019,” Pashinyan said, outlining the incentives that have contributed to the current situation.

“I believe the growth of the online trade market, including the presence of several large foreign companies, has had a significant impact on our market. However, it is also clear to me that cashback payments to pensioners have had a great role as well,” the Prime Minister stated.

According to Pashinyan, the discussion

aimed to assess how feasible the cashback mechanism would be when applied on a broader scale and to a wider range of beneficiaries in the context of non-cash payments.

The consultation also covered the current level, structure, refund mechanisms, principles, and primary goals of non-cash transactions.

Pashinyan instructed the responsible officials to develop a corresponding proposal for promoting non-cash transactions and expanding the application of the cashback mechanism based on the outcomes of the meeting.

Armenian High-Tech Industry Minister, UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs meet in Abu Dhabi

Armenian Minister of High-Tech Industry Mkhitar Hayrapetyan and the United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Defense Affairs Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Mazrouei held a meeting on February 18 in Abu Dhabi.

The Armenian minister presented the steps and vision aimed at the development of the sector, current programs and work, the ministry said in a readout.

A number of issues of mutual interest,



as well as opportunities and prospects of implementing joint programs were discussed.

The parties agreed to expand and develop partnership in various formats.

Minister Hayrapetyan's first deputy Gevorg Mantashyan and the Chairman of the Military Industry Committee Aram Jivanyan also participated in the meeting.

Armenia's High-Tech Industry Deputy Minister meets Angola's Ambassador

The First Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia, Gevorg Mantashyan, received a delegation on Friday led by the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Angola to Armenia, Augusto da Silva Cunha.

According to the Ministry of High-Tech Industry, Mantashyan presented the ministry's scope and objectives aimed at developing the sector. The minister emphasized that Armenia has achieved significant

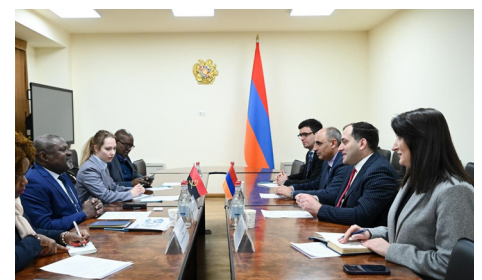
progress in the technological field since the Soviet era.

The ambassador noted that, given Armenia's achievements and strong potential in the sector, Angola is eager to cooperate with Armenia in artificial intelligence (AI), personnel training, and educational programs.

A wide range of issues related to the formation and expansion of cooperation between the two countries was discussed, including opportunities for establishing

ties between private companies in the field of AI.

The meeting covered a wide range of issues of mutual interest.



‘Historic’ strategic partnership charter with U.S. to increase security and resilience, says Armenian official



Armenia believes that the strategic partnership charter with the U.S. will increase its security and resilience, a senior official has said.

In an interview with Armenpress, Vahan Hunanyan, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan’s advisor, emphasized the key importance of the [Armenia-U.S. strategic partnership charter](#) in terms of the document having enshrined the common vision of the two countries to develop relations based on common values and strategic interests.

“It is not an overstatement to say that this is truly a historic document for Armenia-United States relations, because today we can state that we are on the highest level of our relations ever since Armenia gained independence, and this was a process that had begun in 2019 during Donald Trump’s first term when Armenia and the United States established strategic dialogue, and as part of the dialogue an institutional system was created and the relationship has been developing since,” Hunanyan said when asked about the agreement, emphasizing the crucial importance of the document which “enshrines our common vision on developing the relations of our two countries based on common values and strategic interests.”

The U.S.-Armenia Strategic Partnership Commission, part of the deal, envisages meetings between Armenian and U.S. officials to further advance the relationship through various initiatives and programs.

Hunanyan highlighted the Principles of Partnership enshrined in the document,

which says that the Charter is based on core basic principles and beliefs shared by Armenia and the US:

1. Support for each other’s sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity constitute the foundation of our bilateral relations. 2. Our friendship derives from our common commitment to democratic values and our shared belief that democracy is the chief basis for political legitimacy and therefore, stability. 3. Cooperation between democratic partners will help promote peace and stability. 4. A strong, independent, sovereign, and democratic Armenia, capable of defending its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of internationally recognized borders is essential for lasting regional security and prosperity. 5. Armenia’s continued democratic and economic reforms can unleash the full creative potential of its industrious citizens and thereby catalyze prosperity throughout the region and beyond. 6. The United States welcomes efforts by Armenia to deepen its political, economic, security, and social ties with other nations of the Euro-Atlantic community and broader community of democracies. 7. A dignified and durable peace is essential for a more stable and prosperous future of the South Caucasus. The United States supports the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including in the border delimitation process based upon the Alma Ata Declaration of 1991. 8. The United States supports the unblocking of regional transport communications in the South Caucasus, based on full respect for the countries’ sovereignty and jurisdiction. 9. Recognizing that the flow of goods and people across borders leads to interdependencies and mutual benefits for neighbors, the United States also intends to continue to advocate for the normalization of relations between Armenia and its neighbors.

As part of the commission the sides will explore strategic programs and interests in the investments sector to advance

economic ties.

“Another important point I’d like to mention pertains to controlled technologies, because the charter states that the parties intend to launch dialogue in order for Armenia, trusted companies operating in Armenia, to gain greater access to U.S. Commerce export-controlled technology. This is highly important for our high-tech and IT companies. Food security is also a highly important point because this has great importance both in terms of the economy and resilience, and the parties will explore opportunities in this sector around investments and development of trade,” Hunanyan added.

Section III of the Charter pertains to Defense and Security.

Hunanyan said it envisages dialogue between the Armenian Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense, increase of the volume of training, strengthening of cooperation in peacekeeping area and the fight against terrorism. “During the same event [signing of charter] Minister Ararat Mirzoyan said that Armenia is joining the Global Coalition to Defeat the Islamic State, and here also we attach great importance to cooperation with the United States,” he said.

“Since we are talking about security, I’d like to touch upon another issue because there were manipulations in the experts’ circles, social media and various interviews about what this charter constitutes in terms of defense. We must say for the record that this is not a military alliance, this is not an obligation on mutual defense,” Hunanyan underscored.

“At the same time, understandably if the parties implement everything that’s enshrined in the strategic partnership charter, and I am convinced that we will do so step by step, then the general security and resilience of Armenia will significantly increase,” the official added.

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Under the agreement, the United States and Armenia will begin negotiations on a civil nuclear cooperation agreement, known as a 123 Agreement, which, once concluded, will provide Armenia a platform for enhanced nuclear energy cooperation with the United States.

Speaking about the contacts between the Pashinyan Administration and the Trump Administration, Hunanyan recalled that Prime Minister Pashinyan was the first leader in the region to hold a phone call with Trump after the latter's victory in the election. The contact continued in Paris, during the reopening ceremony of the Notre-Dame de Paris.

"The communication channels had been established from the very beginning and then already a meeting with U.S. Vice President JD Vance took place during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington, D.C.," Hunanyan said. PM Pashinyan visited Washington to participate in the International Religious Freedom Summit and

the National Prayer Breakfast.

The meeting with Vice President JD Vance wasn't planned beforehand because Pashinyan's trip was not an official visit. "But in the process the parties decided to meet and discuss directions of cooperation, and it was a very important and productive discussion pertaining to our bilateral agenda and the region. Why was it important? Because it is presumed that JD Vance will be Donald Trump's successor. If I'm not mistaken Prime Minister Pashinyan was the first foreign leader whom JD Vance met with," Hunanyan said.

The meetings and contacts "gave the opportunity to touch upon the further development of the Armenia-US strategic partnership and present our peace agenda to the new administration," Hunanyan said, adding that "from this perspective we received a highly positive response."

Hunanyan expressed certainty that the Armenia-U.S. ties will steadily develop.

"We highly appreciate the U.S. continual support for the establishment of

peace in the South Caucasus. I think the establishment of sustainable and lasting peace in the South Caucasus is in the interests of Armenia, other countries in the region, the U.S. and overall, the broader international community. This is an agenda that the Armenian government has been unwaveringly and continuously advancing. As you know, this is a narrative, a strategy, a policy that is highly important also for U.S. President Donald Trump. I am talking about his Peace Through Strength principle. He had said in his inauguration address, and by the way also during the National Prayer Breakfast, that he wants his greatest legacy to be that of a peacemaker, and in this regard, we hope that also through U.S. practical support we will eventually establish sustainable, lasting and fair peace in the region," Hunanyan added.

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Armenian Genocide Memorial in Montebello designated as California Historical Landmark



After years of advocacy, Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera) has affirmed the State Historical Resources Commission's unanimous vote to officially designate the

Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument, located in the 30th Senate District, as a California State Historical Landmark.

With deep roots in the community

from his tenure with the Montebello Police Department and his ongoing commitment as a Senator, Archuleta has long recognized the monument's critical importance to the Armenian community in Montebello, where the Monument is located. For years, Archuleta has championed the cause to ensure that this historic site receives the honor it deserves.

Constructed as a modern, sculptural interpretation of traditional Armenian Church architecture, the Armenian Genocide Martyrs Monument holds the distinction of being the first major monument dedicated to the Armenian Genocide in the United States, as well as the first of its kind on public land. Its establishment, in 1968, was made possible through the dedication and efforts of the Armenian American community and has become a powerful symbol of pride and remembrance for the diaspora.

Armenia highly values cooperation with Japan – Deputy Speaker says at Emperor’s Birthday embassy reception

On February 20, Vice President of the National Assembly of Armenia, Hakob Arshakyan, participated in the reception at the embassy of Japan in Armenia dedicated to the 65th birthday of the Emperor of Japan.

Arshakyan delivered a speech at the event.

Addressing the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Armenia Yutaka Aoki and the guests, Hakob Arshakyan warmly congratulated them on Japan’s national holiday - the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

He noted that the Armenia-Japan relations have traditionally developed in an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, these thirty and more years have stood out by close cooperation characteristic to the two democratic countries, based on respect for fundamental human rights and democratic values.

“We highly appreciate the cooperation established between Armenia and Japan in a number of areas over the past years, including disaster prevention, human resources development, promotion of infrastructure, small and medium-sized enterprises, and other areas. The Armenian Government is also grateful to the Japanese Government for its continued support in addressing the needs of our forcibly displaced compatriots,” the Arshakyan said, according to a press release published by the parliament’s press service.

Arshakyan said that Armenia attaches

importance to Japan’s constructive and impartial stance towards the efforts of the Armenian Government to establish stability and peace in the region.

“At the same time, we expect Japan’s more active involvement not only in the political, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres, but also in the formation of a security environment based on international law and the rule of law in the region, anchored on full respect for the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the states,” Hakob Arshakyan said.

The Deputy Speaker noted that bilateral economic relations occupy a special place in the Armenia-Japan relations. He expressed confidence that the efforts made by both sides in this context, including the further expansion of the bilateral legal and contractual framework, will provide an opportunity to promote trade turnover volumes, as well as tourism and business ties and people-to-people contacts, contributing to raising the level of awareness of each other among the Armenian and Japanese peoples.

“I warmly remember the meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan during my visit to Tokyo in September 2022, during which the Japanese colleagues pointed out the recognition of Aram Khachaturian and Komitas in Japan, as well as the presence of their works in the educational programmes of music schools.

Within the framework of the same visit, during the meeting with the Minister

for Digital Transformation Taro Kono, we agreed to form a working group, as a result of whose activities I received an invitation yesterday to attend the official opening ceremony of the Tumo Center in Takasaki, Japan, scheduled for June 1,” the Vice President of the National Assembly said, adding that Tumo Gunma will be available to 1.500 young people living in the communities of the prefecture. Tumo’s unique educational model will teach programming, animation, filmmaking, game creation, 3D modeling, drawing and motion graphics.

“These facts are vivid evidence that the relations between Armenia and Japan have more than great potential, which also include the cultural and educational spheres. Let me also congratulate friendly Japan on hosting the world’s largest economic event, the “EXPO 2025” World Exhibition in Osaka this year and wish it success in the works of the exhibition. As you know, Armenia will also participate in the mentioned exhibition. I am convinced that it will provide a unique opportunity to present the economic, cultural, technological, educational and tourist attractions of Armenia to the Japanese people, creating new prospects for the further development and deepening of cooperation in these areas,” the Arshakyan said.

Once again congratulating the Japanese friends on the national holiday, Hakob Arshakyan assured that no efforts will be spared to boost Armenia-Japan relations and elevate them to a new qualitative level.

WCC condemns attempt to foreclose properties of Armenian Apostolic Church in Jerusalem

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has issued a statement in support of the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

The statement reads:

“The World Council of Churches (WCC) stands in solidarity with the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem in the face of an unjust foreclosure order issued by the Municipality of Jerusalem.

We denounce this act as a blatant attack on religious freedom and an alarming violation of the historic Status Quo that governs the Holy Sites of Jerusalem.

For centuries, the Armenian

Patriarchate, alongside other Christian institutions, has safeguarded the sacred heritage of the Holy Land, serving as a beacon of faith, community service, and justice. The coercive measures taken against the Patriarchate constitute not only a legal and moral travesty but also a dangerous precedent that threatens all Christian institutions in Jerusalem.

This reckless action is part of a wider pattern of increasing pressures, land disputes, and acts of intimidation targeting Christian communities in the Holy

City—acts that the WCC has repeatedly condemned.

We call upon the Israeli government to immediately freeze the foreclosure proceedings and uphold the internationally recognized Status Quo of Jerusalem. We further urge the international community, including religious and political leaders, to take decisive action to protect the fundamental rights of Christian communities and to ensure that the Holy Land remains a place of worship, peace, and coexistence for all.”

page 1 → ethnic commonality, which is not endowed with general political legal capacity, while people is a collectivity endowed with political legal capacity, which has general citizenship, that is, the people are the state-forming institution, the constitutive, the source of power and the supreme bearer of power. The Armenian people are the state-forming part of the Armenian nation. The Armenian people are the axis of the people of Armenia. The citizens of the Republic of Armenia, which also includes representatives of other nations, are part of the people of Armenia.

3. Here is the state, here is the bread, here is the motherland, here is your future - the people create the state as a tool for prosperity. The state is the destination of the proverb “stay where there is bread” that periodically storms the Armenian reality, that is, the place where there is bread, because it is the tool with which bread, that is, prosperity is created, and therefore, it is there that one should stay. The state is the product of the people’s search for prosperity, and prosperity is a necessary condition for achieving happiness. This perception has been alien to our reality, because for centuries the concepts of motherland, state, and bread have been separated from each other. Bread was earned in states created by others and/or located in other places, reserving for the motherland the function of a place of conservation of isolated but cherished traditions and values, making the wanderings between motherland, state, and bread into a key component of the socio-psychology of Armenians. Equalising of the concepts of bread, motherland, state replaces the concept of “emigrating” from problems, that is, solving the bread problem elsewhere, with the concept of confronting problems and solving them in one’s own state and with one’s own state. In this process, the definition of the standard of well-being (security, freedom, justice, daily life, happiness), the provision of the necessary conditions for its implementation, the adoption of the strategy, and the acknowledgment of the state as a tool for implementing the strategy and the area of implementation of the specified standard are of essential importance. In this context, it is important to note that the state is the best tool for a citizen and the people to decide their own fate, to predetermine their destiny, and the best life for a person is possible only in their own state.

4. Get rich and make rich – Getting rich and making rich are key incentives for establishing public welfare, and this incentive should be placed not in the logic of a race for money, but in the logic of a competition to create results, developing the individual and the state. Living well should become the rule within the logic of a set standard of welfare and with the understanding that the only tool for living well is to work hard, earn a lot, spend a lot. This is true for both the individual and the state, and both the state and the individual must also be bound by a mutual desire to enrich each other, the society, groups, and individuals must be united by a mutual desire to enrich each other, also because having the proper environment is the most important guarantee of success, from which it follows that the state logic of getting rich and making rich is possible only in an environment of legality, equality of all before the law, justice, and creativity. If working hard in such an environment does not bring much earnings, then the work is not productive. If spending a lot does not lead to well-being, then the expenditure (investment) is not productive. In the mentioned context, it is essential to change the public and individual attitude towards money, in the sense of putting it outside the logic of evil and good and perceiving it as a tool for solving problems and evaluating legitimate work and activity.

5. A person is the highest value. This means that taking care of the primary needs of the person is a priority - The inclusion of talk about bread, money, wealth, and living well in political ideology is unusual for our political life and can be assessed as a devaluation of “high politics”. “Policies based on high values”, however, sometimes lose sight of the highest of values – the person, his daily vital needs, his natural desire to live and enjoy life. The peculiarity of this ideology is the practical approach of putting a person and his needs at the center, with the understanding that the person himself must first of all take care of his needs, while state policies should be aimed at providing a person with education, skills, abilities, knowledge necessary for that, developing a person’s talent and creating the necessary opportunities and environment for its realization. Spiritual and cultural values are also viewed from this perspective. It’s not so that these values have a heavenly significance, but they are an integral part of human vital needs, because a person has

both material, everyday, and spiritual-cultural needs, and values are valuable to the extent that they are necessary to motivate a person, to make him harmonious, to ensure happiness. In this sense, the national and state identity of a person, national and state values, with some of which a person has direct interaction, the other part exists for a person as a consciousness, as a belief, are important. The ideology of Real Armenia is based on the national values of the Armenian people.

Accordingly, the national values of the Armenian people (the Republic of Armenia) are:

- The Republic of Armenia.
- Independence of the Republic of Armenia, sovereignty, citizenship, democracy, army.
- History of Armenia, Armenian folklore: epic, beliefs, legends, myths.
- Armenian language and script, Armenian literature, including translated literature, knowledge, science.
- Pan-Armenian potential, Armenian Diaspora.
- Homeland, family, individual.
- Armenian Apostolic Holy Church, Armenian Catholic Church, Armenian Evangelical Church. Christianity.
- Armenian Ashugh, Gusan, folk, classical, original and pop music, Armenian dance, Armenian fine arts, Armenian stage art, Armenian architecture.
- Native nature with its biodiversity.
- Progress, liberalism, self-love, hospitality, love of learning, diligence, being law-abiding, respect and tolerance towards other people, peoples, religions.
- Regional affiliation, global civilization, regional, classical and modern culture,
- Fraternal feelings and relations towards national minorities of the Republic of Armenia and inseparable union with them, expressed by the citizenship of the Republic of Armenia. Traditions, religions, and beliefs of the national minorities of the Republic of Armenia.

- Armenian cuisine, all those samples of tangible and intangible heritage that express, depict, describe or symbolize the national values of the Armenian people (Republic of Armenia) described above.

6. Armenia is my hearth, the people are my family – The Armenian tradition of strong family ties is a vital resource for strengthening statehood. It is necessary to develop this tradition from the family level to the public-state level, making it relevant to the relations between the individual → page 12

and the state. The primary concern of an individual before the people and the state is paying taxes, just as the primary concern of each member of each family is the material security of the family. The state budget of the Republic of Armenia is part of the budget of each family. The state budget of the Republic of Armenia spends more funds for the well-being of each family than each family spends for itself. Therefore, just as no one spares funds to meet the needs of his family, so he should not avoid fulfillment of tax obligations to the Republic of Armenia. The country's tax legislation must ensure the collection of funds necessary for the maintenance and development of the state and provide conditions for the formation of greater added value in the economy, for the development of the economy.

7. The future of Armenia depends on one person and that one person is you – Individual effort is a key condition for the development of the state. This condition begins to work effectively only when the individual realizes the impact of his own effort. The most important function of the state is to value the effort of the individual and create opportunities for its manifestation. This is possible through education. Education is the primary tool for implementing the state's development strategy, with the understanding that education is a lifelong process and refers to the level of preschool education, general education, vocational education, higher education, postgraduate education, as well as the strategic communication of the state, in the sense that citizen-state relations are educational relations for both the citizen and the state. The educational system should teach the learner the skills necessary for a prosperous life and happiness. The role of the individual is key in the development of the state, but first of all, it is key in ensuring one's own well-being and happiness. Building one's own well-being and happiness is the primary contribution of the individual to ensuring the well-being and happiness of the state.

8. Happy individual – An individual is happy when he is free, protected, healthy, creative, has a social environment, a beloved job, with the earnings of which he has access to healthy food, to healthy lifestyle, to necessary living conditions, travels regularly, is loved, respected, communicates with spiritual life and/or culture. By providing conditions for his own happiness,

the individual also creates an environment for the happiness of other individuals and the society.

9. Caring society – Just as the individual, with his success, becomes an environment for the formation of a caring society, so society becomes the environment in which the development of the individual takes place. Education, cultural life, work, business, care for the environment, healthy diet and active lifestyle, respect for the law, pluralism, democracy and public unity around it are largely environmental factors or are most effectively manifested in an appropriate environment. The society is one of the guardians of active business, education starting from nursery throughout the life, effective governance, democracy, justice, equality before the law for all and freedom, as an environment built on these values.

10. A strong state – A state is strong to the extent its economy is developed. Therefore, policies should be aimed at the economic strengthening of the country. The state interest is economic development. This is not a tendency to devalue policies, because public sentiment is considered the most important factor in economic development. Values and commitment to them, culture and education are key factors in motivating the work and economic activity of the individual and society. Value-based policies should be aimed at the development of the country's economy.

11. Transformation is not only not shameful, but also a vital necessity – Transformation is a key condition for viability. Both the individual and society and the state must deepen the skill of reflection to the genetic level. The truth that has not been reflected upon is no longer the truth, the goal that has not been reflected upon is an end in itself, the conviction that has not been reflected upon is an impression left over from the past, the ideal that has not been reflected upon, is incomplete. The only formula for being viable in a changing life is reflection, self-reflection, the ability to change and transform.

12. Independence is replacing dependence on the few with dependence on the many – The state is the best tool for the people to decide their own fate, to predetermine their destiny, but in order to serve this goal most effectively, the state must be as independent as possible. In an inter-integrated and increasingly

inter-integrating world, independence is not only not absolute, but has never been absolute, because states depend on other states in one way or another. Therefore, independent have been, are and will be those states that depend not on the few, but on the many. Therefore, the strategy of independence is the strategy of replacing dependence on the few with dependence on the many. If a state is already dependent on the many, then it must have a goal of being depending on even more. The goal of a balanced and balancing foreign policy is to not allow disproportions in dependence even on the many. This does not mean to be equally dependent on everyone, but to balance dependence on one with dependence on the other, but never to be static in this relationship. Balancing is a continuous process, the necessity of which is assessed periodically.

13. Peace is the skill of living in the environment of neighbors without external support – Peace is the ultimate goal of foreign relations. When peace is established, it continues to remain the ultimate goal of foreign relations, in the expression of economic, political, and cultural cooperation. Peace is first and foremost a regional factor, because peace or its absence is first and foremost expressed in relations with immediate neighbors, then internationally, then globally. Peace is possible in a strategic and long-term sense when it becomes a skill that must be expressed in the ability to live in the environment of neighbors without external support and in cooperation. Peace is the most reliable guarantee of security. The most important components of ensuring security are the interdependence of the countries of the region, ensuring the country's place in the regional and global supply chain and trade. A capable army is also an essential factor of peace, an essential component of independence and statehood.

14. There is a future, there is a future! – The future will come one way or another. And what it will be like depends on the ability to perceive yesterday and turn it into knowledge and skills for today's work. The future is the result of today's work. The future is today. Start today to be what you want to be in the future.

Feel free to send your observations and suggestions regarding this project to the email address

RealArmenia@gov.am.

Crossroads of Peace designed to complement, not compete, with other logistics projects – Speaker Simonyan says at PAM plenary session



Armenian Speaker of Parliament ALEN SIMONYAN has delivered a speech at the 19th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) in Rome, Italy.

In his speech the Speaker said that Armenia actively seeks to establish a stable and lasting peace in the region.

As the cornerstone of the peace agenda, Simonyan said, the Crossroads of Peace project was presented by the Armenian government to create new and improve existing infrastructure in the South Caucasus to boost economic, political, and cultural ties. This project was designed not to compete with other regional logistics projects but to complement them, Simonyan highlighted.

He said that Armenia seeks to become a constructive participant in Mediterranean cooperative frameworks

Below is the transcript of the Speaker's speech as published by the parliament's press service:

"Excellencies, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, first, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Ignazio La Russa, President of the Senate, Mr. Lorenzo Fontana, President of the Chamber of Deputies, and Mr. Enaam Mayara, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, for the invitation to take this distinguished floor.

"The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean is a unique platform, as it addresses such issues as counter-terrorism, confidence building, peace support, conflict resolution, economic integration, and many other pressing problems that the world faces today.

"Armenia shares deep civilizational ties with Mediterranean nations, rooted in centuries of historical connections. The Armenian Diaspora, with its vibrant presence across the region, has long served as a bridge for cultural exchange and strong relations.

"Our country is not a member of the Union for the Mediterranean but cooperates with it on initiatives related to sustainable development and regional stability. Driven by economic, cultural, and geopolitical interests, we are actively cooperating with countries in the region.

"Armenia is a founding member of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), whose activities and those of the Union often overlap. Armenia advocates stronger synergies between the BSEC and its partners in the pursuit of shared goals.

"Taking advantage of being present here, I would like to express our aspiration of becoming a partner state of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

"Armenia is active in the format of the Landlocked Developing Countries. As a landlocked country whose eastern and western borders have been blockaded for over three decades, our country is acutely aware of the importance of open borders and a fully functioning transportation infrastructure. The elimination of political barriers to the free movement of people, cargo, and services is necessary for integration into global markets.

"Geopolitical security crises, supply chain disruptions, rising food and fuel prices, and climate change: all these factors significantly cloud the prospects for development in our group of countries.

"Colleagues, today, the challenges confronting the world, including our region, are dire and cannot be overstated. Armenia faces major humanitarian and security problems. The constant threat of force is inimical to the health of any society. It is absolutely clear to us that only through

peace can we achieve stability and progress. To this end, Armenia actively seeks to establish a stable and lasting peace in the region.

"As the cornerstone of the peace agenda, the Crossroads of Peace project was presented by the Armenian government to create new and improve existing infrastructure in the South Caucasus to boost economic, political, and cultural ties. This project was designed not to compete with other regional logistics projects but to complement them. The plan centers on the creation of new links among all countries in the region, based on a vision of inclusive access. Its principles are that all infrastructure - roads, railways, pipelines, cables and power lines - will operate under the sovereign jurisdiction of the countries through which they pass; each country, through its state institutions, will safeguard the infrastructure and ensure border and customs control of the vehicles, cargo, and people that pass through its territory; all infrastructure will be used for international and domestic transportation; countries will use the infrastructure on the basis of reciprocity and equality, and, in accordance with these principles, border and customs controls will be facilitated through collective agreement.

"From the Persian or Arabian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea - as missing sections of railways and roads are restored and unblocked, a seamless connection will emerge.

"The Republic of Armenia reaffirms its commitment to contribute to regional peace and stability and hopes that the negotiations underway with Türkiye on opening the border will bear fruit. "We seek to become a constructive participant in Mediterranean cooperative frameworks and are ready to work with all partners to effectually respond to the needs and priorities of our countries for the common good. Thank you."

Repatriation pace grows, says official

The repatriation pace has increased in the last four years, an official in charge of Diaspora affairs said on February 17.

Hovhannes Alexanyan, the Director of the Department of Repatriation and Integration at the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs, said at a press conference that the number of citizenship applications has been growing since 2020.

In 2020, he said, 7 to 8 thousand people applied for citizenship, while the figure has increased beyond 20 thousand in the recent period.

“Three to four times more people are applying for Armenian citizenship. They include those who are receiving citizenship for the first time, but also those who’ve had Armenian citizenship in the past but had renounced it and are now



applying for it again. Dual citizenship holders comprise a large number. The intensification of the repatriation pace is associated with several factors, including geopolitical developments,” Alexanyan said.

Diaspora Armenians living in tense regions prefer to move to Armenia, he said.

Repatriation applicants are from 40

countries. Today, most applications are from Russia. In the past, most repatriates were from the Middle East.

“I’d point out post-Soviet countries, where our compatriots have been displaying great interest for repatriation. I have to mention European countries and the Americas. I’d like to underscore Australia, from where we have an active repatriation process. We have repatriates

from Macedonia, Serbia, some Asian countries,” the official said.

The Center for Integration of Repatriates is offering support to repatriates, organizing free courses of Armenian language, IT courses and other consultative work. Repatriates work in various sectors such as services, agriculture, IT, construction, design, finance and education.

Republican lawmakers launch effort to withdraw United States from UN

Republican lawmakers have launched an effort to withdraw the U.S. from the United Nations, amid concern that the international humanitarian and human rights organization fails to promote American interests and align with President Donald Trump’s “America First” agenda, Fox News reports.

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, introduced legislation on February 20 called the Disengaging Entirely From the United Nations Debacle Act of 2025, which would terminate U.S. membership in the U.N. and its affiliated bodies, and funding to those groups. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., is co-sponsoring the measure in the upper chamber.

Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, is poised to introduce the measure in the House Friday, claiming that the U.N. and its bodies don’t



advance the interests of Americans.

“The United Nations has devolved into a platform for tyrants and a venue to attack America and her allies,” Lee said in a Thursday statement to Fox News Digital. “We should stop paying for it. As President Trump revolutionizes our foreign policy by putting America first, we should withdraw from this sham organization and prioritize real alliances that keep our country safe

and prosperous.”

The U.S. provides more funding than any other country to the U.N., donating more than \$18 billion in 2022, according to the U.S. foreign policy think tank the Council on Foreign Relations. That makes up roughly a third of the U.N.’s entire collective budget.

“The United Nations has enjoyed American tax money while often undermining our interests, attacking our allies and bolstering our adversaries,” Roy said in a Thursday statement to Fox News Digital.

“What has the United Nations achieved?” Roy said. “Despite all of the money and the attention, this corrupt globalist organization has, for decades, failed to prevent wars, genocides, human rights violations and even pandemics.

Ruben Vardanyan begins hunger strike to protest rigged trial in Azerbaijan

The family of Ruben Vardanyan, an Armenian political prisoner, has conveyed his message to the international community after a brief phone call, in protest against the staged “judicial” process against him.

The message reads as follows: “Yesterday, I have decided to protest by declaring a hunger strike against the judicial farce being carried out against me.

This is my response to the blatant violations of Azerbaijani procedural law and international law. What is happening in the courtroom cannot be called a trial – this is a political show, in which my right to a fair hearing is being deliberately disregarded.

For the past month, my local lawyer – Avraam Berman and I have tried to make it clear to the court that it is critical for me that this so-called “trial” be objective rather than a staged performance. Sadly, it has been clear from the beginning that this case is all about persecuting me as an Armenian simply for exercising my rights to freedom of opinion and expression and political participation under international law, which have been aimed at protecting the rights of the Armenian-Christian population of Artsakh.

Despite Azerbaijan being a State Party to the European Convention on Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil



and Political Rights, this process has also been replete with egregious due process abuses:

1. I am being tried in an illegal military tribunal and not a civilian court.

2. I have not been granted full access to the indictment and so called “evidence” against me – 422 volumes in Azerbaijani, for which I was given only 21 working days to review, which have been classified as “state secrets.”

3. The “indictment” presented to me is not an official document, as it lacks the signatures of my accusers. Even the translation of this so-called document contains gross errors, making it impossible for me to understand the charges against me.

4. I have been denied my right to defense – my local lawyer, Avraam Berman, has had his access to materials restricted, his documents confiscated, and he has been subjected to psychological pressure.

Further, my international legal team has been barred from communicating or visiting me and has not had access to any of the case materials.

5. I have not been allowed to summon defense witnesses or file complaints regarding the violations committed during the investigation and trial.

6. All of the hearings have been secret and closed to the public.

Foreign journalists and independent international representatives have been barred from the courtroom.

This so-called ‘trial’ is not just against me. It is an attempt to criminalize all Armenians – all those who supported and demonstrated compassion toward Artsakh and its people, all those who showed compassion. This is an attack on an entire nation. I refuse to participate in this farce.

I appeal to world leaders, international organizations, human rights defenders, and members of the press: This process demands your attention. The imitation of justice is an endorsement of lawlessness and injustice. Silence in the face of such violations paves the way for future tragedies, fueling hostility and a new wave of hatred. Only through truth, law, and humanity can peace and justice be ensured in the region”.

Azerbaijan orders suspension of BBC News Azerbaijani in Baku

The Azerbaijani government has ordered the suspension of BBC News’ Azerbaijani operation in the capital city, Baku, the [BBC](#) reports.

The BBC said in a statement on February 20 that it had made the “reluctant decision” to close its office in the country after receiving a verbal instruction from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The corporation added that it “deeply” regrets “this restrictive move against press freedom”.

State-controlled media has reported that the government wanted to reduce

the number of BBC staff working in the country to one.

The BBC says its team of journalists in Baku have suspended their journalistic activities, while it seeks clarification on the instruction, but that it remains committed to continuing to report in the Azerbaijani language.

“We deeply regret this restrictive move against press freedom, which will hinder our ability to report to and from Azerbaijan for our audiences inside and outside the country,” a BBC spokesperson said in a statement.

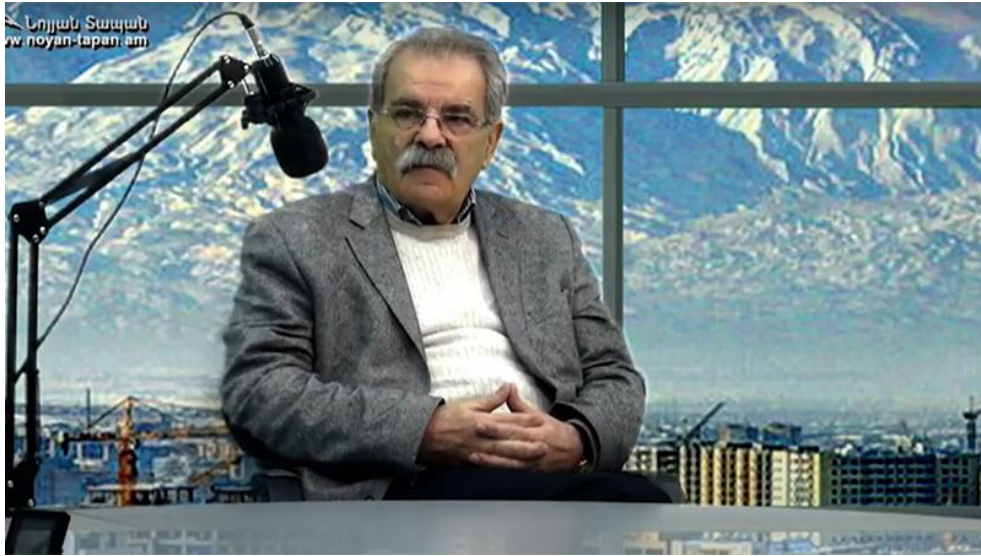
The BBC has received nothing in writing from the Azerbaijani government and has sought clarification via a number of channels.

Azerbaijan’s ministry of foreign affairs has also not responded to the BBC’s request for comment.

BBC News Azerbaijani reaches on average one million people every week and its audience has been increasing.

It has operated in Azerbaijan since 1994, providing impartial news and information, initially via radio broadcasts and later across a range of digital platforms.

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