

Armenia, Egypt keen to deepen bilateral ties: Pashinyan, El-Sisi hold talks in Yerevan



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hosted at the Government Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who is in Armenia on an official visit. First, a private conversation between the leaders of Armenia and Egypt took place, then the negotiations continued in an expanded format.

At the beginning of the private conversation, Prime Minister Pashinyan noted. “Honorable Mr. President, I welcome you to the Republic of Armenia. You are the first head of the Arab Republic of Egypt to visit the Republic of Armenia, it is a great honor to host you.

Our government and people have a very warm attitude towards both the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt and personally you.

I hope that also as a result of your visit, the economic relations will gain great activity and impetus. Honorable Mr. President, I

welcome you again to the capital of the Republic of Armenia. You are welcome.”

In turn, the President of Egypt said: “Your Excellency, honorable Mr. Prime Minister, I thank you for the opportunity, your invitation, warm welcome and good hospitality in your country. I also want to thank you for the dynamic development in strengthening the relations between the two countries.

There is mutual trust at the level of leaderships of the two countries, it should be noted that such trust also exists between the peoples of the two countries. It enables us to ensure even more promising development in bilateral relations. I talk about all spheres equally, be it economic or cultural. There are many opportunities for strengthening and developing multipolar and multisectoral relations. I am talking about both economy

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The government has undertaken large-scale reforms in the army.

Nikol Pashinyan

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan sent a congratulatory message on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the formation of the Armed Forces of Armenia. As Noyan Tapan was informed from the Office of the Prime Minister, the message specifically states:

“Dear people,

Dear compatriots,

Servicemen of the Armenian Army, reservists, generals, officers, mandatory and contract servicemen,

Today we celebrate the 31st anniversary of the formation of our army and first of all we commemorate the memory of our martyrs who gave their lives for the Motherland.

Despite all the difficulties, they are the ones who inspire us and fill us with the understanding that our struggle for statehood, for sovereignty, independence and security cannot fail if there is dedication, if there is faith.

Today, thousands of devotees serving in the Armenian army are serving the Republic of Armenia, independence, sovereignty, and statehood, and we will do everything to change the quality of their service - change the quality of service they provide, change the quality of service provided to them.

This is the reason why the government has undertaken large-scale reforms in the army, the purpose of which is to make every soldier, every officer more capable

and professional, and at the same time, more well off.

At the basis of these reforms are the reforms of military education, which are also in the stage of implementation. Currently, we are also undertaking the establishment of an officer high school, which, in our opinion, will be an educational center meeting the best modern standards and will become a forge for the formation of a new class of officers.

In the near future, we are planning to introduce a completely new institute of women's voluntary temporary military service in the Republic of Armenia, and today I have to say special words of appreciation to our sisters who perform contractual service in our army, including combat service.

The process to replace the three-month training camps with one-month or 25-day training camps is underway, because the reservist's combat ability is just as important as that of those in regular military service.

We are taking measures to equip our army with modern weapons and equipment, trying to encourage local producers as much as possible.

The defense budget for 2023 has more than doubled compared to 2018, and I also want to thank all of our taxpayers who, with their work and law-abiding behavior, make possible the implementation of reforms in security and other areas.

But the reform process is not going

smoothly in the army either, because the unstable security environment brings new challenges that sometimes incite big mistakes.

The tragedy that took place on January 19 in Azat village of Gegharkunik region, which took the lives of another 15 of our children, is suffocating us. And I want to apologize to the parents and relatives of all the soldiers who fell victim to the monstrous fire. I also apologize to all those parents whose children in the army became victims of non-statutory relationships, impermissible relationships and situations that arose as a result of omissions and mistakes made by the state or government.

At the same time, I kneel before the parents and relatives of our soldiers, officers, volunteers who fell in battle while defending the Motherland. I express my gratitude to all those families who have the consciousness that for the sake of the Motherland-State, for the sake of civic duty, nothing can be spared. States are built on this perception and consciousness.

And finally, I would like to thank all those servicemen, from privates to officers and generals, who selflessly render service to the Armenian Army and the Armenian state.

I send fraternal greetings to our brothers and sisters who spend Army Day in combat positions sometimes surrounded by several meters of snow.

Ararat Mirzoyan and Enrique Mora address regional security issues



On January 26, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan received Enrique Mora, Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs of the European External Action Service.

As Noyan Tapan was informed from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the parties emphasized the holding of the first session of the Armenian-EU political and security dialogue held on the same day. Issues related to the expansion of Armenia-EU partnership were also discussed.

Ararat Mirzoyan and Enrique Mora addressed regional security issues. Minister Mirzoyan highly appreciated the decision to deploy the EU civilian monitoring mission in Armenia, expressing belief that it will contribute to the establishment of stability and peace in the region.

The interlocutors also discussed the lat-

est developments in the process of normalization of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations.

Referring to the humanitarian crisis created in Nagorno-Karabakh due to the blocking of the Lachin Corridor, Ararat Mirzoyan emphasized that Azerbaijan's actions are a gross violation of the provisions of the trilateral declaration of November 9, 2020, as well as international humanitarian law. Minister Mirzoyan stressed that Azerbaijan's non-fulfillment of its international commitments and its maximalist stance greatly undermines the efforts of the Armenian side to establish stability and security in the region.

Armenia and the European Union hold first Political and Security Dialogue



The first high-level Armenia-EU Political and Security Dialogue took place on 26 January 2023 in Yerevan, co-chaired by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Vahe Gevorgyan and Deputy Secretary General/Political Director of the European External Action Service Enrique Mora, the foreign ministry said in a press release.

The one-day meeting reflected the interest of both sides to take forward political dialogue and cooperation in the area of foreign and security policy, as a further important step in Armenia-EU relations.

The parties reviewed key security issues for Armenia, the EU and the wider region, in particular challenges to European security, as well as issues related to the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, including the growing humanitarian concerns related to the ob-

struction of free movement in the Lachin corridor.

“Armenia is pleased to host the 1st Armenia-EU Political and Security Dialogue which is an important framework for discussing a wide range of issues related to international and regional security. Armenia looks forward to strong cooperation with the EU Mission in Armenia in monitoring the international borders of Armenia. Armenia values all mediation and facilitation activities aimed at building peace and security, which is essential to ensure the territorial integrity of Armenia, the rights and security of Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh,” said Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Armenia Vahe Gevorgyan.

“The EU is making significant efforts at the highest level to contribute to comprehensive normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We have just established a civilian EU Mission in Armenia, which aims to contribute to increased stability on the ground, human security and confidence-building. The first ever Armenia-EU Political and Security Dialogue launched today demonstrates our mutual interest in enhancing cooperation on foreign and security policy issues, and

readiness to work together for the benefit of peace, security and stability, especially in the current challenging international context marked by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine,” said EEAS Deputy Secretary-General Enrique Mora.

The meeting confirmed the commitment of Armenia and the EU to work towards the South Caucasus that is secure, stable, peaceful and prosperous for the benefit of all people living in the region. In this regard, the parties discussed the upcoming deployment of the civilian CSDP mission established by the EU Foreign Affairs Council earlier this week. Through its activities and reports to the EU leadership, the EUMA will also contribute to efforts undertaken in the framework led by the President of the European Council Charles Michel.

In the comprehensive exchange of views, the participants in the Dialogue also discussed the situation in the wider region, including the process of normalization of relations between Armenia and Turkey, as well as issues relating to hybrid threats and other security-related matters.

Meetings of the Armenia-EU Political and Security Dialogue will be held regularly, in principle on a yearly basis.

U.S. committed to Armenia-Azerbaijan peace talks, Secretary of State “deeply engaged on” – spox



The United States is committed to the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace negotiations and welcomes efforts by partners, including the European Union, to build confidence in the region and to ensure an environment conducive to direct dialogue

between Armenia and Azerbaijan, United States Department of State Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said at a press briefing.

Patel was asked by a reporter to comment on Russian Foreign Ministry’s statement criticizing the EU for sending a civilian monitoring mission to the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

“Let me say a couple things, Alex. First, the U.S. is committed to Armenia-Azerbaijan peace negotiations. We welcome efforts by partners, including the European Union, to build confidence in the region and to ensure an environment conducive to direct dialogue between Arme-

nia and Azerbaijan. We continue to work closely with all our partners directly and with partners in the region as well when effective.

Specifically, about Russia’s role, the U.S. was not involved in the November 20 [sic] ceasefire brokered by Russia between Armenia and Azerbaijan that resulted in the deployment of Russian peacekeepers, so I just wouldn’t have anything additional to offer on that. But of course, as you know, Alex, this is something that is deeply important to the Secretary, something he’s paid close attention to and been deeply engaged on,” Patel said, according to the official [transcript](#).

Armenia-Azerbaijan settlement should not become hostage to the competition between the EU and Russia. EU representative

The settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan should not become a hostage to the competition between the European Union and the Russian Federation, Peter Stano, Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, told "RIA Novosti", commenting on the reaction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia regarding the launch of a two-year European mission in Armenia for the purpose of regional settlement.

"The settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan should not become hostage to any competition between different actors," said Stano.

He emphasized that the Russian Federation is mistaken, considering that the EU's

role in the settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan is directed against Russia.

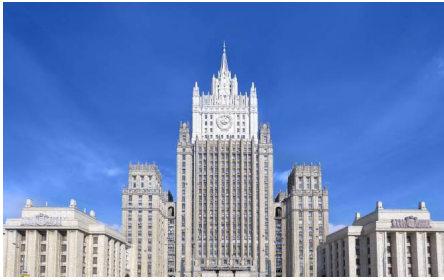
"Russia clearly misunderstood the purpose of this mission and continues to misjudge the EU's involvement in the region as a move against Russia. The more important thing is that it is not Russia's business. The EU mission was launched based on the request and free decision of the Armenian authorities. Of course, the EU has also been in contact with the authorities of Azerbaijan on this issue," the Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy said.

He added that the EU is also aware of the role Russia played in ending the war in the November 2020.



"The EU mission is civilian and will play a key role in supporting the EU's efforts to normalize Armenian-Azerbaijani relations. The EU assumed that role after the respective request of both sides," Stano noted.

Russian MFA responds to the decision of the EU to deploy a new observation mission in Armenia



Russia considers that Brussels is not interested in peace in the Transcaucasus, wants to strengthen its position in Armenia through the observation mission and suppress Russia's mediation efforts, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation said in a statement, noting that the CSTO is ready to promptly deploy a mission in Armenia.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, it is obvious that the new civil mission of the European Union in Armenia will be more large-scale than the EU monitoring mechanism, which operated in Armenia from October to December last year.

"Russia's principled position regarding the strengthening of an extra-regional player in Transcaucasia has not changed. We do not see any "added value" from the control of EU "experts" over the events taking place on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. If Brussels was sincerely interested in peace in the Transcaucasus, they would have agreed on the working conditions of their mission with Azerbaijan," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

According to the Russian Foreign Min-

istry, the presence EU representatives on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border may lead to a geopolitical confrontation.

"The appearance of representatives of the European Union, which has turned into an add-on of the USA and NATO and is pursuing a policy of confrontation in the CIS zone, in the border regions of Armenia can only bring geopolitical confrontation to the region and aggravate the existing contradictions. The announced civilian nature of the EU mission should not mislead either. It is formed within the framework of the Common Security and Defense Policy of the EU, with all the consequences arising from it," the Russian Foreign Ministry added.

The Russian Foreign Ministry emphasized that the Russian peacekeepers will respond to the behavior of the European Union observers.

"The European Union's attempts to strengthen its positions in Armenia at any cost, suppress Russia's mediation efforts, may harm the fundamental interests of Armenians and Azerbaijanis in their efforts to return to the peaceful development of the region. We are convinced that in the foreseeable future, the key factor of stability and security in the region remains the Russian peacekeeping troops deployed based on the November 9, 2020 declaration of the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as the Russian border guards performing service on the Armenian borders. They will respond to the behavior of the

EU observers, taking into account the development of the situation "on the ground", the message states.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation also emphasized the possibility of the operative deployment of the CSTO mission in Armenia.

"We record that, not bringing the work towards the CSTO mission to a logical end, they preferred to make a choice in favor of the EU in Yerevan. If the Armenian allies are interested in using the potential of the CSTO, then its mission can be operationally deployed in Armenia," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The Russian MFA added that the most stable and lasting basis for the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations and, in general, the improvement of the situation in the region is the strict and consistent implementation of the trilateral agreements of the leaders of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan of November 9, 2020, January 11 and November 26, 2021 and October 31, 2022, including the unblocking of all transport and economic communications, the delimitation and demarcation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, the agreement on the parameters of the peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the development of trilateral contacts between the publics, expert circles and parliamentarians. The Russian Foreign Ministry stressed that Moscow is ready to support it in every possible way.

Washington is making active efforts to reopen the Lachin Corridor.

Karen Donfried



The situation around the Lachin Corridor is an obstacle to the advancement of the peace process between Armenia and Azerbaijan, US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried said in an interview with the Armenian service of “Voice of America”.

According to the high-ranking diplomat, Washington is actively making efforts to reopen the corridor. Assistant Secretary of State Donfried emphasizes that the issue of blocking the Lachin Corridor was the primary topic in the recent telephone conversations of Secretary of State Blinken with the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

“The Secretary of State called for the immediate reopening of the corridor and

stressed the importance of unhindered commercial and private traffic. We are very concerned about the situation of the local Armenian population in Nagorno Karabakh. We will continue to be involved and put pressure over this situation,” she said.

In addition, according to Donfried, there are other obstacles in the Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiation process.

“Besides that, of course, there is a decades-long painful history in the relations between the two countries. Thus, both the Armenian and Azerbaijani sides have understandable concerns, and we note a lack of trust between these two countries,” asserts Donfried.

She notes that the Armenian-Azerbaijani negotiation process, which is one of the issues on the agenda of US Secretary of State Blinken, includes discussions on many complex issues, including the peace agreement, border demarcation, reopening of transport links between the countries. The US supports direct dialogue between the parties and emphasizes its necessity, because only in this way, according to the Assistant Secretary of State, it is possible to achieve the settlement of the

above-mentioned complex issues.

“We believe that both Armenia and Azerbaijan are deeply committed to this process. We are ready to help in every way, realizing that the difficult decisions that must be made to achieve peace must be made in Yerevan and Baku,” she says.

According to the high-ranking diplomat, the problems between Armenia and Azerbaijan cannot have a military solution, and the only way is a diplomatic settlement through the peace process. “We would not like to see any escalation of the situation”, emphasizes Donfried.

“We do not see a military solution to the situation between the two countries, and we will continue to remain engaged diplomatically, as we have been doing, first to make sure there is no escalation, and second to help encourage positive progress,” she said.

The Deputy Secretary of State expresses gratitude to the EU for deploying a civilian mission to Armenia to monitor Armenia’s border with Azerbaijan. “It is an initiative that we fully support,” she said.

Dunja Mijatović emphasizes the importance of providing free and unhindered access to NK for international missions

Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe Dunja Mijatović reaffirmed her statement on the need to immediately restore movement through the Lachin corridor Mijatović wrote on her “Twitter” page.

Dunja Mijatović noted that the present situation shows once more the importance of ensuring free and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance and international human rights missions to all areas and people, including those residing in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Commissioner also emphasized the need to develop effective and flexible conditions for access that would allow all competent actors, including the Commissioner’s Office, to have priority access to those in need of humanitarian assistance and human rights protection.

PACE calls on Azerbaijan to release Armenian POWs, civilian captives and open Lachin corridor

On January 26, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted the “The progress of the Assembly’s monitoring procedure (January-December 2022)” resolution. The amendments proposed by the Armenian delegation were adopted by vote. The amendments pertain to the immediate release of Armenian POWs by Azerbaijan and implementation of the interim measures indicated by the ECHR regarding Lachin corridor, the Permanent Representation of Armenia to the Council of Europe

said in a statement.

Particularly, the resolution states “The Assembly notes the committee’s continued attention to the developments concerning relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Assembly takes note of the most recent urgent notice of the European Court of Human Rights sent to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe calling for the monitoring of Azerbaijan’s implementation of its decision of 21 December 2022 regarding the Lachin Corridor, and

calls for the immediate and full implementation of the interim measures decided by the Court. The Assembly is also monitoring the situation around the Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives who are still detained in Azerbaijan. The Assembly calls upon Azerbaijan to immediately release all detainees.”

On January 26, debates were held at PACE on the humanitarian consequences of the blockade of the Lachin corridor by Azerbaijan.

Armenia and Qatar can connect the world economically. Alen Simonyan's interview to Qatar News Agency

President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Alen Simonyan underlined that Armenia appreciates the role of the State of Qatar in promoting peace and security in the region and the world through its continuous efforts in mediation and settling disputes in accordance with a diplomatic approach that has made it a leading global model in this field.

ARMENPRESS reports, in remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA) on the sidelines of his visit to the country, the President of the Armenian National Assembly said that the State of Qatar plays a prominent role at the regional and international levels in enhancing security, peace and stability through mediation and dispute settlement. In this context, Alen Simonyan stressed his country's support for the Qatari efforts, and its appreciation to all endeavors aim at realizing peace and stability in the region and the world.

Commending the relations between Qatar and Armenia, the President of the National Assembly of Armenia noted the rapid development in the relations between the two friendly countries, stressing his

country's keenness on pushing forward the bilateral relations into broader horizons and promoting them in various areas, including the parliamentary domain.

His Excellency noted that he had discussed with Qatari officials during his visit a host of topics related to parliamentary cooperation and promoting coordination in this aspect in regional and international forums, in addition to means of bolstering the economic relations which attract a great attention in light of the rapid dynamic of the economic sectors in both countries.

His Excellency added that Qatar and Armenia can link the world economically thanks to their strategic locations and distinct economic potential and capabilities, pointing to Qatar's distinguished location in the region, and Armenia's strategic location which gives it the advantage of linking between the north, the south and the east.

On the other hand, President of the National Assembly of Armenia Alen Simonyan applauded the Shura Council experience in the State of Qatar, noting that Qatar has chosen the right approach and adopted unique policies to promote pop-

ular participation, in line with the nature, traditions and ancient culture of the Qatari society.

On Qatar's support for parliamentary efforts in combating terrorism through the Doha-based UNOCT Program Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, His Excellency stressed: "We appreciate this tangible Qatari role, and we highly value these initiatives to confront global challenges, including the challenge of terrorism. This is an unprecedented initiative." Concluding his remarks to QNA, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Alen Simonyan underlined that the State of Qatar presents a pioneering model in terms of building peace and achieving its lofty principles. He stressed the importance of the international efforts to build peace and stability at various levels, and the embodiment of the principles that encourage promote the achievement of this purpose, warning of the dangers of violating these principles and sacrificing them for the sake of narrow economic interests.

Armenia SRC, Tana Energy Management Company sign nearly 18,5 mln euro contract on modernization of Meghri checkpoint



The State Revenue Committee (SRC) of Armenia and Tana Energy Management Company signed a 18,495,000 euro

contract on January 27 on the construction works for modernizing the Meghri border crossing point.

Tana Energy Management Company was awarded the contract in the international tender which was announced on December 23, 2021.

The tender was announced for the

modernization and reconstruction of the Meghri Customs Checkpoint-Department of the State Revenue Committee's Southern Customs Division.

SRC Chairman Rustam Badasyan thanked all international partners, particularly the EU and the EBRD, for the massive joint work.

Armenian nationals can now travel to UAE visa-free

Armenian nationals can now travel to the United Arab Emirates visa free. The Government on January 26 approved amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding on exempting diplomatic passports holders from the requirement to obtain an entry permit.

The move is expected to boost the flow of tourists. Exemption from the requirement of an entry permit will create a solid basis for the revitalization of business and economic ties, which in turn will contribute to the expansion of investment and economic cooperation.



\$48 million of Investments raised for Armenian startups with the support of Orion



With the support of Orion Worldwide Innovations, the volume of investments in Armenian startups in 2020-2022 reached \$48 million. Last year's investments were \$21 million.

Investments were fundraised for startups who graduated from the BAJ Accelerator program. More than 104 startups from Pre-Seed to Series A+ levels have com-

pleted the program. Prior to fundraising, companies go through the 6-day acceleration program, founded by Orion, the Baltic American Chamber of Commerce, and Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech.

Major investments were attracted from venture capital, corporate venture funds, angel investors, and family offices. "Startups that received investments operate in the fields of fintech, security, healthcare, robotics, and software. The Orion Summit 2023 which will be held in New York City in June this year, is a unique opportunity for startups to gain international experience and make new connections with potential investors," said Emma Arakelyan, CEO & Founder of Orion Worldwide Innovations

and Co-Founding Partner of BAJ Accelerator.

The next cohort of the BAJ Accelerator program will start on May 14-19, and on June 19-22, Orion Summit 2023 will be held under the slogan "Investments Position Armenia".

Orion Worldwide Innovations, is a startup growth and ecosystem acceleration hub and offers a full-service package to make companies investable and enter the US market, enhance their customer acquisition strategies, stay competitive, and protect their innovation. Orion is a U.S.-based company that was formed in 2017, with offices in New York City, U.S., and Yerevan, Armenia, though Orion partners with companies and investor networks worldwide.

Arbital Tribunal rejects the claim against Armenia seeking to confiscate around \$331 million

The Arbitral Tribunal rejected the claim against the Republic of Armenia to confiscate around USD 331 million, the Office of Armenia's Representative on International Legal matter informs.

On August 3, 2018 the arbitration case *Rasia FZE and Joseph k. Borkowski v. Republic of Armenia*, was registered at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID case no. ARB/18/28)

On 20 January 2023 the Arbitral Tribunal issued the Arbitration Award, completely rejecting the claims of the Claimants and obliging them to com-



pensate the Republic of Armenia a total amount of about USD 2.8 million as reimbursement for the legal services and other expenses incurred.

This arbitration case related to the construction of the railway and highway

construction projects was initiated in accordance with "Treaty Between the United States of America and the Republic of Armenia Concerning the Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investment," as well as on the basis of the concession agreements concluded between the said company and the Government of the Republic of Armenia in 2012.

The Claimants claimed compensation from Armenia in the amount of about USD 225 million, as well as the accrued interest, starting from 18 March 2015 until the issuance of the Arbitration Award, amounting to about USD 106 million.

Wizz Air to launch flights from Yerevan to Dortmund, Sofia, Katowice and Prague



Wizz Air will start operating flights on four new routes.

The flights on three routes will start operating from 29 April 2023.

Dortmund – Yerevan- Dortmund flights will be operated twice a week: every Wednesday and Sunday.

Sofia-Yerevan-Sofia flights will be op-

erated every Wednesday and Sunday.

Katowice-Yerevan-Katowice flights will be operated every Wednesday and Saturday.

From June 12, 2023 the airline will start operating flights on Prague-Yerevan-Prague route on Mondays and Fridays.

Kristina A. Kvien sworn in as US Ambassador to Armenia

Kristina A. Kvien has been sworn in as US Ambassador to Armenia by Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya, the US Embassy in Armenia informs.

Kvien is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor. She has served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine. Previously, Kvien served as Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs at U.S. Embassy Paris, France and as Economic Counselor at U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Thailand.

In both Paris and Bangkok, she served



more than one year as Acting Deputy Chief of Mission. She also served as Economic Counselor at U.S. Embassy London. Earlier in her career, Kvien worked at the Na-

tional Security Council, Washington, D.C. as Director for EU, Ukraine and Belarus affairs. She has also completed Foreign Service postings at the U.S. Embassy Moscow, Russia; the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels; and U.S. Embassy Manila.

Domestic assignments have included the Office of European and Regional Affairs, and the Office of Central European Affairs, both in the Bureau of Europe and Eurasian Affairs. Kvien, a native of California, holds a BA from Occidental College and an MS from the U.S. Army War College.

page 1 ➡ and mutual investment, high-tech, tourism, communication and electricity sectors.”

Prime Minister Pashinyan noted at the



extended meeting that they had an important conversation with the President of Egypt and discussed many issues of the bilateral and regional agenda. “Egypt is a reliable partner for us in the international arena, and let me express confidence that our trust will further deepen with the results of your historic visit. Also, the warmth of our relations, I think, demonstrates our special relations in the context of relations between Armenia and the Arab world. Egypt is also a reliable partner for us in our relations and dialogue with the Islamic world.

This relationship of ours, this warmth also shows our attitude towards the Islamic world and civilization, our respect. The agreement according to which we will assign our ministers to hold another ses-

sion of the intergovernmental cooperation commission in 2023 is another important practical result. I said that we gratefully accept the opportunities for the development of economic cooperation that you pointed out and we will definitely do everything to implement that agenda.

Honorable Mr. President, let me once again welcome you and your delegation,” Nikol Pashinyan said.

Abdel Fattah El-Sisi noted that the friendly atmosphere and warmth he felt during the private conversation with the Armenian Prime Minister speaks of only one thing: the great mutual trust and respect that exists between the two countries. “Mr. Prime Minister, let me also say that all the points on which our discussions took place should be transformed into practical steps in a short period of time, and this should be demonstrated by the activities of the governments of our two states. The meetings of the intergovernmental commission can be convened as soon as possible and in the near future,” the Egyptian President said.

Emphasizing the effective cooperation formed between Armenia and Egypt in international organizations, the Prime Minister highly appreciated Egypt’s support to

Armenia, especially in those organizations to which our country is not a member.

The Armenian side reaffirmed Armenia’s support to Egypt in the ongoing negotiations on the free trade agreement between EAEU and Egypt, which will provide ample opportunities for promoting bilateral trade.

Highly appreciating the strong interstate relations formed in the last thirty years, the interlocutors emphasized further deepening of partnership in various branches of the economy, tourism, education, science and culture.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan presented the steps taken to overcome the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh resulted by the illegal blockade of the Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan. The Prime Minister also emphasized the fact of another violation of the declaration of November 9, 2020 by Azerbaijan and emphasized the importance of the international community’s attention and adequate response to it.

The sides exchanged thoughts on the processes taking place in the region and the world.

Ex-president Ter-Petrosyan meets Russian ambassador, highlights need for immediate opening of Lachin corridor

First President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan held a meeting at his residence with Russian Ambassador to Armenia Sergei Kopyrkin on January 27, the ex-presi-

dent’s spokesperson Arman Musinyan said on social media.

“During the conversation President Ter-Petrosyan specifically highlighted the

need for the immediate and uninterrupted reopening of the Lachin corridor,” Musinyan said.

Barracks fire: Logistics chief facing criminally negligent manslaughter charges remanded

The military official who was in charge of maintaining and enforcing fire safety rules in the barracks where 15 servicemen died as a result of a fire has been remanded in pre-trial detention.

The Gegharkunik Province's Court of General Jurisdiction approved the 2-months pre-trial detention.

Prosecutors had instituted public criminal prosecution against G.A., the Chief of Logistics of the military base/Deputy Commander for Logistics and Communal Maintenance, under clause 3 of Article 550 of the Criminal Code (military official negligence which recklessly caused death).

The suspect was taken into custody on January 26.

The official was in charge of enforcing and maintaining the fire safety rules in the military base where the fire happened, the prosecution said earlier. His duties included, among others, organizing the fire safety protection for logistical facilities, training of personnel in fire safety rules, ensuring that all facilities are equipped with firefighting measures, verifying the state of the fire safety conditions at least once every 3 months.

As a result of his improper and reckless attitude towards his service duties, the suspect did not implement his duties – including in the direction of equipping the military base with respective fire safety protection measures, and negligently

caused deaths, the prosecution said.

The fire in the makeshift barracks of a military base in the village of Azat, Gegharkunik broke out on January 19 when an officer attempted to start a stove (heater) with gasoline. Servicemen were unable to extinguish the fire because there were no fire protection measures in the barracks. The barracks also lacked a fire exit and the soldiers were unable to break the window grills to escape. As a result, 15 servicemen died and 5 others (including the officer who attempted to light the heater) were injured, the prosecutors had earlier said.

Extremists attack Armenians and Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem



Late in the evening of January 28, two Jewish extremists tried to obstruct the traffic on the Armenian Patriarchate Street, then hit the car of Armenian young people returning home from work, Chancellor at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Fr. Aghan Gogchian informs.

The Armenians got out of the car and politely spoke and asked. "Why are you hitting the car, this is our neighborhood, we are coming home from work. We respect the Jews, why do you do such things? What have we done to you?"

One of the Jews started shouting. "You don't have a neighborhood here. This is our country, get out of our country."

And when the Armenian young man said: "This is also our country, our home is

here, we were born here, we have nowhere else to go," the other blew tear gas into the eyes of the Armenian and the two of them ran away.

The Armenians tried to chase the latter in order to hand them over to the police, but the tear gas did not allow them to do so and the men were taken to hospital by a friend.

After returning from the hospital, the Armenians filed a complaint with the police. The police questioned the two Jewish extremists and arrested them. One of them was released at dawn, but the one who blew tear gas is still under arrest.

An hour after this incident, another group of Jewish extremists, passing along the street of the Patriarchate, tried to climb the roof of the Patriarchate and remove the flags of the Patriarchate and the Republic of Armenia.

Armenian young people standing in front of the monastery noticed the attempt, approached and prohibited the actions of the Jewish extremists, the latter fled and soon returned in a smaller group, this time with masks on.

The masked extremists tried to provoke a fight again, they blew tear gas in the air in the direction of the Armenian youths, cursed the Armenians and fled in the direction of the police. The Armenian youths chased them, and when the latter noticed that, they started shouting "Terrorist attack, terrorist attack!"

The police, thinking that the shouts of the Jewish extremists were true, blocked the way of the Armenian men, held the weapons on them, beat some of them, and after arresting Gevorg Kahkejian, they took him to the police station, on the charges of attacked a police officer, which is not true.

George Kahkejian was kept in police custody for one night, the next day, January 29, after noon, with the direct intervention of His Holiness Patriarch Nurhan Manukian and the decision of the court, George Kahkejian was released and given 20 days of house arrest. And since George Kahkejian has physical injuries, the police, through the mediation of the monastery's lawyer, allowed him to undergo a medical examination.

What Good Is the UN if It Won't Defend Its Founding Principles? – former FM Mnatsakanyan's article for Newsweek



The former Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan wrote an article on the Azeri blockade of the Lachin corridor and the insufficient reaction of the UN.

The article titled “What Good Is the UN if It Won't Defend Its Founding Principles?” was published by *Newsweek*.

Below is the full article.

“The United Nations has grown from 51 independent nations upon its founding to an impressive 193 member countries—a great step forward for self-determination. But on occasion, it has also unintentionally validated, through paralysis and inaction, authoritarian states persecuting ethnic minorities.

That's precisely what is happening right now in a self-governing corner of Azerbaijan widely known as Nagorno Karabakh, which is called Artsakh by its Armenian population. UN indifference to the month-old blockade of the 120,000 people there will send the message that the organization has cast aside its very *raison-d'être*.

After all, the fundamental purpose of the UN is to support the right of all peoples to express their will in peace. Many multi-ethnic nations have done so, living in harmony and democracy. But others, often relying on distorted versions of “history,” have built environments of discrimination, intolerance, and violence. If the UN is serious about its responsibility to promote freedom and prevent atrocity, it cannot allow suppression of freedom just because it occurs within the boundaries of a member state.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, B.J. Habibie of Indonesia and Omar al-Bashir of Sudan all leveraged their countries' status as sovereign nations in the UN—a so-called “thick curtain of sovereignty—to act with impunity.

These leaders contradicted proven facts, assuring the UN secretary-general and international community all was fine back at home. They manipulated UN member states, including the Permanent 5 on the Security Council, appealing to narrow interests to prevent action. Others followed in their footsteps. For such despots, the UN has sometimes served as an unwitting shield for gross violations of human rights. For the peoples of Kosovo, East Timor and Darfur, among others, this resulted in massive tragedy.

For decades, the people of Artsakh have struggled for freedom against the dictatorship of Azerbaijan—one with a staggering record of human rights abuses and oppression at home. Meanwhile, Artsakh has demonstrated a capacity to self-govern in democratic fashion, with full respect for people's rights and freedoms.

The autocrats in Baku responded by systematically manipulating UN members internationally and their own people at home. They've utilized propaganda, creating a caricature of Armenians as the enemy, leading to international inaction and even some support for their totalitarian regime.

Since the resumption of aggression against Artsakh in 2020, thousands of Armenians have been murdered and mutilated, and tens of thousands forcefully displaced. And now, since Dec. 12, the enclave has been blockaded. Women, children, and the elderly are trapped in freezing temperatures without food, medicine, and other basic supplies. There have been intermittent cutoffs of gas and electricity. It has created a genuine humanitarian crisis.

The Azeri sense of impunity and the hostilities this has driven—recorded also by the UN International Court of Justice—are potential precursors of far worse. The dangers are heightened by the absence of international eyes and ears in Artsakh. The Genocide Prevention Network has warned that it is an attempt to “ethnically cleanse and drive Armenians out of Artsakh.”

Back in the 1990s, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan demonstrated courage and determination in forcefully persuading the international community to

act decisively in the face of extreme suffering and violence. He insisted on the primacy of human security and protecting the people, in whose name the UN Charter was written.

“Strictly traditional notions of sovereignty can no longer do justice to the aspirations of peoples everywhere to attain their fundamental freedoms,” he told the UN General Assembly in September 1999.

The UN has since revamped itself to create an elaborate system of protection and prevention capabilities, from early warning and action to preventive diplomacy, peace building and peacekeeping. Armenia has consistently contributed to the endeavor—specifically to genocide prevention efforts.

The deteriorating situation in Artsakh provides a classic early warning sign of impending humanitarian disaster and atrocities. If not acted upon, what was the point of the UN reforms? Both-sidesism—the false but diplomatic-sounding assignation of equal blame—and the muddle of narrow and conflicting interests do nothing for the people of Artsakh. Even more importantly, they send a frightening message to people everywhere—and are a green light to despots.

If not acted upon, what was the point of the UN reforms? Both-sidesism—the false but diplomatic-sounding assignation of equal blame—and the muddle of narrow and conflicting interests do nothing for the people of Artsakh. Even more importantly, they send a frightening message to people everywhere—and are a green light to despots.

As Armenia's former Ambassador to the UN, I am pained by events on the ground—and also concerned about the credibility and future of the organization.

It's time for leadership from the UN, or the afflicted will conclude that its commitments are empty. Such a betrayal, such acquiescence to barbarity, would be outrageous. The people of Artsakh deserve the same self-determination and freedom from strife as the rest of us.

The UN must understand this before it's too late.”

Lemkin Institute says “horrified” by BBC’s Stephen Sackur’s “genocidal proposal”



The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention is shocked and horrified that BBC HARDtalk Anchor Stephen Sackur offered genocide as one of two “realistic options” facing Armenians in Artsakh during an interview with Artsakh State Minister Ruben Vardanyan that aired on 23 January 2023.

Referring to the blockade of Artsakh by the dictatorial regime of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Sackur asked Vardanyan: “You now control a tiny enclave which is suffering from the economic blockade right now, and it seems your only realistic option is either to work out a political deal with Azerbaijan or for the people, the Armenian community in Nagorno-Karabakh, to decide that this is no longer sustainable and leave the territory. So, which is it to be – a political deal or leave?”

The Lemkin Institute has pointed out in numerous Red Flag Alerts and Statements, forcing people to leave their land on threat of death is a form of genocide.

The Lemkin Institute said in a statement it is surprised to have to point out that genocide should never be offered to threatened peoples as a possible “realistic option” going forward.

“People threatened with genocide face choiceless choices. If Armenians are forced to flee in the face of Azerbaijani threats, that is not a “realistic option,” that is genocide. Sackur’s framing of the question places him in the position of the perpetrator, who in this case is Ilham Aliyev. By coopting Artsakhsis (people of Artsakh) into a fantasy scenario where political negotiations with the current anti-Armenian, genocidal Azerbaijani regime are possible, Sackur engages in not-so-subtle genocide denial and even blames the victim: Artsakh is under blockade not because of the genocidal designs of Azerbaijan, but because of some inexplicable stubbornness on the part of Armenians in Artsakh or their leaders – or both, as he seems to believe,” the Insti-

tute said in a statement.

“By deploying a tactic called DARVO (Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender), Sackur is mirroring a common strategy of genocidaires. Not once does Sackur note that Azerbaijan’s blockade of Artsakh is a violation of the Ceasefire Agreement that ended the 2020 war, nor does he note that siege tactics against civilians constitute a violation of international law. In fact, he appears to excuse the blockade by referring to a “misunderstanding” between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the terms of the 2020 agreement after Vardanyan rightly points out that the blockade is a clear violation of the aforementioned ceasefire,” it added.

According to the statement, one of the most telling moments in the interview is when Sackur interrupts Vardanyan to “clarify” the language that should be used to refer to Artsakh: “You just referred to your territory as Artsakh, I should make it plain that while you, in your territory, refer to it as Artsakh, the Azerbaijani government, of course, calls it Nagorno-Karabakh, as indeed does the international community, so I just want to be clear about that.”

“The Lemkin Institute is appalled at Sackur’s insistence on the usage of the name Nagorno-Karabakh. Sackur’s “clarification” suggests the illegitimacy of the name Artsakh, which is in fact the historical Armenian name for the region. His insistence also ignores the political undertones of the term Nagorno-Karabakh, or simply Karabakh, a name that is often utilized during torture sessions, in which Azeri soldiers will force, under threat of physical harm, Armenian POWs to repeat terms such as “Karabagh is Azerbaijan.” These sessions have been documented by Azeri soldiers themselves and disseminated through social media. Sackur’s comment, which he frames as a revealed and incontestable truth, suggests a total ignorance of the history of the Artsakh conflict, and ignores the fact that Artsakh was given to Azerbaijan under the colonial rule of the Soviet Union, without the consent or input of the majority Armenian population residing within,” the Lemkin Institute said.

Although Sackur constantly says “your territory,” he seems to ignore the right of peoples to self-determination. As we have stated in several documents, the right to

self-determination is one of the most fundamental ones within the international legal system according to the provisions of the United Nations Charter and several human rights instruments. This right is as fundamental as territorial integrity, equal sovereignty, and the general prohibition of the use of force. Armenians of Artsakh have continuously and consistently expressed their will for independence since 1991, when they voted in a referendum which resulted in an overwhelming 99.89 percent majority in favor of autonomy. Moreover, they have built democratic institutions and constantly requested to be recognized globally as an independent Republic. So, by referring to it as Artsakh, the State Minister Ruben Vardanyan not only honors the ancient history of the region, but also exercises Artsakh’s right to self-determination as an official representative of the country.

“The entire interview in fact is characterized by assumptions and frameworks that appear to be sourced from Baku. At times, Sackur seems to use social media as the sole source for enormous truth claims, such as that Artsakhsis believe that Vardanyan’s “time as ... state minister has been a disaster.” At one point Sackur names “political scientist” Elkhan Sahinoglu, the head of the Atlas Research Center in Baku, as a source, and quotes him as saying that “Ruben Vardanyan is Moscow’s man in Karabakh.” Sackur seems completely unaware that all research institutions in Azerbaijan, like all media, are under the total control of President Aliyev’s regime. If Sackur is going to mention Azerbaijani propaganda as a source, he has an obligation to let listeners know that there is no freedom of inquiry, research, or speech in Azerbaijan,” it added.

The Institute calls on the British news media to examine possible anti-Armenian bias in its reporting. “We also call on the BBC and other global media outlets to ensure the accuracy of their reporting on the South Caucasus. We further suggest that more media companies focus on educating editors and journalists on laws and approaches related to mass atrocity and its prevention. Finally, it asks that journalists do not propose genocidal outcomes as “realistic options” faced by threatened communities.”

Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression records drop in cases of violence against journalists

The Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression of Armenia released its 2022 report regarding the state of freedom of expression in Armenia and violations of the rights of journalists and media outlets.

According to the report, a significant decrease in cases of physical violence against journalists, as well as pressures against media outlets and their employees was recorded.

Particularly, in 2021 there were 18 recorded cases of physical violence against journalists, in 2022 the number is 14. In 2021, the number of recorded cases of pressures against media outlets and media employees was 108, while in 2022 the number was 55.

“2022 was a bit calmer than 2021,” Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression Chairman Ashot Melikyan said at a



press conference. “Despite tensions and clashes drastically growing in the second quarter, the remaining quarters were calm. The decrease in violence and pressures is conditioned with this. Although, I’d like to mention that this doesn’t at all mean that in case of an escalation of the situation that wave won’t rise again. Institutionally, when we observe it, we see that by and large the approach of the police hasn’t

changed,” Melikyan said.

Negative trends are seen regarding the right to obtain and spread information. In 2022, there were 115 violations of this right, 16 cases more than in 2021. Melikyan said the unnecessary rejection of media requests, unsubstantiated delay in providing information and issuing incomplete or inconsistent replies by state bodies are usually explained by the presence of classified information, which, however, isn’t always substantiated. Melikyan warned that the lack of information, as a rule, only increases the possibility and likelihood of the spread of disinformation.

The committee also expressed concern over the offensive conduct by some officials and law enforcement officers towards journalists.

You cannot erase us: Cher and Eric Esrailian draw the world’s attention to Artsakh blockade



Armenian American superstar Cher (Cherylin Sarkissian) and physician, Emmy-nominated film producer, entrepreneur Eric Esrailian call on political leaders in the United States, and the people of the world who care about justice and decency, to boycott and sanction the murderous regime of Azerbaijan.

“As Armenian Americans, we want to be hopeful about the new year, but the ongoing crisis for the citizens of Artsakh and Armenia makes it difficult to do so. They are enduring a brutal campaign that is currently threatening the lives of over 120,000 men, women and children, and they desperately need the attention of the world to act now and save lives. The barbaric Azerbaijani blockade of the only road

connecting Artsakh to Armenia has cut off the delivery of food and lifesaving supplies. This campaign of ethnic cleansing, and the brazen attempts at cultural erasure, are barbaric,” Cher and Esrailian write in an op-ed published by *Newsweek*.

They note that the war in Ukraine and much of the world’s subsequent efforts to limit the purchase of Russian oil and gas has emboldened Azerbaijan further. Nevertheless, they note, Russia has significant financial interests in Azerbaijan’s oil and gas success.

They remind that Azerbaijan has one of the worst records on human rights and freedom indices in modern times, but apart from cries from academic and human rights circles, this pattern of behavior is deliberately drowned out by millions of dollars spent on tourism commercials, lobbying, sporting event sponsorships, and other machinations.

“Artsakh and Armenia—rare democracies in the region—cannot be sacrificed for convenience or anyone’s political expediency,” the authors write.

“Although clearly meeting the criteria for war crimes by international law, Armenian religious heritage sites have also been

wantonly destroyed, and we know our faith is under attack. Did you know Armenia was the first nation to adopt Christianity in 301 AD? Given the recent pattern of aggression, it has been important for us to also highlight and preserve two of the most historic sites in all of Christendom—the Holy Etchmiadzin Cathedral and the Khor Virap church and monastery complex,” they note.

The Armenian American celebrities ask everyone to take notice of autocratic regimes attacking Armenians with impunity.

“Think twice before turning a blind eye to the facts in order to favor some financially palatable dictators while trying to bypass others. We will keep sharing our stories, helping our brothers and sisters in our homeland, and providing support to protect our sacred structures. In turn, we ask our political leaders in the United States, and the people of the world who care about justice and decency, to boycott and sanction these murderous regimes, to cut off the incessant flow of money to them, and to apply more consistent standards when it comes to championing human rights,” they conclude.

First TUMO Center to open in Portugal this year

The first TUMO center in Portugal will open in Coimbra, one of the country's most historic cities, and home to one of Europe's oldest universities. The center will be located in the city's iconic old postal office building, 2,000 square meters of which will be renovated specially for the TUMO project.

TUMO Coimbra will give 1,500 teens tuition-free access to eight focus areas: 3D modeling, animation, game development, programming, music, graphic design, film-making, and robotics. Registration will open in the second quarter of this year.

"There is a structural need to prepare the next generation for the digital economy. Access to extracurricular education in the areas of tech and design is typically limited to a few students through private classes, and offering it for free promotes equal opportunities for everyone. TUMO's education is uncomplicated and accessible, it's an effective way to create immediate and widespread impact," mentioned Pedro Santa Clara, CEO of *Shaken not Stirred*,

TUMO's partner in Portugal on January



25th during a signing of a MoU with sponsors and partners of the project.

The opening of TUMO Coimbra marks the beginning of a campaign to expand TUMO centers across the country. Shaken not Stirred announced that more centers are expected to open in Portugal in the coming years. TUMO's launch in Portugal is a great example of the unified efforts of community representatives in tech and education; the project's supporters, entrepreneurs, and foundations contributed close to seven million euros to the project.

"When we visited Portugal for an initial set of meetings, we became very passionate about the project, because we saw

the huge potential in the country, coupled with the support of the tech community and the eagerness of young people looking to augment their digital skills. It is today's teenagers that will be called upon to create the future in the decades to come. To us it feels like the right time to invest in the teenagers of Portugal," mentions Pegor Papazian, TUMO head of development.

Over the past five years, TUMO has established centers across Europe, in France, Germany, Switzerland, Albania, Ukraine, and other locations. The next TUMO will open in Los Angeles, with funding from the State of California and in partnership with the city of LA. In 2023, TUMO will also significantly expand its network within Germany and France and is in ongoing discussions to open a center in Italy.

TUMO's international expansion has a significant impact on its mission, as every center that opens abroad helps sustain the operations of the expanded network in Armenia and Artsakh.

ICRC facilitates transfer of three people, including cancer patients, from blockaded Artsakh to Armenia for treatment

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) facilitated the transfer of three patients from blockaded Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) to Armenia for treatment on January 27. Cancer patients are among those transferred, the Ministry of Healthcare of Artsakh said.

"Due to the blocking by Azerbaijan of the only road connecting Artsakh with Armenia, three patients from the Republican Medical Center the Republic of Artsakh with the following diagnoses: Cancer of the antrum of the stomach with damage to the regional lymph nodes, Left breast cancer, Valgus deformity of paired knee, condition



after hemiepiphyodesis, have been transported, on January 27, to specialized medical centers of Armenia with the mediation and escort of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Ministry of Health-

care of Artsakh said in a statement.

Scheduled surgeries continue to be suspended in the medical facilities of the Republic of Artsakh.

9 children remain in the neonatal and intensive care units of the Arevik medical centre.

13 patients remain in the intensive care unit of the Republican Medical Centre, 6 of them in critical condition.

A total of 49 patients have been transported so far from Artsakh to Armenia with the mediation and support of the International Committee of the Red Cross," the Ministry of Healthcare of Artsakh said in a statement.

Yerevan names street after Danish missionary Maria Jacobsen



The 51st street of Arabkir will officially bear the name of Maria Jacobsen, a Danish missionary, philanthropist, and a great friend of the Armenian people. It was thanks to her that the lives of thousands of Armenian children were saved during the Genocide, and the Bird's Nest orphanage became a second home for orphaned Armenian children.

Yerevan's Deputy Mayor Tigran Avinyan and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Denmark to Armenia Anne Toft Sørensen opened the plaque bearing the name of Maria Jacobsen.

"Reflecting on the history of Armenia and the Armenian people, we often remember the trials that befell us and our ancestors. This is natural and right, because it is an integral and important part of our history. At the same time, we must remember the individuals who stood by our people in the most difficult times. The Armenian Genocide was perhaps the most difficult period in our history, and it was then that the Danish missionary Maria Jacobsen came to help the Armenian children, con-

necting her life with the Armenian people, becoming one of us," Tigran Avinyan said.

"By naming one of the streets of Yerevan after Maria Jacobsen, we not only pay tribute to the friend of the Armenian people, but also enshrine her in the pages of our history," he added. Avinyan thanked the descendants of Maria Jacobsen for attending the ceremony.

"It was an honor to participate in this moving inauguration of the 'Maria Jacobsen Street' in Yerevan and meet her descendants and Yerevan city authorities. Maria, a Danish missionary, and her legacy is a testimony to Armenian-Danish historical ties and friendship," Ambassador Anne Toft Sørensen said in a Twitter post.

Aurora's Sunrise: Armenian genocide documentary to open MiradasDoc film festival in Spain



Armenian Genocide documentary *Aurora's Sunrise* will open the MiradasDoc International Documentary Film Festival to be held in Tenerife, Spain, from January 27 to February 4, the Armenian Embassy in Spain informs.

The animated film based on the life story of Aurora (Arshaluys) Martikanyan, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide, was recognized as Best Animated Film at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

It has been screened in several countries of the world within the framework of prestigious international film festivals.

Aurora's Sunrise is directed by Inna Sahakyan, and tells the remarkable story of Aurora Mardiganian, who survived the Armenian Genocide as a teenager, and moved to the United States, where she starred in a 1919 silent Hollywood film based on her

survival of the massacre. LITTLE NICOLAS won the Grand Prize, while MY FATHER'S DRAGON won the Special Jury Prize.

Detailing the life of Aurora Mardiganian, this documentary interweaves testimony, archive footage and animation to tell her story.

The film premiered in competition at Annecy International Animation Film Festival in June 2022. It is a co-production between Armenia's Bars Media, Lithuania's Artbox Laisvalaikio Klubas and Germany's Gebrüder Beetz Filmproduktion.

Tigran Mansurian celebrates 84th birthday

Renowned composer Tigran Mansurian celebrates the 84th birthday on January 27.

Born in Lebanon in 1939, Tigran Mansurian moved with his family back to ancestral Armenia in 1947 and studied at the Yerevan Conservatory, of which he would later become director.

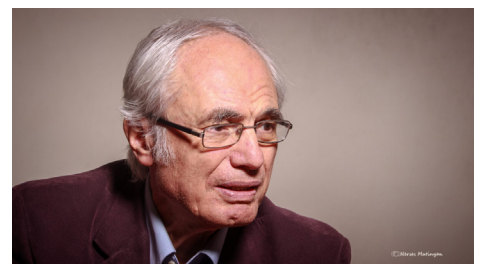
Mansurian's compositions are an interesting mixture of Armenian art music and folk traditions, with bright, expressive melodies and exquisite, impressionistic tone color. His works may be grouped into five categories:

Mansurian is recognized as one of the forerunners of contemporary music in the former USSR, being the first to introduce modern composition techniques in Armenia.

His compositions have been performed to great acclaim in London, Paris, Rome, Milan, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, Moscow, Warsaw, Zagreb, New York, Los Angeles, and other musical capitals of the world.

Mansurian's works can be grouped into five categories: instrumental chamber music (concertos, sonatas, etc., for piano,

strings, and horns), vocal music (both choral and solo), symphonic music (for both full-scale orchestras and chamber orchestras), program music (for motion pictures and stage plays), and ballet.



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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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The publisher: NT Holding LTD
Լրատվական գործունեություն իրականացնող
ԼՏ Հոլդինգ ՍՊԸ

Ծավալը՝ 2.25 մամուլ, տպագրանակը՝ 1500
Circulation: 1500 print copies and
15600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993

President of the NT Media Holding:

TIGRAN HARUTYUNYAN

Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:

GAYANEH ARAKELYAN

Director of the weekly:

MARINA HARUTYUNYAN

Chief Correspondent: **GOURGEN KHAZHAKIAN**

Computer Design: **Ashot Khalapyan**

Համարի թող. պատ.՝ Մ. Հարությունյան

ISSN 1829-0604

Գրանցման վկայականի համար՝
03ԱՑՑ8368, տրված՝ 11.01.2013թ.
Registration certificate and the date:
273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: contact@nt.am

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