

First team of EU monitors arrives in Armenia



The advance team of EU monitors arrived in Yerevan on October 14, informs Toivo Klaar, EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia.

“The 27 Member States have acted rapidly to respond to Armenia’s request,” he said.

“The aim of the EU deployment will be to monitor the situation and support Armenian-Azerbaijani stabilization on the ground,” Klaar said.

The task of this mission is to prepare for the deployment of EU monitors to the Armenian side of the Armenia-Azerbaijan border later this month, in line with the agreement reached on the 6 October at the quadrilateral meeting between President Aliyev, Prime Minister Pashinyan, President Macron and President Michel, EU press service informs.

EU Member States will further discuss at the Foreign Affairs Council on Monday 17 October the proposal of High Representative Josep Borrell to deploy a monitoring mission, which will have as its primary aims contributing to stability and building confidence as well as supporting the work of the border commissions to improve security along the bilateral border.

“The mission will start in October for a maximum of two months,” read an EU statement issued on October 7. It said that Azerbaijan “agreed to cooperate with this mission as far as it is concerned.”

On October 12, Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov revealed that the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) also stands ready to send border monitors to Armenia.

In a thinly veiled rebuke to Yerevan, Lavrov said that the CSTO secretariat in Moscow proposed such a deployment about a month ago but that Armenia, the current holder of the alliance’s rotating presidency, has still not acted on the offer.

Armenian parliament speaker Alen Simonian on Friday responded by pointing to Russia’s failure to provide military assistance to Armenia requested hours after Azerbaijani forces launched offensive military operations on the border on September 13.

“OK, let’s suppose that there is some truth to that statement,” Simonian told reporters. “But where is [Russia’s] reply to us in accordance with the Russian-Armenian treaty [on mutual defense?”

Simonian, who visited Moscow earlier this month, at the same time welcomed the proposed CSTO deployment.

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Armenia on October 12 said that it expects its strategic ally, Russia, to support in efforts to compel Azerbaijan to withdraw its forces from Armenia's sovereign territories, which have been occupied since September 13 when a large-scale attack was launched on the Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor provinces.

During a meeting in Kazakhstan capital of Astana, Armenia's Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized to his Russian

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counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, the need for introducing international mechanisms to monitor and control the border crisis, said a statement from Armenia's foreign ministry.

"Minister Mirzoyan emphasized that the Armenian side expects the unequivocal support of Russia, as a strategic ally, in withdrawing the Azerbaijani armed forces from the sovereign territory of Armenia," the statement added.

In discussing humanitarian issues, Mirzoyan reportedly emphasized the imperative for the return of Armenian prisoners of war and other detained persons as soon as possible.

"The Armenian side emphasized the need to bring to justice those who perpe-

trated and organized extrajudicial killings, torture and other war crimes committed by Azerbaijan against Armenian prisoners of war," said the statement.

"Ararat Mirzoyan and Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed the need to implement the agreements reached with the trilateral statements of November 9, 2020, January 11 and November 26, 2021. In this context, the importance of the commissions on border demarcation and border security issues, as well as the work carried out in the direction of unblocking economic communications and transport infrastructures in the region were emphasized," said the statement.

At meeting with Ambassador, Armenian Deputy PM highly appreciates addressed and impartial statements of France

Deputy Prime Minister Hambardzum Matevosyan received on October 13 Ambassador of France to Armenia Anne Louyot, the deputy PM's Office said.

In his remarks Deputy PM Matevosyan highly valued the dynamics of the bilateral relations which, he said, is demonstrated both by high-level political dialogue and active ongoing partnership in different directions. Touching upon the cooperation framework set by the Armenian-French Economic Cooperation Roadmap 2021-2026, the deputy PM specifically highlighted the importance of boosting French



investments and commercial cooperation in Armenia.

In her turn the Ambassador touched upon the further opportunities to strengthen

the Armenian-French inter-regional partnership. In this respect she attached importance to the results of the 4th Armenian-French Decentralized Cooperation Conference held this year in June.

Coming to the latest aggression of Azerbaijan against Armenia's sovereign territory this September, the deputy prime minister highly appreciated the addressed and impartial statements of France, attaching great importance to the French efforts, as an OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair country, for the establishment of peace in the region.

PACE co-rapporteurs call on Azerbaijan to immediately withdraw its forces from the occupied territories of Armenia

The co-rapporteurs on the PACE on Armenia issued a statement calling on Azerbaijan to immediately withdraw its forces from the occupied territories of Armenia and release all prisoners of war.

ARMENPRESS reports, Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland) and Boriana Åberg (Sweden) noted that they are worried about the numerous reports of war crimes or inhumane treatment by the armed forces of Azerbaijan.

They noticed that the military prosecutor's office of Azerbaijan decided to inves-

tigate the facts, expressing hope that these investigations will be public and transparent.

"While both sides accuse each other of resuming hostilities, Azerbaijani armed forces are occupying Armenian territory, violating Armenia's territorial integrity and Azerbaijan's obligation to settle conflicts peacefully under the Charter of the Council of Europe. Thus, we call on the authorities of Azerbaijan to immediately withdraw the troops from all parts of the territory of the Republic of Armenia and release the prisoners of war held by them," the co-rapporteurs emphasized.

tears emphasized.

They emphasized that only diplomatic measures will provide a fair and lasting solution to the conflict, which will be beneficial for the populations of both countries.



France accuses Russia of stoking Armenia, Azerbaijan conflict

PARIS, Oct 12 (Reuters) - France's President Emmanuel Macron accused Russia on October 12 of purposefully provoking the recent clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan as part of an effort to destabilize the Caucasus region and beyond.

The worst fighting between the two ex-Soviet countries since 2020 broke out in late September, killing more than 200 people.

The fighting is linked to decades-old hostilities over control of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, but until 2020 largely controlled by the majority ethnic Armenian population.

Moscow, which has a defense pact with Armenia and a military base there, deployed thousands of peacekeepers to the region after a ceasefire in 2020.

That reaffirmed its role as policeman



and chief power broker in the volatile part of the former Soviet Union where Turkey also wields increasing influence thanks to its close alliance with Azerbaijan.

However, speaking to France 2 television on Wednesday Macron said Moscow had stoked tensions in recent months in favor of Azerbaijan.

"What's been happening on the border the last two years ... 5,000 Russian soldiers are allegedly there to guarantee the border, (but) the Russians have used this

conflict which dated back several centuries and played Azerbaijan's game with Turkish complicity and came back to weaken Armenia which was once a country it was close to," Macron said.

"You see what's happening? It's an effort by Russia to destabilize. It wants to create disorder in the Caucasus to destabilize all of us."

France, along with the United States and Russia are co-chairs of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group that mediates over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Macron last week sat down with Azeri President Ilham Aliyev, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and European Council President Charles Michel to flesh out an agreement that will see a civilian EU mission head to the countries' border to assess the situation.

Russia says France attempting to "drive a wedge" into its relations with Armenia and Azerbaijan

Attempts by Paris to drive a wedge into Moscow's relations with Baku and Yerevan are doomed to failure and will lead to a depreciation of France's authority in the region, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in response to earlier remarks by French President Emmanuel Macron.

The Ministry described Macron's statement that Russia is allegedly using the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to destabilize the South Caucasus as "blatant and absolutely unacceptable."

"Such attacks fit into the anti-Russian policy of the West aimed at demonizing Russia and testify to attempts to transfer the confrontational logic from Ukraine to

other parts of the post-Soviet space, including the South Caucasus," the Foreign Ministry said.

It further added that "the absurd fabrications of the French President speak of Paris' disinterest in establishing lasting peace in the region and call into question his country's ability to play a constructive role there." The Ministry noted that, unlike France, which even during periods of escalations between Baku and Yerevan limited itself to standard calls for peace, Russia contributed to the settlement of the conflict "in practice."

"Our country made a decisive contribution to the signing of the tripartite

statement of the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia dated November 9, 2020, which put an end to the bloodshed. The peacekeeping contingent deployed in accordance with this agreement remains the guarantor of security in the region," the Russian Foreign Ministry added. "It is Russia that has launched work on a comprehensive normalization of relations between Yerevan and Baku. In particular, steps are being taken to unblock all economic and transport links in the South Caucasus, delimit the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, conclude a peace treaty, and establish dialogue between the public and experts" the Ministry concluded.

Any change in Iran's transit route with Armenia is rejected, Raisi tells Aliyev

Any change in Iran's historical borders and in the transit route of the country with Armenia is rejected, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said, according to Mohammad Jamshidi, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Political Affairs to the Iranian President.

Writing on his official Twitter account, Jamshidi said that during a meeting on Oc-

tober 13 with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev, the Iranian president said that any change in Iran's transit route with Armenia will receive a strong response from Tehran.

President Raisi also added that any European military presence in the region is unacceptable.



He stressed that domestic issues will not divert Iran's attention from the country's strategic interests.

Aggressor can't be left without sanctions; Azerbaijan has many assets – Swiss MP



Stefan Müller-Altermatt, Co-Chair of the Switzerland-Armenia Friendship Group, member of the parliament of Switzerland, doesn't rule out the possibility of imposing sanctions against Azerbaijan.

During a press conference in Yerevan, Armenia, the Swiss lawmaker said that Armenia first of all need security guarantees.

"I think this is the most important issue that needs to be discussed here in the next months. Switzerland must be one of the countries that must clearly speak about this. The territorial integrity of Armenia is not being discussed, it first of all must be announced", he said.

As for the possible sanctions by Swit-

zerland against Azerbaijan, the lawmaker said that all sanctions, that were imposed in other conflicts, for example, in case of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, undoubtedly, must be applied especially in Azerbaijan's case.

"And it cannot be that aggressor is left without sanctions. I think we should do the following: we need to treat all aggressors in the same way. Switzerland has many assets of Azerbaijan, and we must very clearly express our position, we must do everything so that they understand that Switzerland is not just a secure and safe place to keep your money with which you then buy weapons and fight against Armenia. We have to do this", the MP said.

Another Swiss lawmaker Michel Matter stated that on October 14, the issue of adopting a resolution condemning Azerbaijan's aggression will be discussed in Geneva.

"Today a discussion will be held in Geneva regarding an adoption of a resolution which will condemn Azerbaijan's actions",

Michel Matter said.

Grand Council of Geneva adopts resolution calling for recognizing Artsakh-Armenians' right to self-determination

The Grand Council of the Swiss Canton and Republic of Geneva adopted a resolution on October 14, which is calling on the Swiss Federal Assembly (parliament) to condemn Azerbaijan's latest aggression against Armenia and take measures so that the actions of Azerbaijan are not funded from the revenues received from the sale of Azerbaijani raw materials in Switzerland.

The resolution also calls for recognizing the right of Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh to self-determination and doing everything possible for the repatriation of Armenian prisoners of war.

The resolution entitled "For the Survival of Armenia" has been initiated jointly by a number of members of the Social Democratic Party and the Christian Democratic People's Party of Switzerland.

Armenian national detained for alleged participation in Crime bridge blast: Law enforcement agencies investigating the case

The Prosecutor General's Office of Armenia has studied the information provided by the Russian Federal Security Service and sent the data to the National Security Service to initiate a criminal case.

The statement comes after the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) said it had detained eight people in connection with Saturday's explosion on a key bridge linking Russia to Crimea.

Its FSB said five of those held were Russians, while the others were Ukrainian and Armenian.

"The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Armenia studied the infor-

mation disseminated today by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation and the publications available in various mass media. Given that the publication contained information indicating an apparent crime, the Prosecutor's Office addressed it to the National Security Service Investigation Department, instructing to solve the issue by initiating criminal proceedings," the Prosecutor's Office said in a statement.

The Prosecutor General's Office said it will be consistent in disclosing in full the circumstances of the reports. Additional information will be provided on the results.



Russia says Ukraine was behind the attack. According to the Russian Security Service, the explosives had been hidden in rolls of plastic film and taken on a round-about route from the Ukrainian port of Odesa – first by sea to Bulgaria, then Georgia, and then driven by lorry overland into Russia via Armenia and Georgia.

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Deeply disturbed by new reports of violence against POWs during Sept 12-14

Deeply disturbed by new reports of violence against Armenian POWs – US State Dept

fighting., US Department of State's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs said in a Twitter post.

“Full and impartial investigation must hold those responsible to account. Oct 4 return by Baku of 17 Armenian POWs was significant and a positive step forward,”

the Bureau said.

A new video emerged on social media on October 12 proving the torture of Armenian prisoners of war and their subsequent killing on. The video has been verified, the location has been established and the POWs have been identified.

Settlement of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan to remain a priority for the US – Ned Price

The US will continue to be engaged in the settlement of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Spokesperson for the Department of State Ned Price said at a daily briefing.

“I say that in the aftermath of the Secretary's convening of the trilateral format of the ministers from both Armenia and Azerbaijan in New York City last month. It was the first time the ministers had come together in person since the most recent

uptick in violence. You saw yesterday that the Secretary had an opportunity to speak to the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan,” the Spokesman said.

“Phil Reeker, our senior advisor on this issue set, has remained in daily contact with individuals and stakeholders in both countries. So we will continue to remain engaged on this issue. I can't promise a particular outcome, but I can promise that it will remain a priority for us,” Price stated.



Asked about the possibility of another meeting, the Spokesman said “I don't have any meetings at the moment to announce.”

PACE co-rapporteurs call on Azerbaijan to withdraw troops from Armenia



We are concerned by the numerous reports of alleged war crimes or inhuman treatment perpetrated by the armed forces of Azerbaijan, 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.

“We note that the Military Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan has decided to investigate the facts and hope that these investigations will be public and transparent. While both sides blame each other for the resumption of hostilities, Azerbaijani armed forces are occupying Armenian territory in violation of Armenia's territorial

sovereignty and Azerbaijan's obligation under the Statute of the Council of Europe to settle conflicts by peaceful means,” the co-rapporteurs added.

“We therefore call upon the Azerbaijani authorities to immediately withdraw from all parts of the territory of Armenia and to release the prisoners of war under their control. Only diplomatic means will bring a just and lasting response to the conflict that will benefit the populations of both states,” they concluded.

Facts about extrajudicial killings of Armenian POWs by Azerbaijani forces presented to NATO

On October 12, Human Rights Defender of Armenia Kristinne Grigoryan received Mr. Alexander Vinnikov, the Head of the NATO Liaison Office in Georgia.

During the meeting, Ms. Grigoryan presented the consequences of the aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan in September recorded by the Defender's Office, referred to the registered cases of torture, and inhumane and degrading treatment of Arme-

nian servicemen, including prisoners of war, including female servicemen.

The Defender presented to the interlocutor the facts about the extrajudicial killings of Armenian servicemen, emphasizing the importance of condemnation of Azerbaijan's actions by international actors.

Mr. Vinnikov expressed gratitude for the comprehensive presentation and noted that NATO is closely following the course

of events.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the possible directions of deepening cooperation, including the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security”, as well as within the framework of the democratic oversight of the security sector.

Iranian carmaker to launch production line in Armenia

A senior official from Iran's industries ministry (MIMT) says an Iranian carmaker and a private investor in Armenia will team up to launch a car production facility in the Caucasian country, *Press TV* informs.

Alireza Peymanpak, who heads Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, said on Saturday that the MIMT and Armenia's ministry of economy have been pursuing the joint project for manufacturing an Iranian car model in Armenia.

"An initial agreement has been reached for setting up the production line for an Iranian-made car in Armenia and a feasibility study is being carried out on the basis of this agreement," Peymanpak was quoted as saying in an MIMT report.



He said Armenia would not charge import duties on Iranian car model planned for local production in the country due to a trade agreement between Iran and the EAEU bloc of regional countries that include Armenia.

"We hope we could take the maximum benefit of this opportunity and turn Armenia into a hub for manufacturing and ex-

porting of Iranian goods and products," the official said.

The deputy Iranian industries minister would not elaborate on the name of the Iranian car model being considered for joint manufacturing in Armenia.

That comes as Iran's largest carmaker the IKCO has already launched exports of finished cars to Armenia with a pilot shipment of 200 sedans supplied to the country last month.

The IKCO had said in September that it would supply its Tara and Dena models to customers in Armenia. The company said it had launched a dealership and other facilities in Yerevan to publicize other products and increase its exports.

Foreign nationals investing 150,000 USD in Armenia's economy can get Armenian citizenship



Foreign nationals, who will have significant contributions to Armenia's economy, science, education, culture, health and sports fields, can get a citizenship of Armenia.

The respective draft decision has been put into circulation by the government.

According to the draft, foreign citizens, who will provide at least 150,000 US dollars to a foundation created for operating in education or science sector in order to replenish its inviolable capital, will invest 150,000 USD in the charter capital of a commercial organization (acquisition of a share) for a period of at least 10 years, will acquire government bonds in the amount of at least 150,000 USD for a period of at least 7 years, will purchase real estate in the amount of at least 150,000 USD for a minimum period of 10 years, with a cadastral cost approximated to the market cost of real estate, can get an Armenian citizenship.

The draft also says that foreign citizens, who will invest at least 150,000 USD in any investment fund (approved by the gov-

ernment) for a period of at least 10 years, will found a high-tech and (or) IT company in Armenia with capitalization equal to 1 million USD or more, with a condition that the center of vital interests of the founder is in Armenia, can also get an Armenian citizenship.

Foreign nationals, who will establish a branch of a foreign IT company in Armenia with capitalization equal to 100 million dollars or more, which has 500 or more staffers in Armenia, will establish a venture foundation in the amount of 80 million dollars or more, will make a financial investment worth 100,000 USD or more in a high-tech company or a venture foundation, can also get an Armenian citizenship.

Foreign citizens, who will have 20 or more years of experience in high-tech and (or) IT companies listed on the New York, Frankfurt or London stock exchanges, will have a long-term (not less than 5 years) active cooperation in international structures in postal field, as well as will make financial, material and technical investments in the field in the amount of at least 250,000 USD, can get an Armenian citizenship.

Having a working experience of at least 10 years in scientific or scientific-technical activities, or a scientific degree, a patent for an invention, state awards or honorary titles in science sector, as well as being author or co-author of at least five academic articles published in leading international

scientific-information databases in the past ten years, having significant contributions to the spread and development of Armenian culture, long-term active cooperation with Armenian cultural, art figures or organizations, having significant participation to the preservation of Armenian culture, having public and charity activities, the international reputation of the applicant which can be used for the benefit of the strengthening and popularization of the international position of Armenian culture, as well as having active participation to the development of Armenian studies, philanthropy, long-term activities aimed at preserving the Armenian identity, making major investments, capturing prizes in leading international competitions, festivals, implementing expert projects and registering significant results, contributing to the preservation of the Armenian identity or acting in the benefit of the Republic of Armenia, can also serve as a base for getting a citizenship of Armenia.

As for the healthcare field, having an academic title of an associate professor or professor, or active charitable activities in healthcare sector, as well as having state orders or medal for other significant services, conducting medical care and services in Armenia's and Artsakh's medical facilities by foreign medics during martial law, can also serve as a base for getting an Armenian citizenship.

reArmenia and Future Armenian sign memorandum of cooperation aimed at implementing joint projects



reArmenia and The Future Armenian foundation signed a memorandum of cooperation on October 13.

According to the memorandum, the sides plan to come up with joint projects and initiatives, contribute to their effective implementation, organize joint events, conduct safe experience exchange and create joint working groups to discuss and get solutions to issues of mutual interest.

“We share the same goals. We want to unite Armenians within the frames of productive cooperation. The community that gathered both around the Future Armenian and us must solve serious issues with its

knowledge, experience and finances and achieve measurable results. The signing of the Memorandum is just the first step. I hope we will work in different directions, will come up with numerous projects and will move on with discussions and concepts”, reArmenia Director Gevorg Poghosyan said.

He said that now Armenia is in a hybrid war. According to him, there is a heavy battle now at least in five directions. “The one is the diplomatic corps, the next is economic, then cultural, then media war and hot war on the ground. The defeat in one of these directions will directly affect the other. And by understanding this, we must direct all our efforts for declaring victories in all fields”, he said.

The Future Armenian foundation’s cooperation and program manager Karen Daduryan highlighted the signing of the memorandum and stated that they will try to do everything possible for the signing

of the document to be directed to concrete projects. “Our foundation has 19 pan-Armenian goals, the implementation of which is also supported by the people. Considering that goals, concrete programs will be developed. This could happen through a convention which will be organized in March”, he said.

Daduryan informed that the convention should have taken place earlier, but it was postponed due to the recent tense situation in Armenia. “We are trying to assist the communities that need the most help, in other words, preparedness, crisis management. There will be collection of resources, partners, creation of a network thanks to which the initiatives will be implemented”, Karen Daduryan said.

reArmenia and The Future Armenian aim at contributing to Armenia’s development and prosperity through the effective cooperation of all Armenians.

Construction of Ajapnyak metro station in Yerevan expected to start in 2024



The project of new metro station in Yerevan’s Ajapnyak district is in process, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said at the

government sitting on October 13.

He said a tender has been announced, and design works are under way.

“We are completing the first stage of the design process and, according to the plan, we will have the project ready by the end of 2023 and will have the opportunity to announce a construction tender,” the Prime Minister said.

“I hope the deadlines will not be vio-

lated, and in 2024 we should start the construction of Ajapnyak station,” he said.

During the sitting today the government adopted a decision to purchase powerful tunnel ventilators and spare parts of SP-6 conveyors for the Yerevan Metro. All powerful ventilators in the Yerevan metro were installed in 1980. All of them are extremely worn out, and they have physically exhausted their resources.

Armenian, Dutch Finance Ministries sign MoU

Armenia’s Finance Minister Tigran Khachatryan and deputy Vahe Hovhannisyan are taking part in the 2022 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) in Washington D.C., the ministry said in a news release.

On October 12 the delegation of Minister Khachatryan met with the delegation led by Finance Minister of the Netherlands, Deputy Prime Minister Sigrid Kaag. Being involved in the same partner group of IMF

and World Bank Group, the sides discussed a broad range of issues of both the bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as well as outlined the further directions and prospects of the development of partnership.

On the sidelines of the Annual Meetings, the Armenian and Dutch Finance Ministries signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation, which aims at expanding the collaboration between the sides in exchange of knowl-

edge, experience and information relating to public finances.



Risk of new aggression by Azerbaijan remains very high, Armenian PM tells CIS leaders



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan took part in the regular session of the CIS Heads of State Council in the capital of Kazakhstan, Astana, during which Nikol Pashinyan delivered a speech.

In his speech, the Prime Minister, in particular, said:

“Dear Heads of State,

Before moving on to the agenda of the session of the CIS Heads of State Council, I would like to thank Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and our Kazakh friends for organizing today’s event at a high level and congratulate them on their effective presidency in the CIS and the successful implementation of the priorities of Kazakhstan’s presidency.

Also, I sincerely wish success and effective work to the Kyrgyz colleagues during their future presidency in the CIS.

Dear colleagues,

As you know, we are working towards normalization of our relations with Azerbaijan. I consider it necessary to mention the importance of the role of the CIS in this context. The work of border delimitation and border security commissions is important in the settlement process, the formation of which was agreed upon on November 26, 2021, during the trilateral meeting of the President of Russia, the President of Azerbaijan, and the Prime Minister of Armenia in Sochi.

As a result of our meeting with the President of Azerbaijan held in Prague on October 6 with the mediation of the President of France and the President of the European Council, an agreement was reached that in the delimitation process we will rely on the fundamental documents of the CIS, according to which the former administrative borders of the Soviet republics became state borders between the already independent states, including between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the above is also an important factor from the point of view of our today’s agenda, because we are also discussing the issue of the application of the CIS to obtain

observer status in the CSTO.

Before making a decision, I consider it important to make clear on the following issues.

Does the CSTO recognize the state borders of the CIS countries established in 1991 as fundamental documents of the CIS? This is an important issue, because it is about the zone of responsibility of the CSTO and, let me say, the functionality of the organization itself. If we rely on comments according to which there are no borders between the CIS countries, because these borders are not delimited, it means that the zone of responsibility of the CSTO is not determined, that is, it does not exist. And that blurs the CSTO’s functionality.

It is also very important to give a clear answer to the following question: do the CIS member states recognize the borders established between them in 1991 based on the fundamental documents of the CIS? A positive answer to this question is very important for stability and security in the CIS area.

Without a clear clarification of these issues, I consider it premature to make a decision on the request of the CIS to obtain an observer status in the CSTO. These issues have become particularly important for us due to Azerbaijan’s recent military aggression against Armenia.

On September 13, Azerbaijan launched a totally unprovoked military aggression against Armenia. Using heavy artillery, rocket launchers and attack drones, the Azerbaijani military shelled 36 settlements and communities of the sovereign territory of Armenia, including the cities of Goris, Jermuk, Vardenis, Kapan, and Gegharnasar settlement. I would like to clearly state that this was not a border conflict or clash, but a direct, unquestionable attack against Armenia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. This aggression of Azerbaijan was discussed in the UN Security Council, the majority of whose members condemned Azerbaijan’s illegal military operations. The aggression was also condemned by the international community.

The Azerbaijani attack was deliberately directed against the civilian population and vital civil infrastructures. The total number of temporarily displaced persons from Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Syunik provinces of Armenia was more than 7,600,

mostly women and old people, as well as 1,437 children and 99 disabled people.

About 192 residential buildings, 3 hotels, 2 schools, 1 medical facility were partially or completely destroyed. 7 electricity supply facilities, 5 water supply facilities, 3 gas pipelines, 1 bridge were damaged. 2 ambulances and 4 private cars were targeted. The Kechut reservoir was also shelled.

The number of victims and missing persons as a result of the aggression has now exceeded 210, of which 3 civilians were killed and 2 are missing. 293 servicemen and 8 civilians were injured. The number of missing soldiers is 28. The Azerbaijani side itself spread shocking videos of torture, mutilation of the bodies of captured persons or already dead soldiers, numerous cases of extrajudicial reprisals and cruel treatment of Armenian prisoners of war, murders, as well as humiliating treatment of the bodies of the dead. The bodies of Armenian female servicemen were mutilated with particular brutality, and then “proudly” filmed by Azerbaijani soldiers. The footages of these apparent war crimes and crimes against humanity are being shared and praised by a number of Azerbaijani social media users.

Undoubtedly, the perpetration of such indescribable atrocities is a direct consequence of the long-lasting policy of the political leadership of instilling hatred against Armenians and enmity in the Azerbaijani society

After this attack, the rhetoric of official Baku and other Azerbaijani sources shows that Azerbaijan has intentions to occupy more territories of Armenia, which must be prevented.

I would like to emphasize that the risk of new aggression by Azerbaijan remains very high, especially considering that Azerbaijan continues to consistently violate the ceasefire regime, trying to attribute their provocative actions to the Armenian side. Another factor of further escalation may be the inadequate response of the regional security organizations to the created situation, which has caused very sharp questions in the Armenian society.

Colleagues,

Since the signing of the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020, Azerbaijan has constantly speculated

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page 8 over the issue of repatriation of prisoners of war in order to achieve political interests.

In the post-war period, Azerbaijan linked the release of prisoners with the provision of maps of minefields, although the obligation arising from the trilateral declaration consisted in the immediate exchange of absolutely all prisoners. Armenia provided Azerbaijan with all the minefield maps it had, but it was a gesture for our part. After receiving all minefield maps, Azerbaijan stated that the accuracy of these maps is only 25%. Armenia has expressed readiness to verify this statement with the involvement of international experts. On the other hand, even if this claim is true, the Republic of Armenia has given all of its maps to Azerbaijan and has no "better or more accurate" maps left behind.

Now, after receiving the maps, Azerbaijan is trying to condition the return of prisoners of war, captives and other detained persons with the clarification of the fate of those missing as a result of the first Nagorno-Karabakh war. I would like to mention that after the first and second Artsakh wars, there were also missing persons from the Armenian side. 777 people are considered missing after the first war, and 217 people are considered missing from the second war, of which 196 are military personnel and 21 are civilians. During our meetings earlier this year, Armenia expressed its willingness to fully cooperate in the entire spectrum of the issue of missing persons and has already unilaterally handed over several maps of graves and, after the 44-day war, the remains of hundreds of victims of the first Nagorno Karabakh war.

Unfortunately, the Azerbaijani side, which for 30 years rejected offers of cooperation in the field of demining or any other humanitarian activities, remembered about its missing citizens or mines only after the aggression against Nagorno Karabakh and after that the whole civilized world started talking about the military crimes carried out by the Azerbaijani military, or about Armenian prisoners of war held illegally in Azerbaijan. Without delving into the details, this fact alone clearly shows Azerbaijan's true intentions.

In this context, I would like to emphasize that until now, Azerbaijan is creating obstacles for the removal of the bodies of those who died during the latest aggression, while the bodies of several of our soldiers continue to be left in inter-positional zones, which are located in the sovereign

territory of Armenia. There is an agreement to organize the removal of the bodies in the next few days. I hope that this agreement will be fulfilled.

Dear colleagues,

In the context of the unblocking of all regional communications, Azerbaijan's constant circulation of the "corridor topic" is nothing but a distortion and sabotage of the implementation of the trilateral declaration of November 9, 2020.

I would like to emphasize that the word "corridor" is not mentioned anywhere and in any way in Article 9 of this statement. In the statement of November 9, 2020, the word corridor is used only in connection with the Lachin corridor in the context of ensuring the security of Nagorno-Karabakh and has nothing to do with the topic of unblocking transport links, and we consider drawing any parallels between these agreements to be manipulative.

Manipulation of the text of the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020 has unfortunately become Azerbaijan's policy, and this is also reflected in that despite the fact that the statement clearly mentions the existence of Nagorno Karabakh, Azerbaijan claims that Nagorno Karabakh does not exist.

As for the implementation of Article 9 of the trilateral declaration, this issue is fully clarified in the next trilateral statement of January 11, 2021 in Moscow. Moreover, the trilateral working group, co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation, decided that the transport infrastructures to be restored and built should operate under the full sovereignty of the countries through the territory of which they pass.

I officially announce that we are ready to open the roads as soon as possible on this basis. Moreover, the draft decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia to open three checkpoints to ensure the transport connection between the western regions of Azerbaijan and the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan has been in official circulation for a long time, but the president of Azerbaijan himself speaks against such a decision. And it is connected with Azerbaijan's desire to isolate the movement of people, goods and transport as much as possible, which proves that they are not interested in the logic of establishing stable peace in the region.

As for the construction of new transport communications, we are ready for it according to the above-mentioned principles, but it is hindered by the aggressive policy

of Azerbaijan and the manipulation of the text of the trilateral declarations.

Azerbaijan is trying to create the impression that the construction of new roads is the obligation of Armenia, but the trilateral statement says that the parties must agree on this issue. And we are ready for such an agreement, moreover, we are interested in it, and the only thing we expect from Azerbaijan in this matter is constructiveness.

I also want to respond to some statements of the president of Azerbaijan. As for mining, it takes place entirely within the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia. And it is our right to take some security steps to protect the territorial integrity of our country.

I also want to say that attempts to give a religious context to this situation are unacceptable. We are in very close relations with many Muslim countries, and a very clear proof of it is that the majority of our allies in the CSTO are Muslim countries. We have very close relations with Iran and many Arab states and the Nagorno Karabakh problem has never had a religious basis.

I am simply surprised by the statements of the president of Azerbaijan that Armenia has organized attacks against Azerbaijani embassies in European countries and the United States of America. They are completely baseless statements, and I think it is obvious that if there were such facts, Azerbaijan would have published them long ago.

In general, I would like to say that Armenia is really sincerely aiming for peace in the region. Of course, this is not a simple issue, it is a very deep issue, but it seems to me that based on the results of several meetings we had with both the mediation of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, and other international leaders, we have come to a common understanding that we should strive and undertake concrete steps to establish peace and stability in our region. It is obvious that actions are needed for this, and the Republic of Armenia, I think we have shown it, our government is ready for such actions. I want to say once again that the only expectation from Azerbaijan in that process is constructiveness.

Thank you."

The leaders of the CIS countries signed the protocols of the adopted decisions at the extended-format session.

Execution of Armenian POWs by Azerbaijani forces a war crime – Human Rights Watch



The execution of Armenian prisoners of war (POWs), apparently by Azerbaijani forces during fighting between the countries in September 2022 is a war crime for which there needs to be accountability, Human Rights Watch said on October 14.

Human Rights Watch analyzed a video posted on social media in early October showing the extrajudicial execution of at least seven Armenian POWs, apparently by Azerbaijani forces.

Azerbaijani authorities should ensure that the investigation opened by their prosecutor's office is effective and leads to accountability for the soldiers and commanders responsible.

"Killing soldiers who have surrendered is a heinous war crime," said Hugh Williamson, Europe and Central Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "Azerbaijani authorities have opened an investigation that, in addition to leading to accountability, needs to be a key element in ensuring that such outrages never happen again."

The killings took place during fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces that broke out in mid-September, when Azerbaijan made incursions into Armenia and along the border. The fighting was one of several breakdowns of the Russia-brokered 2020 truce that ended hostilities over the unresolved conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

On October 2, Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General's Office stated that the military prosecutor's office had started a "comprehensive investigation" into the video of the executions to determine whether it was authentic, and if so "to identify the servicemen shown on them.... As a result of the investigation, legal measures will be taken."

Human Rights Watch verified the 40-second video through a variety of techniques, including by consulting with weapons and medical experts, analyzing the language heard in the video, and using reverse search image engines to establish if the video had been posted online before mid-September.

The earliest appearance online of the

video was on Telegram, posted just before midnight CET on October 1. It shows at least 15 soldiers, who appear to be Azerbaijani, rounding up a group of eight unarmed men wearing Armenian military uniforms. The camouflage pattern on the soldiers' uniforms is consistent with the Azerbaijani army, but no insignia are recognizable. One soldier in an apparent Azerbaijani uniform is also wearing what appears to be a backpack with a radio in it, which further corroborates findings that they are Azerbaijani forces.

Nineteen seconds into the video, one soldier starts to fire with a Kalashnikov-type assault rifle into the group of unarmed men seated on the ground. A shout of "don't shoot," (*vurma* in Azeri) is heard just after the shooting starts. At least two other soldiers join in the shooting. The shooting is at close range and lasts for an initial 12 seconds. Sporadic rifle fire continues thereafter until the end of the video.

The shooting appears to kill at least seven of the men. Rohini Haar, an emergency physician with expertise in health and human rights, who is an adjunct professor at the University of California-Berkeley School of Public Health, told Human Rights Watch that the likelihood of survival from sustained close-range automatic and semi-automatic rifle fire in this manner is low.

On October 2, a Twitter account reported that the location of the executions was between Mount Mets Ishkhanasar and Small Ishkhanasar Mountain, close to Lake Sev, on Armenia's southeastern border with Azerbaijan. Human Rights Watch contacted the account owner to request information. The account owner replied to ask why Human Rights Watch was reaching out but did not reply to any questions. An investigation conducted by the French newspaper *Libération*, published on October 5, found that the video had been filmed along the same ridge identified by the Twitter account.

Human Rights Watch analyzed satellite imagery taken on September 13 and 14 from this location and applied a variety of techniques, including 3D modeling, geolocation, and photogrammetry, which involves taking measurements using photography to establish exactly where the video was recorded. Human Rights Watch was unable to independently verify the exact location of the executions.

Satellite imagery captured at 9:19 a.m. CET on September 13 shows smoke plumes and burn scars on the area of mounts Mets Ishkhanasar and Small Ishkhanasar. 24 hours before, on September 12, no signs of active fires or burn scars were visible on satellite imagery. The deputy mayor of Goris, a town in southern Armenia about 15 kilometers from Mount Mets Ishkhanasar, reported fighting in the area on the afternoon of September 13.

The Armenian Ombudswoman's office told Human Rights Watch that the incident took place on September 13 between 6 and 7 a.m. local time. The low position of the sun in the video indicates it was filmed at dawn or sunset. The lack of snow on the mountains is also consistent with late summer for the region.

Human Rights Watch also analyzed several photographs posted to Telegram on September 13 at 10:30 a.m. CET, showing the bodies of nine apparently dead men in Armenian military uniforms. Human Rights Watch confirmed that at least two of the bodies are of men who appear in the video. The terrain in all the photographs is highly consistent with the terrain in the video.

"International humanitarian law, or the laws of war, requires parties to an international armed conflict to treat POWs humanely in all circumstances. The Third Geneva Convention governs the treatment of prisoners of war, effective from the moment of capture. It protects POWs "particularly against acts of violence or intimidation, and against insults and public curiosity." It is a war crime to willfully kill, mistreat, or torture POWs, or to willfully cause great suffering or serious injury to body or health," Human Rights Watch said.

It reminded that "in addition to being bound by customary international law on human rights and humanitarian law, Azerbaijan is a party to the Geneva Conventions, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the last two of which strictly forbid extrajudicial killings."

"These soldiers had been captured and laid down their arms," Williamson said. "Their captors had an obligation to treat them humanely, and instead it appears that Azerbaijani forces shot them in cold blood. Now they need to be held accountable."

While calling for peace in the region, Turkey has rejected opening the borders for 25 years, Armenian MP tells PACE



While calling for peace and stability in the region, Turkey has for more than 25 years rejected opening the borders with Armenia, member of the Armenian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Armen Gevorgyan said during the discussion on honoring of obligations and commitments by Turkey.

“Many countries in this Parliamentary Assembly will testify to at least having uneven relations with Turkey. Some of them have had the hope that, as a result of the EU accession process, Turkey would begin to live by the European rules of the game, but that perspective has probably vanished by now,” the MP said.

He stressed that Turkey has itself rejected this path in order to have its own ambitions of becoming the leader of the Muslim world and of the wider region, achieved without any external obligations or commitments.

“I have previously been a member of two Armenian administrations, which have tried to negotiate new relations with Tur-

key. In all previous cases, despite international support or pressure, at some point Turkey had always put forward the language of preconditions, undermining the entire process,” he said.

The Armenian delegate noted that while calling for peace and stability in the region, Turkey has for more than 25 years rejected opening the borders with Armenia.

“Neither has it ever made a big secret of its political, military and other forms of support and patronage over Azerbaijan in the latest military aggressions against Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia,” Armen Gevorgyan said.

“Turkey and its minor ally Azerbaijan have fundamentally changed the political map of the South Caucasus, built a new architecture of regional security and stability, with a full pledge of domination of the Turkic world and by neutralizing the so-called Armenian issue to the extent possible. At the same time, for many European states the Turkish factor has become a serious domestic political challenge,” the lawmaker stated.

“These days we are witnessing a new Armenian-Turkish dialogue. We must remember, unfair peace is always shaky. There are concerns that such a dialogue will again become a demonstration of dominance by Turkey, where it will redefine a

region by assigning its own understanding of roles for each of its nations,” he added.

“Most recently here in Strasbourg, the Turkish foreign minister Mr Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu for yet another time made further claims to the descendants of the victims of Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire. He demonstrated a fresh example of anti-Armenian rhetoric, calling upon the Turkish ethnic community in democratic France to stand against French Armenians, people who in the past 100 years had only celebrated and heavily contributed to the development of the entire democratic and free Europe,” Gevorgyan said.

“This is exactly why I want to everyone to know that, not only in the Armenian diaspora, but also in Armenia, the great majority of our people are not ready to trust a neighbor who does not realize what it has done in the past and does not draw reasonable conclusions in its present policies. A neighbor who prefers ethno-religious sentiments and priorities in regional relations,” the MP said.

“I don’t believe that our organization or any European value-based organization should allow Turkey to follow its short-term interests by sacrificing long term European credibility,” he concluded.

Armenia wants to establish relations with Turkey, but without preconditions, MP Armen Rustamyan says at PACE

We are witnessing the collapse of a pre-existing world order based on the respect of common principles and values, especially with regard to the obligations of non-use of force or threat of force and peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts, member of the Armenian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Armen Rustamyan said during the discussion on honoring of obligations and commitments by Turkey.

“Instead of finding ways together to stop this disruptive process for all, some countries are trying to take advantage of it by provoking new confrontations to achieve their selfish goal, thus adding their share of oil to the fire. Such a policy is being pursued today by Turkey, in tandem with Azerbaijan,” Rustamyan said.

“According to Turkey, now is the right

time to force Armenia to make such concessions, which will enable it to realize its century-old dream of removing the Armenian obstacle to the creation of the Pan-Turkic alliance,” he added.

The Armenian MP noted that “Turkey and Azerbaijan, on the basis of their ethnic identity, have proclaimed the principle of one people in two states and recently signed the anti-Armenian declaration in the city of Shushi, occupied by Azeri forces after the last war in Artsakh.”

“This declaration, which challenges universal international norms, fully reflects the aggressive intention of the signatory parties and clearly sets out geopolitical objectives aimed at the formation of the Greater Turan. With such large-scale intentions, Turkey continues to hypocritically declare its willingness to normalize rela-

tions with Armenia without preconditions,” Rustamyan noted.

“We remember how Turkey, in its application to join the European Union, assured that it would have zero problems with all its neighbors. However, we know the result: zero neighbors, no problems,” he said.

The lawmaker stated that “Armenia wants to establish relations with Turkey, but it must be without preconditions and must not depend on relations with Azerbaijan.”

He reminded that the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs just recently called on his compatriots here in Strasbourg to launch a new attack on the Armenian diaspora in Europe.

In a letter to UN Security Council President, Armenian Ambassador presents Azerbaijan's attempts to capture territory by force

In light of continued violation of Armenia's territorial integrity, Armenia's Permanent Representative to the UN Mher Margaryan has brought Azerbaijan's unlawful attempts to acquire territory by force to the attention of the UN Security Council.

In a [letter](#) addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative noted that On 28 September, units of the Azerbaijani armed forces perpetrated yet another massive attack, in gross violation of the ceasefire regime.

"This recent wave of violence perpetrated against Armenia has left three more people killed. The acts of criminal aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against the territorial integrity of Armenia have taken lives of over 200 people, including among the civilian population. According to the latest reports, four civilians have been killed, with seven more wounded and one missing as a result of Azerbaijan's attacks. Around 8,000 people, mostly women, children and elderly persons, have been temporarily displaced, over 200 homes of civilians have suffered serious damage. The offensive targeted multiple items of civilian infrastructure, including school buildings, healthcare and wellness facilities and administrative buildings, as well as critical energy infrastructure, including gas pipelines and high-voltage power lines, in an intentional disruption of the energy supply across the country. The rights of around 25,000 children to education essentially continue to be denied as a result of the brutal, senseless violence unleashed by Azerbaijan in Armenia's sovereign territory," the Armenian envoy said.



He noted that in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law, Azerbaijan captured at least 20 servicemen.

"Azerbaijan has been on record as capturing, torturing, maiming and killing a number of Armenian service personnel, among them several women, who were exposed to the most despicable barbarities, including sexual and gender-based violence, dismemberment and mutilations. The atrocities have been video-recorded, cheered and extensively celebrated on social networks in Azerbaijan. The massive amount of disturbing evidence pointing to criminal conduct by the Azeri military is undeniable. It is ever more imperative that all atrocities be fully investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice," Amb. Margaryan said.

"Azerbaijan's criminal attacks are in blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, specifically its Articles 2 and 33, which stipulate that all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and that parties to any dispute should

seek solutions exclusively by peaceful means," the Permanent Representative added.

"The continued attacks against the territorial integrity of Armenia constitute a flagrant violation of the norms and principles of international law, as well as the provisions of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020 on the establishment of a ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities, while aggravating

and destabilizing the situation in the region and in the wider neighborhood," he continued.

Ambassador Margaryan stressed that "the continued military aggression against Armenia amounts to manifest and clear disrespect for the calls of the international community and the members of the Security Council on the inadmissibility of the use of force."

"It also demonstrates that, in the absence of proper accountability measures, unlawful attempts to acquire territory through the use of force are likely to continue and increase in scale and scope. Azerbaijan's pervasive record of hostile rhetoric and conduct and of unchecked, disproportionate violence continues to reveal a most dangerous pattern of utter disregard for every tenet and norm of international law and to display a clear intention to instigate wars, destruction and instabilities in the region," Mher Margaryan said.

He emphasized that the international community needs to undertake urgent and effective steps in response to Azerbaijan's crime of aggression and to demand the unconditional and complete withdrawal of the Azerbaijani armed forces from the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Jamila Afghani awarded the 2022 Aurora Prize

The seventh annual Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity was awarded to Jamila Afghani, an educator, human rights defender, and founder of the Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization (NECDO). Jamila has dedicated over 25 years of her life to giving the women of Afghanistan access to education. She was commemorated during a series of high-level philanthropy-focused events hosted by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative in Venice, Italy on October 14–16.

Before August 2021, NECDO had more than 100,000 women enrolled in literacy programs, thanks to the establishment of small centers in many communities led by local women. The organization also provides legal aid and psychosocial support to more than 10,000 women victims of abuse from a family member or a partner. Forced to flee Afghanistan, Jamila is continuing to help others at distance.

After the Taliban took over her country, Jamila Afghani had to leave her homeland, but she has not given up on its people. NECDO is still supporting women of Afghanistan and vulnerable families, shedding light on lack of access to education, domestic violence, and other contemporary issues faced by women today, while providing financial aid to the human rights defenders, journalists, and advocates.

“Our mission at Aurora is to recognize, celebrate and spread the work of humanitarians like Jamila Afghani around the world. Today’s modern-day heroes inspire and guide us and show us how to persevere in the face of seemingly overwhelming challenges. They remind us of our common humanity and encourage us to show the same commitment to serving the poor and marginalized. They remind us, too, of our duty to give everyone an equal chance,” said Lord Ara Darzi, Chair of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee and Co-Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London.

Every year, the Aurora Prize is granted by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian

Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors. The Laureate receives a \$1,000,000 grant and a chance to continue the cycle of giving by supporting organizations that help people in need. As 2022 Aurora Prize Laureate, Jamila Afghani has chosen to support Women International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Noor Educational and Capacity Development Organization (NECDO). WILPF is a membership-led international organization that seeks to promote world peace by advocating for disarmament, abolition of violence, women’s human rights, and gender equality, and NECDO is a non-governmental organization that provides humanitarian and development assistance to women, youth, and children in Afghanistan.

“From my professional experience, I know that the human rights issue is a struggle. We go through these periods, and this is one of them, when it’s not very clear how we are going to see the way forward on so many issues, when we are running out of time. People like Jamila Afghani shine a light of hope on the future and show us all a way out of the darkness,” noted Aurora Prize Selection Committee member Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Since its launch, the Aurora Prize has changed the lives of over 1,000,000 people affected by war, conflict, persecution, and other humanitarian issues, with a special focus on helping children, displaced people, and women and girls. This action-based philanthropy, focused on tangible results, is possible thanks to the supporters whose contribution allows the Prize to continue empowering modern-day heroes.

The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity is a global humanitarian award. Its mission is to recognize and support those who risk their own lives, health or freedom to save the lives, health or freedom of oth-



ers suffering as a result of violent conflict, atrocity crimes or other major human rights violations. The Aurora Prize Laureate is selected based on the nominee’s demonstration of courage, commitment and impact.

On behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviors, an Aurora Prize Laureate is honored with a US \$1,000,000 award, which gives the Laureate a unique opportunity to continue the cycle of giving by supporting the organizations that help people in need.

The Aurora Prize [Selection Committee](#) is comprised of Nobel Laureates Shirin Ebadi and Leymah Gbowee; former president of Ireland Mary Robinson; human rights activist Hina Jilani; former president of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo; Médecins Sans Frontières Co-founder and former foreign minister of France Bernard Kouchner; journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Dele Olojede, former CEO of Unilever and Co-founder and Co-Chair of IMAGINE Paul Polman; human rights activist and Co-founder of The Sentry John Prendergast and President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York Vartan Gregorian (1934-2021). The Committee is chaired by the Co-Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London Lord Ara Darzi.

World famous peace and human rights activist Benjamin Ferencz and Academy Award-winning actor and humanitarian George Clooney are the Committee’s Honorary Co-Chairs.

We honor the memory of Elie Wiesel (1928-2016), inaugural Selection Committee Co-Chair; President of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity; Nobel Laureate.

TUMO Center opens in Zurich



The first TUMO Center has opened in Zurich, the largest city of Switzerland.

With eight learning areas to choose from, the center is expected to welcome over 700 students.

The Center in Zurich is TUMO's 9th

international location.

The TUMO Center for Creative Technologies is a free-of-charge educational program that puts teens in charge of their own learning. The learning program is made up of self-learning activities, workshops and project labs that revolve around 14 learning targets.

TUMO has hubs in Yerevan, Dilijan, Gyumri and Stepanakert, with 6 TUMO Boxes operating in neighboring towns. Outside of Armenia, there are centers in Paris, Beirut, Moscow, Tirana, Berlin, Kyiv and Lyon, and now in Zurich.



Japanese government provides grant support for Armenian schools in Shirak Province



The Japanese Government approved a 95,202 USD program on providing educational equipment to kindergartens and schools of the Shirak Province in Armenia as part of the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The grant agreement was signed by

Japanese Ambassador to Armenia Masanori Fukushima and the National Union of Parent Councils Chairman Arsen Papoyan.

The Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Zhanna Andreasyan attached importance to the agreement, noting that it will create more favorable conditions for children's education in several schools and kindergartens in Shirak province.

"The Armenian government attaches great importance to reforms in public education and pre-school education systems and has several clear targets in this direc-

tion. I think this initiative comes to support the government's policy, the final beneficiary of which are the children," Andreasyan said.

"The program's goal is to support the creation of a positive environment for children's learning and development, by providing educational equipment to 5 schools and 5 kindergartens of Shirak Province. As a result, 3,000 children and students will benefit from the program annually," Ambassador Masanori Fukushima said, emphasizing that the Japanese Government is highlighting the role of education.

Establishing cooperation between YSU and University of Tunis El Manar under discussion

Armenian Ambassador to Tunisia Arshak Poladyan held meetings with Khalil al-Tazarki, the Director-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, heads of the departments of international cooperation, consular and legal affairs, La Francophonie department, as well as the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Moncef Boukthir, the foreign ministry said in a press release.

Issues related to enhancing bilateral and multilateral cooperation, conducting mutual high-level visits, developing a legal-contractual framework, organizing

political consultations between foreign ministries of the two countries and simplifying entry visa for citizens of the two countries were discussed. The upcoming La Francophonie summit which will be held in Tunisia in November was also discussed.

During the meeting with Minister Boukthir, Poladyan discussed opportunities for organizing academic mutual visits between Armenia and Tunisia, establishing cooperation between various universities and conducting joint scientific research.

The issue of establishing cooperation between the Yerevan State University and

University of Tunis El Manar was also discussed.

During the meetings ambassador Poladyan briefed the officials on the May, November 2021 and 13-15 September, 2022 Azeri aggressions against Armenia's territorial integrity and sovereignty and invasion into Armenia's internationally recognized territories, attaching importance to the international community's clear position over the withdrawal of the Azeri troops from Armenia's territory back to their initial positions.

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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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