

# War Enters Second Week With No End In Sight

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) – According to official Armenian sources, some 3,454 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed in the fighting since September 27 when Azerbaijan launched missiles, artillery shells, and suicide drones against civilian populations in Artsakh’s capital Stepanakert as well as other civilian populations in and around Artsakh, as well as against certain areas of the Republic of Armenia’s town of Vardenis, causing death and injury to dozens of civilians.

Armenian troops of Artsakh wounded 5,000 Azeri soldiers, destroyed 368 tanks and armored vehicles, 4 MLRS Smerch, Uragan, and 3 MLRS TOS-1A, 126 UAVs, 16 helicopters, 17 aircraft.

According to the defense departments of Armenia and Artsakh, more than 220 Armenian servicemen were killed,



Civilians flee bombs in Stepanakert.



A cluster bomb dropped in Stepanakert

several hundred were wounded. As a result of war crimes by Azerbaijan, 21 civilians were killed in Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia and over 80 wounded.

Armenian Minister of Healthcare Arsen Torosyan has voiced about the Azerbaijani military’s war crimes against Artsakh, par-

ticularly the indiscriminate attacks on civilians and health workers. He said ambulances very often come under bombardment and are unable to reach injured civilians.

Speaking at a press conference in the Armenian town of Goris on October 6, Torosyan said the Azeri forces are periodically bombarding with artillery and missile strikes Stepanakert City.

“I personally returned to Armenia from Stepanakert yesterday late in the evening, see WAR, page 4



Community leader Mher Janian oversees the crowd at the Rally for Artsakh

## NY Armenians Rally at UN In Support of Artsakh

**By Taleen Babayan**  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

NEW YORK – As heroic soldiers in the homeland battle on the frontlines to defend Artsakh, Armenians around the diaspora have mobilized to show their solidarity and support of this latest onslaught on the territory and its people. The Rally for Artsakh, that took place at the United Nations on Thursday, October 1, was a peaceful protest demonstration by the New York and New Jersey Armenian communities that condemned Azerbaijani and Turkish aggression.

see RALLY, page 20

## Canada Suspends Drone Technology Sales To Turkey

OTTAWA (Reuters) – Canada has suspended the export of some drone technology to Turkey while it probes allegations the equipment was used by Azeri forces involved in fighting with Armenia, a senior official said on October 5. (See related editorial.)

Project Ploughshares, a Canadian arms control group, says video of air strikes released by Baku indicates the drones had been equipped with imaging and targeting systems made by L3Harris Wescam, the Canada-based unit of L3Harris Technologies Inc.

“In line with Canada’s robust export control regime and due to the ongoing hostilities, I have suspended the relevant export permits to Turkey, so as to allow time to further assess the situation,” said Canadian Foreign Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne.

The *Globe and Mail* said L3Harris Wescam had received permission this year to ship seven systems to Turkish drone maker Baykar. Turkey is a key ally of Azerbaijan, whose forces are fighting Armenians over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

see DRONES, page 6

## AGBU and Hayastan All Armenian Fund Launch Matching Gift Program for Artsakh

NEW YORK – In support of the rapidly growing need for humanitarian relief in Artsakh, the AGBU Board of Directors, in coordination with the Hayastan All Armenian Fund, jointly announced the #AID4ARTSAKH Matching Gift program, open for donations through November 15.

These matched funds will be used exclusively for humanitarian relief and emergency medical equipment in Artsakh and Armenia as a result of the full-scale war unleashed by enemy aggression on September 27, 2020.

see AID, page 5



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 406 New COVID Cases In Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – A total of 406 new cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) have been confirmed in Armenia in the past one day, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 53,083, the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention said on October 6.

As well, 222 more patients have recovered in one day. The total number of recoveries has reached 44,932. Six more patients have died, raising the death toll to 990.

### Yerevan Allocates Funds for Artsakh

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Yerevan city council on October 6 approved the allocation of 100,000,000 drams (\$204,000) to Stepanakert to help in rebuilding the capital of Artsakh that has been heavily bombarded in Azerbaijani attacks since September 27.

The decision was approved unanimously at an emergency meeting of the Yerevan City Council.

The money will be allocated from the 2020 Yerevan city budget’s reserve fund for “the capital reconstruction of civilian infrastructures and facilities.”

### War Unacceptable For Russia, Official Says

YEREVAN (Arka) – The Southern Caucasus may become a new foothold for militants from international terror groups, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) head Sergey Naryshkin said in a statement, published by the SVR press service Tuesday, October 6, Tass reported.

“The escalating standoff in Karabakh attracts militants from various international terror groups like a magnet,” Naryshkin underscored.

“We cannot stay unconcerned over the fact that Southern Caucasus may become a new foothold for the international terror groups, which would allow the militants to infiltrate other states bordering Azerbaijan and Armenia, including Russia,” he said.

“According to the SVR information, mercenaries from international terror group, such as the Nusra Front, the Firqat al-Hamza, the Sultan Murad Division, fighting in the Middle East, as well as Kurdish extremist groups actively converge in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict area,” Naryshkin said.

Naryshkin said the current escalation causes particular concerns not only by its scale, but also by qualitatively different effect of external factors.

“It is the first time that Turkey acts in favor of Azerbaijan so openly and unambiguously,” Naryshkin noted. At the same time, he expressed his certainty that the sides to the conflict will be able to cease hostilities and return to negotiations.

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### More War Coverage

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## CSTO Yerevan Exercises Cancelled

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The military exercises of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) planned in Armenia for late October have been postponed and the new timeframe and location are being agreed upon, the security bloc's spokesperson Vladimir Zaynetdinov announced.

He said the events were postponed due to the coronavirus situation in Armenia.

"The issue of the location and timeframes of holding these exercises is being discussed with CSTO member states," Zaynetdinov said.

In addition, Armenia will not participate to another CSTO exercise — "Unbreakable Brotherhood-2020" from October 12 to 16 in Belarus.

The Armenian Defense Ministry spokesperson Shushan Stepanyan said Armenia won't take part in the Unbreakable Brotherhood-2020 exercises due to the situation at the line of contact.

## Nicholas Aznavour Calls On World Leaders to Stand with Artsakh

PARIS (Panorama.am) — Nicholas Aznavour, the son of singer Charles Aznavour, wrote an open letter to the world leaders to stand with Armenia against terrorism, *Nouvelles d'Arménie* reports.

"The last seven days have been difficult, tragic, challenging but full of hope and desire to live. We wake up with hope that war is over and go to sleep with the hope that this was the last day," the message said.

"As my father Charles Aznavour loved to say, he was 100-percent Armenian and 100-percent French. And Armenia has always been important for him and my family, which has become a reason for me to join my father in creating the Aznavour Foundation.

"Today more than ever I am calling on leaders of these and other states to stand with a small and brave nation fighting against terrorism.

"My ancestors survived the Armenian Genocide 100 years ago, but today Turkey wants to commit yet another atrocity at the hands of Azerbaijan and terrorist mercenaries."

"The Aznavour Foundation stands with the Armenian people, we have united our forces to provide humanitarian aid and are ready to support with anything that is in our capacity. Even though Armenians are dispersed all around the world, we are one nation and one people and we must stand together in the face of adversity," the letter said.

## Aurora Founders Donate \$2 Million for Armenia, Artsakh

YEREVAN — The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative founders, Nubar Afeyan, Vartan Gregorian and Ruben Vardanyan, this week announced a commitment of \$2 million to cover immediate needs in Armenia and Artsakh and to secure funding to provide educational and other support for the young generation of the two Armenian republics.

"We are deeply alarmed and saddened by the large-scale military action unleashed against Artsakh and the outburst of armed conflict in the region. These violent attacks carried out by Azerbaijan with the support of Turkey constitute a gross violation of international law. We condemn in the strongest terms the escalation of violence by targeting civilians with large caliber weapons and attacks on the civilian infrastructure," stated the co-founders.

"We never imagined that Armenians would need support to survive aggressions in modern times, as we do today. We thank all those who are lending a hand at this time of extreme need."

The Afeyan, Gregorian and Vardanyan families are donating \$1 million to Hayastan All Armenian Fund. In addition, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and UWC Dilijan School announced the establishment of a \$1-million special fund and the launch of international fundraising campaigns to secure further funding which will be used for initiatives focused on education and well-being of Armenian children affected by the war.

# Armenian Gandzak: Historical Background

By Henrik Bakhchinyan

Translated by Artsvi Bakhchinyan from the Armenian 2018 original published in Azg.

Gandzak (from the Armenian word *gandz* - treasure; Persian-Turkish pronunciation is *Ganja*) is located in the Utik province of Greater Armenia. It is both historically and geographically part of the eastern region of Armenia, in particular, the historical Gardmank and Northern or Plains Artsakh provinces.

Naturally, the main information about Gandzak is provided by Armenian sources. According to them, the city was founded in 846 and was surrounded by many Armenian villages and monasteries. The Dasno monastery, built earlier (in 751), where the great scholar, writer, Mkhitar Gosh (1130-1213) wrote his "Judgment Book" codex, was especially famous.

Thanks to Armenian creative builders, skilled merchants and talented educational and cultural figures, Gandzak quickly developed and became the administrative and economic and spiritual center of the region, which Armenian historians (Vardan Areveltsi, Kirakos Gandzaketsi) called "Gandzak Hayots" (Gandzak of the Armenians/Armenian Gandzak) or "Gandzak Arani" (Gandzak of Aran).

From the end of the 9th century to the 12th century, the See of the Armenian Catholicosate of Aghvan (Caucasian Albania) was established in Gandzak. The city was first included in the Bagratuni kingdom, then, like other provinces and cities of Armenia, was subjected to raids and domination by the Arabs, then the Seljuk Turks.

At the end of the 12th century and the beginning of the next century, Gandzak was liberated from the Seljuks and was included in the Zakarid Armenia principality, becoming, according to the sources, a rich and strong fortress-city with Armenian population.

During this period, the region was destined to play a very significant role in the life of Armenian people. When the Turkish Seljuk raids stopped the first renaissance movement in the Christian world, particularly in Gandzak and its surrounding educational and cultural centers, a new life-giving wave of Armenian education and culture spread throughout Armenia. Let us remember the most prominent ones from the many writers and figures descended from there: Hovhannes Sarkavag Imastaser — a theologian, philosopher, historian, calendarist, hymn writer, art theorist, who especially pushed the Armenian aesthetic thought forward; major legists David Alavka Vordi and Mkhitar Gosh, who was also the founder of Armenian fable writing and raised Armenian legal thought to an unprecedented level; and famous historians Kirakos Gandzaketsi and Vardan Areveltsi, who brought medieval Armenian historiography to a qualitatively new level ...

Unfortunately, the finest hour of Gandzak did not last very long. In 1236 the city was destroyed by the Tatar-Mongols. Nevertheless, Armenian educational and cultural life continued in the surrounding monasteries. Many manuscripts are known, which were copied in the 14th-15th centuries "in the land of Gandzak."

Gandzak was rebuilt in the 16th century and passed to Safavid Persia as a separate khanate center until the beginning of the 19th century. During this period, according to Armenian and other sources, the population of Gandzak and its environs was mainly (if not entirely) Armenians. They continued to develop their homeland, building many civic and church buildings. Thus, in 1633, St. John

the Baptist Armenian Cathedral was built in Gandzak. The Armenian churches of Holy Saviour, Holy Mother of God, Saint Sargis, and Saint Thaddeus are 18th century structures.

From 1804 onward, Gandzak was included in the Russian Empire. It was renamed Elizavetpol and later became the center of the province of the same name. During this period, too, the number of Armenians in and around Gandzak formed the majority. According to statistics, about 400,000 Armenians lived in Elizavetpol-Gandzak province. The Armenians of Gandzak continued their prosperous national educational and cultural life. There were Armenian schools, theater groups, books and newspapers were published, some churches were rebuilt, and a new one, St. Gregory



St. John the Baptist Church

the Illuminator Church was built.

Gradually, especially after the Armenian-Tatar massacres of 1905-1906, which took many lives, the number of Armenians in Elizavetpol-Gandzak province decreased considerably, and the number of Oghuz Turks increased. This tribe, that has penetrated the territories of Aghvank and the Eastern Armenia along with the Seljuks, were called Caucasian Tatars or Caucasian Turks.

In 1918, when the artificial Musavat Republic of Azerbaijan was formed, a number of settlements of historical Armenia, including Gandzak, were included in it. Especially with the support of the Ottoman Turks who invaded the Transcaucasia, in order to create a new Turkish state, that fake country was handed over to their Caucasian Tatars, who were later called Azeris.

The Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan not only affirmed Gandzak as part of its territory, along with the whole Northern Artsakh, but also appropriated Mountainous Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh in Soviet formulation) and Nakhichevan. Elizavetpol-Gandzak was renamed Ganja, then Kirovabad (in 1935), which became the second city of the republic. In Soviet times it was still full of Armenians. It had a population of about 40,000 Armenians who, despite national legal restrictions and pressures, continued their Armenian national life. It is noteworthy that a number of buildings in the city were created by the designs of Armenian architects. The city had Armenian schools, press; in 1935-1949 there was an Armenian theater.

In 1988, when the Artsakh liberation movement began in Nagorno Karabakh and Armenian SSR, after the massacres of the Armenians in Sumgait city of Azerbaijan, the Armenian-populated districts of Kirovabad-Gandzak were also attacked; massacres and destructions began. Only due to a well-organized self-defense did most of the local Armenians escape physical destruction and move to Armenia and Artsakh. Armenian Gandzak was completely emptied of Armenians, and especially after the liberation of Nagorno Karabakh, in already apparently Turkified Gandzak (which was again renamed Ganja) and its environs, as well as in all settlements of Azerbaijan in general, all Armenian

traces began to be eliminated through state programs.

Through monstrous historical falsification, which started in Soviet times, Baku historians considered all the Armenian chroniclers from Utik-Artsakh to be of Caucasian Albanian or Azeri (!!!) origin, and the local churches were considered Albanian. However, many Armenian churches did not escape destruction. The hands that smashed thousands of khachkars in Jugha (Julfa), also destroyed or damaged the churches of Gandzak and its environs. Thus, Azeri vandals completely destroyed the churches of Holy Saviour, Holy Mother of God and St. Thaddeus. The St. John the Baptist Cathedral, where the Armenian liturgy was celebrated until 1988, was turned into a club, desecrated by mughams, after the Armenian inscriptions were removed.

St. Sargis Church was renovated in Turkish style and turned into a museum. As for St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, as it withstood Turkish artillery volleys in 1918 and could not be destroyed, by erasing all the Armenian symbols, it became called Albanian (about this see

Samvel Karapetyan's book *Northern Artsakh* (Armenian-language, Yerevan, 2004).

It should be noted that the destructive hand of the Turks hit the local Persian culture as well. According to the most accepted opinion (which is nonetheless disputable), Nizami, a great Persian poet, was born and lived in Gandzak. A mausoleum was built in his traditional shrine in 1947 by the design of Armenian and Russian architects. For a long time, the Azeris appropriated the greatest Persian classic poet that had not written a single line in Turkish, and moreover, despised the Turkish language (due to their petrodollars the Azeris even erected his statue in the park of Villa Borghese in Rome in 2012 as a great Azerbaijani poet). The Azeris also sought to replace Persian inscriptions on the shrine with Turkish ones.

This infuriated Iran a lot. In an official protest Bahman Dari, the Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Orientation of Iran said: "Having no cultural values, Azerbaijan is forced to attribute to itself the values of other countries. Such a step by Azerbaijan cannot be called anything, but cultural theft" (see Azg daily, 2013, No. 151). Meanwhile, when Azerbaijan, in incomparable proportions, not only stole, but also ruthlessly destroyed Armenian cultural values, the world remained and still remains indifferent.

It is sad and symbolic that today Kars and Smyrna, which suffered the same fate, are declared sister cities of Gandzak. At the same time, I must say that the warm feelings we have for our cherished places in Kars, Mush, Van and Western Armenia in general, should also be directed to the occupied territories of Armenian Gandzak and all the Eastern Armenian sites too, as integral parts of our homeland. Therefore, it is necessary to know well and keep alive the historical memory of the lost homeland, so to be ready and competent to make up for our losses in case of opportune time. In the case of Gandzak during the Artsakh liberation war, there was such an opportunity, which, unfortunately, we could not use.

I am sure that the future will provide new opportunities for the return of our losses. The witness of it is liberated Artsakh.



## ARMENIA

# Karabakh Refugees Find Food And Shelter in Goris Hotels

**By Mateos Hayes**

*Special to the Mirror-Spectator*

GORIS, Armenia — In the wake of renewed hostilities in Artsakh, scores of refugees have taken flight across the border into Armenia to escape the fighting. Predominantly women and children, these refugees come principally from communities such as Martuni, Berdashen, and Mghanz, all of which lie close to Artsakh's border with Azerbaijan. Most of these families have been forced to leave quickly, leaving behind their homes and many of their belongings. In addition, these families had to flee Artsakh without their fathers and adult male relatives that have stayed in Artsakh to fight.

Some of these displaced families have found refuge in cities such as Goris. In anticipation of a refugee influx, Goris' municipal government prepared to accommodate people from Artsakh. Hotels were instructed to prepare their facilities to receive incoming families, and arrangements were made so that Goris residents could easily donate food, clothing, and other necessities to families from Artsakh. Local efforts, including food drives, and donation drives to purchase clothing and other goods are being undertaken.

Shahen Zetuntchian, the proprietor of Goris' Mirhav Hotel, was one of the hoteliers charged with hosting and providing for incoming refugees. Zetuntchian is a hayrenadarts, a member of the diaspora who has returned to Armenia. "The evacuees [from Artsakh] are under mental and physical stress, which they have lived with for years. So, they need a lot of help and solidarity," explained Zetuntchian. "Artsakh is part of Armenian history, and it is necessary for us to push for the recognition of that fact," he added.

Zetuntchian recognized the important role

played by hotels in housing refugees. However, he stressed that housing evacuees in hotels is only a temporary solution: "Many children here are in a bad situation. They have endured shock and emotional stress, and they will require more care and support than a hotel can provide." This was a sentiment shared by Gayane Martirosyan,



Clothes collected in a donation drive at the Mirhav Hotel.

the hotel's manager, who added: "We also have a concern that if we have a problem [in Goris], how will we evacuate people from here?"

Zetuntchian also pointed to the long-term challenges of keeping everyone adequately fed but expressed his appreciation that the "people of Goris and neighboring villages have been very helpful, bringing clothes, food, and other necessities." The hotelier also pointed to the good work done by the local government to organize donations and accommodations for refugees. Martirosyan agreed that the local government had been quite active but opined that the national government needed to do more to match government efforts at the local level.

When asked about how members of the diaspora could help Armenia and Artsakh during this trying time, Zetuntchian replied: "The war permeates all walks of life, including the diaspora. I



A family from Artsakh dines in Goris (Courtesy of Loucine Sahakyan)

would ask [the diaspora] to send money to humanitarian causes. More should be done to make it easier for members of the diaspora to donate directly to the development of schools and housing in specific cities."

"We are a poor land and we need all the help we can get," said Zetuntchian.

## A Refugee's Account

Among the evacuees sheltering in the Mirhav Hotel was Inna Gevorgyan, a 43-year-old housewife from Martuni. Gevorgyan was forced to flee with her two underage children, while her son, son-in-law, and husband all stayed behind to defend Artsakh. Gevorgyan was visibly shaken and upset, and was reluctant to be interviewed, stating: "Why should I be interviewed? The world does not care about us. They didn't care in the 1990s and they don't care now. We have always been on our own in this fight." Gevorgyan pointed to another evacuee whose house blew up before her eyes. This woman, along with several other refugees in Goris, declined to be interviewed.

Gevorgyan's house was destroyed in the fighting during the 1990s, but she and her husband worked hard to rebuild their lives. However, the hardships of war returned with cruel swiftness in the wake of the latest attack, as Gevorgyan's house was destroyed again, hit by shellfire whilst her husband worked in the yard.

Miraculously, nobody was harmed in this incident, but it became clear that the family was being uprooted again by conflict. Gevorgyan was able to flee with the help of a relative, who put her, her children, and twenty-three other evacuees in his car. "We left with no shoes and no proper clothes. Just what we had on at the time," said Gevorgyan, who was still dressed in her slippers and a bathroom robe. Gevorgyan expressed her gratitude for the people of Goris, saying, "They have given us food and a good place to stay, and we are very thankful and grateful." When asked what the one thing was that would help her in this trying time, Gevorgyan simply said "peace."

"We should pray for our army and for us to endure and end this stupid war. God is our supporter," she exclaimed.

# Artsakh Representative to US Calls for Continued Support by Compatriots

**By Aram Arkun**

*Mirror-Spectator Staff*

STEPANAKERT — Robert Avetisyan, Permanent Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the United States, is usually based in Washington, but he was in Stepanakert as the current attacks by Azerbaijan unfolded.

Speaking on September 30 from Stepanakert, Avetisyan said that naturally the normal pace of life in the capital of Karabakh (Artsakh) cannot be maintained now. Though things are calmer there than at the frontlines, the city can be reached by the Azerbaijani armed forces. There have been drone attacks and artillery shelling from time to time. Avetisyan said, "The good thing is that the civil defense system is working very well. We have notifications right away, which are very loud, so that everybody, no matter where you are, hears the sounds."

The shelters have been improved compared to the period of bombardments of Stepanakert during the war in the early 1990s. Avetisyan said that people go in the shelters and stay there until the sirens go off. This is okay during the day, he said, but to run to shelters at night four or five times is a different story.

The attacks on the capital, he speculated, were dependent in part on the successes of the Artsakh army on the frontlines, and on weather, when it comes to Azerbaijan's use of attack drones. Initially, perhaps they were an attempt to instigate panic and fear but that has not worked. Also, the city is now packed with foreign journalists from all over the world from the top media outlets, which might be giving Azerbaijanis second thoughts about attacking Stepanakert, though many of these journalists have already heard the sirens and seen the drone attacks.

The majority of the male population up to 55 years old are either on the frontlines or are waiting their turn in the reserves, Avetisyan related. While women are not mobilized in this way, there are female contract servicewomen, and volunteers, and unfortunately there have already been at least two female military victims.

In the villages or provinces, there is no centralized evacuation, but everything is up to the local populace. Avetisyan said that in places indiscriminately fired upon by the Azerbaijanis, some people try to remain if they feel secure, while others may escape from Azerbaijani attacks to elsewhere in Artsakh or Armenia. Avetisyan said, "Human security is number one for us. If people wish to relocate, they are free to do so, as there are no barriers to that. But we are proud that many decide to stay and support the troops as much as possible."

The use of greater modern technology has changed the nature of the conflict. Avetisyan said, "Even civilians cannot walk in the streets in small groups because they will be an easy target for drones or rockets at one shot." All types of weaponry, including long-range artillery, drones, helicopters, jets and even flamethrower missiles which spread fire after exploding are being used, but dozens and dozens of such military equipment are being neutralized, declared Avetisyan.

The army has all the necessary equipment to handle these attacks, Avetisyan explained. On the one hand, the military industry of Armenia has developed greatly, and prepares certain items from start to finish. Other items are purchased elsewhere, and sometimes modified.

At present, he said, all medical facilities are involved in the war situation and as of now doctors have everything they need. If a patient is in a particularly serious state, he can be transported to Yerevan. While some drones

came close to hospitals and other civilian structures, they were shot down before they could do any damage to them, Avetisyan related.

COVID-19 is another challenge, with masks and sanitizers as omnipresent as anywhere else in the world. However, Avetisyan said, sometimes when there is a strike half a mile away, many people may not think about it while rushing to their basement. In the army, taking appropriate measures is possible but very inconvenient, and in the battlefield, naturally social distancing cannot be maintained. Consequently, no one knows what the effects on the spread of the novel coronavirus will be after this is all over.

Though it is the season for agriculture, and so many are economically suffering right now, there is no shortage of food or supplies, according to Avetisyan, and the projects of creating modern roads inside Artsakh, and linking Artsakh to Armenia through the Armenia Fund are now showing their full utility.

Overall, Avetisyan declared, "This is the type of war, unfortunately, where they are striking any object or civilian building, anything and everything that they can hit. It is very strange for us that there does not seem to be a proper understanding of the scale of this conflict. Many are saying that a largescale war must be prevented, but this is already a largescale war. It is the largest the entire region has seen since 1994. If the world can do something, it is never too late, but they should have done something much earlier."

It is hard to say how it will end, Avetisyan said, but he noted that the president of the Karabakh Republic said they were preparing for fighting as long as it takes. The presence of mercenaries is not different from the situation in the early 1990s, Avetisyan said, but their only threat is as propaganda. The unprecedented direct Turkish involvement on the side of Azerbaijan, on the other hand, and its insti-

gating role, is very dangerous, he said, though it is also testimony to the disappointment Turkey must have in the military capabilities of Azerbaijan.

The Turkish involvement and the continuation of genocidal attitudes towards Armenians, he said, make it impossible for this country to continue as a member of the mediating OSCE Minsk Group. On the other hand, he stressed, as the Artsakh Foreign Ministry has stated, this is the right time for the international community to recognize Artsakh as a sovereign state, which will help move the conflict from the battlefield into the diplomatic realm.

The Azerbaijani media is providing propaganda and fake news, so Avetisyan urged Armenians abroad to rely on Armenian news sources. At the same time, he expressed his appreciation to those who contributed to the Armenia Fund, which is working to intensify its humanitarian efforts. (Those who wish to do so can go online to <https://armeniafund.ejoinme.org/donate>).

The messages and support from Armenian and non-Armenian friends throughout the world has been palpable, Avetisyan said. In particular, he declared: "We feel the involvement and support of the worldwide Armenian community, particularly when we are thinking about the Armenian community in the United States. We appreciate it and are inspired by the unity which we have been seeing." The fight which is being fought now on the frontlines echoes in all major capitals and countries where Armenians have a presence, he said, and what is important is that they are continuing the pressure for political statements to turn into actions and actions into concrete results.

He concluded that the current situation is an existential threat to the Armenian nation, which must be ready for any development, even the most difficult scenarios.



## ARMENIA



Armenian Government (AFP)

A view shows aftermath of recent shelling in Stepanakert, October 4, 2020 (RFE/RL Photo)

# Karabakh War Enters Second Week

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and this was my third visit since the attacks began," he said. "The adversary is striking civilian, especially infrastructure facilities, disrupting the normal life of the civilian population. The fully mobilized medical community of Artsakh, as well as our colleagues who have left to Artsakh from Armenia to support them, are sometimes unable to provide help to people in need because Stepanakert and other cities are in permanent air raid alert and bombardment. Even ambulance vehicles are unable to reach the citizens who require medical assistance," Torosyan said.

Torosyan said he personally witnessed an Azeri missile strike that hit very close to the Republican Hospital of Stepanakert. He said the explosion from the strike rocked the hospital building.

"The strike could've very likely hit the hospital. We, the medical personnel, upon witnessing the Azerbaijani military-political leadership's intentions, have an impression that a direct, deliberate strike on medical infrastructure can't be ruled out. This is a war crime against the peaceful population," Torosyan said.

"Destroyed residential buildings, various civilian infrastructures that have been leveled to the ground – this is the situation there. We stand by our compatriots no matter what. The entire medical community of Armenia and Artsakh has set aside the less essential work and is dealing with the evacuation and treatment of those wounded.

## Rising International Voices

Armenia welcomed on October 6 the latest calls for an "immediate and unconditional" halt to hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone made by France, Russia and the United States.

In a joint statement issued on Monday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Foreign Ministers Sergei Lavrov of Russia and Jean-Yves Le Drian of France condemned "in the strongest terms" the escalation of violence and, in particular, "disproportionate" shelling of civilian areas.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry hailed the statement, saying that the strong condemnation applies to Azerbaijan's "unprecedented massive targeting of the civilian population and



Destruction of buildings in Stepanakert

said the ministry.

As of Tuesday morning, the Azerbaijani government did not react to the joint appeal by the top U.S., Russian and French diplomats. Baku has until now made the end of the hostilities conditional on Armenian withdrawal from Karabakh.

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad on October 6 joined Armenia and France in accusing Turkey of sending Syrian rebel fighters to fight in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone on Azerbaijan's side.

Assad also blamed Ankara and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in particular for the war in Karabakh that erupted on September 27.

"They [the Turks] are the ones who started this conflict," he told the Russian RIA Novosti news agency. "They encouraged this conflict."

"We can say for sure that they have been using terrorists of Syrian and other nationalities in Nagorno-Karabakh," he said.

In recent weeks Western media and Syrian opposition sources have quoted members of Islamist rebel groups in areas of northern Syria under Turkish control as saying that they are deploying to Azerbaijan in coordination with the Turkish government. Most of them have given financial reasons for agreeing to participate in hostilities in and around Karabakh.

Armenia has seized upon those reports and presented its own purported evidence of Syrian mercenaries recruited by Ankara.

France has also alleged such deployment, with President Emmanuel Macron saying that at least 300 "Syrian fighters from jihadist groups" were flown from Turkey to Azerbaijan ahead of the flare-up of violence in Karabakh.

Russia has similarly expressed serious concern over the reported presence of Middle Eastern "terrorists and mercenaries" in the Karabakh conflict zone and demanded their "immediate withdrawal from the region."

Asked to comment on the reports, Assad said: "Definitely we can confirm it. Not because we have evidence. Sometimes if you don't have evidence you have indications."

"Turkey used those terrorists coming from different countries in Syria. They used the same method in Libya. They used Syrian terrorists in Libya, maybe with other nationalities," he told RIA Novosti.

"So it's self-evident and very much probable that they are using them in Nagorno-Karabakh," added the Syrian leader.

Assad's regime has been at odds with Ankara but strongly backed by Moscow throughout the Syrian civil war.

(Continues on next page)



Artsakh President Arayik Harutyunyan, second from right, oversees military plans.

He displayed shrapnel from the prohibited cluster munitions that are used by the Azeris to bombard the cities in Artsakh. Torosyan said the Azeri forces are firing the banned munitions at virtually everything.

infrastructure" in Karabakh.

"We once again stress that there is no alternative to the peaceful settlement and the peace process, and any attempt to resolve the conflict by military means will be resolutely averted,"



ARMENIA



Armenians from Karabakh in Goris

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov commented on Assad’s statements later in the day. “We attentively familiarize ourselves with all statements by heads of state,” he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reacted cautiously to Macron’s claims backed up by Western media reports. “I hope it’s not the case,” Pompeo told reporters on Friday.

“We saw Syrian fighters taken from the battlefields in Syria to Libya,” he said. “That created more instability, more turbulence, more conflict, more fighting, less peace. I think it would do the same thing in the conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh as well. So I hope that reporting proves inaccurate.”

Commenting on Turkish involvement in the Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute, Pompeo said Washington disapproves of “third parties bringing ammunitions, weapon systems, even just advisors and allies” to the conflict zone.

Pashinyan gave several international interviews, including with the *Globe and Mail* (Canada), France 24, the *New York Times* and *Le Monde* (France) and *Bild* (Germany).

He actively linked Turkey’s involvement with the Armenian Genocide of a century ago.

“Azerbaijani-Turkish bandits are not here to deal with Karabakh or the Karabakh issue. They have not come with the objective of capturing villages, cities. Their key target is the Armenian nation. And they have set themselves the task of bringing to completion #ArmenianGenocide,” he wrote on Twitter on October 4.

In an interview with the French daily *Le Figaro*, he said Armenia has proof that Turkey is supporting Azerbaijan militarily.

**Armenians Deny Targeting Civilians**

Artsakh says it would under no circumstances resort to targeting the civilian population of Azerbaijan.

“Because we aren’t like them, but we know how to break their terrorist army,” Artsakh presidential spokesperson Vahram Poghosyan said, strongly ruling out the Artsakh army’s targeting of peaceful civilians amid their own civilians being under heavy Azeri fire.

“And our rocket strikes at military facilities of Azerbaijan which are located in large cities

aren’t yet subject to disclosure,” he said, adding that details could be released after the war.

He said that these strikes at Azeri military facilities have “neutralized large numbers of military reserve forces.”

On October 6, the Azeri forces again started to bombard Stepanakert City, the capital of Artsakh. The capital city of Artsakh has come under numerous attacks since the Azeri offensive began on September 27. Civilian casualties and heavy damages to civil infrastructure have occurred.

“In case of further escalations, the entire responsibility will be borne by the military-political leadership of Azerbaijan,” Armenia’s Defense Ministry Spokesperson Shushan Stepanyan wrote on Facebook.

The Armenian side said Azerbaijani forces launched a “large-scale attack” at the southernmost section of the “line of contact” bordering Iran. Stepanyan said that Karabakh Armenian forces are “methodically” destroying “enemy capabilities.”

Stepanian reported about an hour later that

the Azerbaijani army resumed rocket strikes on the Karabakh capital Stepanakert. Earlier in the day she strongly denied Baku’s claims that the Armenians are again shelling civilian areas of Azerbaijan.

It also emerged that Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan visited Karabakh on Monday, October 5, for the first time since the start of the war. A short video released by the Armenian government showed Pashinyan meeting with Karabakh’s top political and military leaders and discussing the situation on the frontlines.

Turkish FM in Baku

Visiting Baku on Tuesday, October 6, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavusoglu reaffirmed Ankara’s strong support for Azerbaijani military operations along the Armenian-Azerbaijani “line of contact” around Karabakh.

“Turkey and the Turkish people are ready to provide any assistance to Azerbaijan in any sphere if need be,” Çavusoglu was reported to say at a meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

Speaking in Azerbaijan’s capital Baku, the Turkish FM again voiced support for Azerbaijan, indirectly confirming that Ankara is no longer covering up its involvement in war crimes committed against Artsakh’s civilian population.

Çavusoglu also criticized the OSCE Minsk Group for what he described as not having a clear plan for settling the conflict, ignoring the Co-Chairmanship’s recent efforts for preventing bloodshed and calls for non-intervention of third parties.

(Stories from RFE/RL, Armenpress, Panorama.am and Arka were used in compiling this report.)



Students and their teacher continue lessons at a Stepanakert bunker.

AGBU and Hayastan All Armenian Fund Launch Matching Gift Program for Artsakh

AID, from page 1

To generate momentum behind this time-sensitive initiative, AGBU has already made available \$1 million to the Hayastan All Armenian Fund with the commitment to make a matching contribution of up to \$5 million, depending on total gifts received between now and the campaign deadline.

AGBU is prepared to match up to \$5 million raised during the campaign window which will apply for any individual donation up to \$100,000. This raises the stakes even higher

for a generous outpouring from all Armenians who wish to see their support work twice as hard to save Armenian lives on and off the battlefield.

“During this very critical stage in the defense effort, AGBU’s matching gift opportunity will maximize funding when food and supplies for civilians and life-saving medical equipment for injured soldiers are depleting fast,” stated Hayastan All Armenian Fund Executive Director Haykak Arshamyan. “The infusion of \$1 million out of the gate, with the

prospect of increasing that sum tenfold, should inspire every last Armenian worldwide to act without delay.”

AGBU’s Berge Setrakian described this initiative as a “foregone conclusion.” He noted that considering the gravity and severity of the need among those in harm’s way, whether civilians confined to bomb shelters or injured soldiers in dire medical distress, there is “no question about what we are called to do at this dark hour.”

To rush support for emergency relief in

Artsakh, donors are encouraged to give online to AGBU, which will release the funds directly to the Hayastan All Armenian Fund as each \$500,000 is generated. To qualify for the AGBU match, donations must be made directly to AGBU. To contribute, go to [www.agbu.org/aid4artsakh](http://www.agbu.org/aid4artsakh) or [giving@agbu.org](mailto:giving@agbu.org) for wire transfers. Donations may also be made to local AGBU offices.

For more information about this limited time matching program, contact [giving@agbu.org](mailto:giving@agbu.org)



## INTERNATIONAL

## International News

## Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem Urges Halt of Arms Sales to Azerbaijan

JERUSALEM — Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, personally asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel in a letter to halt arms sale to Azerbaijan.

“Remember Mr. Prime Minister that Nagorno-Karabakh historically was part of Armenia until the day when Stalin decided to give it with Nakhichevan, another Armenian region, to Soviet Azerbaijan. However, we understand for Israel to have fair and friendly ties with Azerbaijan, but not to the extent of supplying the aggressor with modern war equipment to further encourage Azerbaijan to disturb the fragile peace they have. However, acting militarily in favor of Azerbaijan to flare up the war in the region is surely indicates that Israel is against for the success of the stale peace process to succeed. Further, Israel’s present stand ironically indicates that Israel has an unfavorable attitude towards Armenia and the Armenian people who experienced the First Genocide of the 20th century.”

He added, “Today two nations, Turkey and Azerbaijan, are destined together to wipe out Armenians from their homeland and, sadly, your country aggressively is helping them to achieve their united goal.”

## Russian, Iranian Foreign Ministers Discuss War

MOSCOW (Armenpress) — Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Lavrov and Foreign Minister of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif had a phone conversation on Tuesday, October 6, emphasizing that a diplomatic settlement of Nagorno Karabakh conflict has no alternative.

During the conversation the sides expressed deep concerns of Moscow and Tehran over the unprecedented escalation in Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone. They emphasized the danger posed by the involvement of illegal armed groups and extremists from Syria and Libya in the conflict. The FM’s shared the opinion that there is no alternative to the diplomatic settlement of the conflict, which should start from cessation of hostilities without preconditions.

## PACE Official Asks Turkey to Stop Inflammatory Rhetoric

STRASBOURG (Armenpress) — The Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE) Monitoring Committee, Michael Aastrup Jensen, has called on Turkey to stop inflammatory rhetoric, as well as reported direct involvement in the conflict Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

“I am sad and angry about the tragic loss of lives, both civilian and military, caused by the new outbreak of hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan. These hostilities are escalating rapidly into an all-out war which seriously threatens the stability of the region,” said Jensen.

“At a meeting yesterday, the Monitoring Committee discussed these deeply worrying developments in the presence of Armenian and Azerbaijani parliamentarians, and urged both countries to fully honor their obligations to the Council of Europe and to respect the European Convention on Human Rights. It called on both states to agree on an immediate ceasefire without preconditions and to return to the negotiating table under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Conference. There is no alternative to a peaceful resolution of this conflict,” added Jensen.

“I again recall that when becoming members of the Council of Europe, both countries committed themselves to resolve their disputes in a peaceful manner. That obligation, which is incumbent upon all member states, also means that all member states should refrain from any actions or discourse which encourage belligerent states to resolve their disputes by force. In that respect the members of the committee deplored inflammatory rhetoric by Turkey, as well as reported direct involvement in the conflict, and called upon it to cease so immediately,” he concluded.

# Canada Suspends Its Drone Technology Sales To Turkey

DRONES, from page 1

Separately, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told reporters he had asked Champagne to travel to Europe “to discuss with our allies the developments in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, particularly in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

He did not give more details and an aide to Champagne said the exact itinerary had not yet been worked out.

The federal government is suspending the export of sophisticated Canadian drone technology to Turkey while Ottawa investigates claims that it is being used by the Azerbaijani military against Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, Foreign Affairs Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said Monday.

Champagne was responding to calls by Canada’s Armenian community and the disarmament group Ploughshares International to stop the export of Canadian drone optics and laser targeting systems to Turkey following reports that Ankara has deployed dozens of unmanned aircraft in combat against Armenian forces in the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Kelsey Gallagher, an expert with Project Ploughshares who has studied exports of Canadian drone technology to Turkey, said these sensors are used by Turkish TB2 Bayraktar combat drones, allowing them to see what’s

happening on the ground day and night, in all weather conditions.

Armenia has accused Turkey of using TB2 Bayraktar combat drones left behind in Azerbaijan following recent joint exercises to pummel Armenian forces from the air, collect intelligence and direct artillery and missile fire at both military positions and civilian infrastructure.

“Canada continues to be concerned by the ongoing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh resulting in shelling of communities and civilian casualties,” Champagne said.

“We call for measures to be taken immediately to stabilize the situation on the ground and reiterate that there is no alternative to a peaceful, negotiated solution to this conflict.”

Speaking at a press conference this morning in Ottawa, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that he is sending Champagne to Europe “to discuss with our allies the developments in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, particularly in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

Armenia’s embassy in Ottawa welcomed Champagne’s announcement.

“This acknowledges Turkey’s direct involvement in the aggression against the people of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) perpetrated by Azerbaijan,” Armenia’s ambassador in Canada, Anahit Harutyunyan, said in a statement, referring to the

Armenian name of Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Only through joint efforts can the international community stop Turkish-supported Azerbaijani aggression, backed by foreign mercenaries, against the vulnerable Armenian population.”

### Armenian-Canadians Want Trudeau to Push for Ceasefire

Canadian-Armenian community organizations that had lobbied hard to stop military exports to Turkey also welcomed the announcement.

Hagop Arslanian, deputy chairman of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) in Canada — one of the largest Armenian community organizations — said the group is “satisfied” with Ottawa’s announcement.

“Let it be clear that there is no military resolution to this conflict,” Arslanian said.

The Armenian community also wants Trudeau to take on a more active diplomatic role by calling his counterparts in Turkey and Azerbaijan to demand an immediate ceasefire, he added.

“Equally, we want him to call [Armenian] Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and communicate his support,” Arslanian said.

(Levon Sevunts of Radio Canada International contributed to this report.)

# Israeli President Hopeful Armenian Ambassador Will Return

TEL AVIV (RFE/RL) — Israeli President Reuven Rivlin expressed hope on Monday, October 5, that Armenia will return its ambassador to Israel who was recalled for consultations last week in protest against the Jewish state’s continuing arms supplies to Azerbaijan.

Explaining the move on October 1, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said Israel did not halt these sales even after the September 27 outbreak of large-scale hostilities around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ambassador Armen Smbatian was recalled to Yerevan just two weeks after inaugurating the Armenian Embassy in Tel Aviv in the presence of a senior official from the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

“We welcome the opening of the Armenian Embassy in Israel and hope that the Armenian ambassador will return soon,” Rivlin said in a phone call with Armenia’s President Armen Sarkissian.

According to his office, Rivlin also “expressed sorrow” at the hostilities in Karabakh and the resulting casualties. “He added that the State of Israel has long-standing relations with Azerbaijan and that the cooperation between the two countries is not aimed against any side,” the office said in a statement cited by The Jerusalem Post newspaper.

For his part, Sarkissian condemned the Israeli arms supplies, warning that they “could seriously undermine the Armenian-Israeli relations.”

“President Sarkissian noted that arms and equipment sold by Israel to Azerbaijan is used not only for



President Armen Sarkissian, left, with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin earlier this year

defense, as the Israeli side assured in the past, but also for offensives,” read a statement released by the Armenian presidential press service. “This weaponry is used actively to bomb the Armenian settlements and civilian population, causing multiple loss of life and massive destruction.”

“He urged the president of Israel to use his authority with the [Israeli] government to stop the supplies of arms to Azerbaijan immediately,” added the statement.

Yerevan has for years expressed concern over billions of dollars worth of advanced weapons, including sophisticated drones and missiles, which Israeli defense companies have sold, to Azerbaijan over the past decade.

The Armenian military says that Azerbaijani forces are heavily using Israeli-made attack drones and multiple-launch rocket systems in the ongoing

ing military operations in Karabakh.

Reports from Israel have said that over the past week Azerbaijani transport planes carried out several flights between Baku and Israeli airfields. Observers have suggested that they delivered more weapons to Azerbaijan.

Ambassador Smbatian claimed on Monday that Israel may agree to stop these deliveries “in two or three days.” “I have received such a verbal promise at the government level,” he told Factor.am.

“In various ways we are trying to get them to stop supplying weapons [to Azerbaijan] at least during this war situation,” said Smbatian.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry refused to comment on Smbatian’s remarks. The Israeli Walla news service also quoted a spokesman for the ministry as saying that it does not deal with arms exports.



## INTERNATIONAL

# Anti-Armenian Demonstrations in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (*Nor Marmara, Jamanak*)— Since the beginning of the attacks by Azerbaijan against Artsakh, public opinion in Turkey has been focused on the military actions in the ongoing war. Anti-Armenian sentiments and slogans, renewed animosity and hatred, anger and protests have broken out in Turkey directed at Armenians in general and the Armenian community of Istanbul.

On Monday, September 28, a demonstration took place in the form of a large group of cars which drove down the street in front of the Armenian Patriarchate in Kumkapi, Istanbul, bearing Azerbaijani and Turkish flags and honking their horns as they passed in front of



Cars with Azerbaijani flags in front of the Istanbul Armenian Patriarchate

the patriarchate building. Early reports attempted to suggest that the demonstration was not aimed at the patriarchate but was there to “send a message” to the population of natives of the Republic of Armenia who live in the Kumkapi neighborhood. The same day, Omer Celik, representing the ruling AKP party said that threats against the Armenian citizens of Turkey were not acceptable.

However, anti-Armenian sentiment has continued to spread over the past week and is causing anxiety for the Armenian community of Istanbul. Security officers are stationed in front of all the Armenian churches in Istanbul.

On Monday, October 5, *Nor Marmara* newspaper of Istanbul reported that more anti-Armenian demonstrations had taken place in Istanbul, in both Beyazit Square and in front of the Azerbaijani Consulate in the Besiktas neighborhood.

In Beyazit Square, Azerbaijani and Turkish citizens joined in a demonstration. After the playing the Turkish and Azerbaijani national anthems, Can Kitay, one of the organizers of the demonstration, harangued the crowd. Kitay said they were gathered there in solidarity with the “glorious army of Azerbaijan,” and further stated that “Armenia showed herself to be a terrorist country” by “attacking peaceful inhabitants,” and that Armenia had “gotten the response it deserved.” Kitay reminded the crowd of the slogan “two states - one nation” (in reference to Turkey and Azerbaijan) and claimed that thousands had joined up as volunteers to go to the front.

In various neighborhoods, Besiktas in partic-



Anti-Armenian demonstrations in Beyazit Square

ular, bikers who were showing solidarity with the Azerbaijani army also joined the demonstrations. Protesters gathered in Besiktas in front of Istanbul's Azerbaijani Consulate and “poured curses on the Armenians, showing solidarity with Azerbaijan.”

Meanwhile, member of Turkish Parliament Garo Paylan has been attacked in newspaper ads by a far-right organization, ASAM (a Turkish acronym for Eurasia Strategic Research Center). The ads accuse Paylan of siding with Armenia in the current war. Paylan has responded that he is an activist for peace, and released a statement condemning the Turkish

government for engaging in “war propaganda by openly supporting the military conflict” and “resorting to belligerent rhetoric” against Armenia. He also decried the demonstrators who came to the Armenian Patriarchate as “provocateurs.”

He stated that because of these demonstrations and the intimidation of the Armenians in a climate of “hate speech,” Turkey's Armenian community as well as citizens of Armenia living in Turkey no longer feel safe. Paylan underlined that he has always stood for peaceful solutions to political problems and stated “There are no winners in war and no losers in peace!”

## Israeli Scholars Urge Government to Stop Selling Weapons to Azerbaijan

TEL AVIV (*Armenpress*) — A number of prominent Israeli scholars are calling on the Israeli government to immediately suspend sales of arms to Azerbaijan amid the latter's attacks on Artsakh.

In an open letter regarding the ongoing fighting in Artsakh, they called for a ceasefire and stressed that independent accounts and analysis show that the ongoing hostilities are “due solely to aggression of the Republic of Azerbaijan, supported by Turkey and backed up by fighters from elsewhere in the region”. The scholars called on their countrymen to raise their voice about this issue.

Michael Stone from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a signatory of the letter, published it on his social media account:

The following represents the personal views of a group of Israeli scholars of Caucasian and associated studies, and does not reflect the positions of the Hebrew University nor its Armenian Studies Program. We the undersigned write to express our deep concern with the fighting that has flared up in the region of Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh). From a reading of independent accounts and analysis we have concluded that this outbreak of violence in the last few days is due solely to aggression of the Republic of Azerbaijan, supported by Turkey and backed up by fighters from elsewhere in the region. This belligerence has been directed towards military and civilian targets in the Republic of Artsakh and its mainly Armenian population, and deserves to be condemned in no uncertain terms. The response of the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia is clearly one of defense of population, property and territory, and should enjoy the support of those who cherish the principle of self-determination of peoples. We call for an end to this aggression, and a cessation of the fighting. The long-term answer to tension in the region is on-going negotiations that will aim to resolve the claims of various ethnic groups, leading to a mutually agreed upon political arrangement. Clearly, violence of any type will not resolve ethnic and other tensions. It is with dismay that we address the

matter of Israeli arms sales to Azerbaijan in recent years, this being one component in the massive armament process in that country. We call upon the Israeli government to cease immediately the sales of arms to Azerbaijan, pending a review of the issue by the government and Knesset. Matters of would-be Realpolitik, as reflected here in arm sales, are not the only basis for foreign policy. Certainly, one needs to question Israel's role in an armament effort aimed mainly against a people that

like the Jewish people suffered genocidal attacks in the twentieth century. We call upon other Israelis to raise their voice on this important issue.

(in alphabetical order) Prof. Reuven Amitai Prof. Yair Auron Prof. Israel Charny Ms. Moran Deitch Prof. Benjamin Z. Kedar Mr. Yoav Loeff Prof. Benny Morris Prof. Eli Richter Prof. Donna Shalev Mr. Marc Sherman Prof. Michael Stone Dr. Yana Tcheknanovets Prof. Dror Zeevi,” reads the letter.

## Amnesty International Calls out Azerbaijan's Use of Banned Cluster Bombs in Artsakh

LONDON — Protection of civilians caught in the escalating conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) region must be prioritized, Amnesty International said on Monday, October 5, after corroborating the use of banned cluster bombs in the region.

“Over the weekend, footage consistent with the use of cluster munitions in the city of Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, was published by the region's de facto authorities. They also reported an unidentified number of civilian casualties after further shelling in Stepanakert and the town of Shushi.

“Amnesty International's Crisis Response experts were able to trace the location of the footage to residential areas of Stepanakert, and identified Israeli-made M095 DPICM cluster munitions that appear to have been fired by Azerbaijani forces,” the watchdog said.

“The use of cluster bombs in any circumstances is banned under international humanitarian law, so their use to attack civilian areas is particularly dangerous and will only lead to further deaths and injuries,” said Denis Krivosheev, Amnesty International's acting Head of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

“Cluster bombs are inherently indiscriminate weapons, and their deployment in residential areas is absolutely appalling and unacceptable. As fighting continues to escalate, civilians must be protected, not deliberately targeted or recklessly endangered.”

Amnesty International says it has called on all sides to the conflict to fully respect international humanitarian law, and to protect civilians from the effects of hostilities.

In related news, Panorama.am reported that Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan on Monday held a phone conversation with US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun.

The sides exchanged views on the recent developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) conflict zone, the Foreign Ministry reported.

Mnatsakanyan briefed Biegun on deliberate targeting of the civilian population and infrastructures by Azerbaijan's armed forces, resulting in human casualties and material damages.

The foreign minister drew the attention of the US official to use of weaponry, prohibited by relevant international conventions, by Azerbaijan during the military hostilities, and strongly condemned those actions.

## Tehran Threatens ‘Tough’ Action Against Accidental Shelling Of Iranian Territory

TEHRAN (RFE/RL) — Iran reportedly threatened on Tuesday, October 6, to take “tough measures” if Armenian and Azerbaijani forces continued to accidentally shell Iranian territory close to the scene of large-scale hostilities around Nagorno-Karabakh.

The southernmost section of the Karabakh “line of contact” adjacent to northwestern Iran is one of the epicenters of the fierce fighting that broke out on September 27. Several rockets and other projectiles from the fighting have mistakenly landed near Iranian villages over the past week, reportedly injuring at least one local resident and prompting stern warnings from Iran.

Iranian Defense Minister Amir Hatami said that the accidental shelling is continuing despite those warnings.

“The security of our borders is of vital significance to us,” Hatami was reported to say. “Any kind of attack is unacceptable to us, and if such actions are repeated we will switch from warnings to tougher measures.”

The Armenian Defense Ministry reported on Tuesday fresh fighting near the Iranian border marked by the Arax River. “The enemy ignores also the security of the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” said a ministry spokeswoman.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani discussed the issue with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev in a phone call on Tuesday.

Like other foreign powers, Iran has called for an immediate end to the hostilities. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday that there can be no military solution to the Karabakh conflict.

Khatibzadeh also announced that Tehran has drawn up a plan to halt the fighting and ease tensions in the conflict zone. He did not elaborate.

# Community News

## Armenians for Biden Event Covers Genocide, Artsakh, Broader Issues with Prominent Officials

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN – On September 28, the night after the Azerbaijani attack on Artsakh and Armenia, the Armenians for Biden organization held an online Zoom event. While promoting the candidacy of Vice President Joseph Biden for president of the United States this November, it put on the record the candidate's positions on the Armenian Genocide and Artsakh.

Speakers included Mike Carpenter, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Michigan State Rep. Mari Manoogian, Michelle Kwan, Biden for President staff member and two-time Olympic medalist, Greg Mekenian from Biden for President Ethnic Engagement, political advocate Anthony Barsamian and Ambassador Nina Hachigian, Deputy Mayor for International Affairs for the City of Los Angeles. Around 240 people were registered on the call, according to Mekenian, and as some of these included multiple viewers the total number of participants might be as high as 300.

Mekenian provided a general introduction to the presidential race, the Artsakh attacks, and the urgency for voting in the election. Manoogian, only the second Armenian American to serve in Michigan's House of Representatives, and from a district with several thousand Armenians, noted the outsize influence the US president has on US foreign policy.

She condemned the actions of the current president as follows: "From the time that President Trump entered the White House, seeing President [Recep Tayyip] Erdogan of Turkey and his thugs on our American soil, seeing his thugs beat up American citizens who were protesting, seeing the lack of response from the Trump White House, in a very serious way really underscored for me that Donald Trump does not stand for Armenian Americans or our issues. Time and again he has failed to speak up when our Armenian brothers and sisters in Armenia and Artsakh were in peril, and this to me is a really critically important issue."

Manoogian also spoke about issues on which Biden's stance, she felt, would benefit Armenian Americans, including implementation of affordable health care and protection of coverage for people with preexisting conditions and the preservation of Medicare and Social Security. She introduced Kwan, and stated afterwards that it is important to have non-Armenians to serve as advocates for Armenian-American issues.

Kwan, who has served as an American public diplomacy envoy, noted the critical role of the Armenian-American community, which she characterized as over 500,000 in number, in the forthcoming elections, especially in key battleground states like Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Florida. Consequently its mobilization is considered very important. Kwan spoke of her own immigrant success story and how Biden and his vice presidential nominee Senator Kamala Harris fight for the American dream.

Speier, herself an Armenian American, also remarked that Armenians can make an incredible difference in this election, especially in the four aforementioned "battleground" states. She said that while Biden has promised to recognize the Armenian Genocide resolution, President Trump attempted to undermine it from the start, sending Sen. Lindsay Graham to try to put a hold on it and then Sen. David Purdue, before giving up when it became clear it would succeed.

She quoted what Trump said to reporter Bob see BIDEN, page 11



## New England Armenian-Americans Protest Azerbaijan Attack On Homeland

BOSTON – Armenians from throughout New England held a strong protest at the Massachusetts Statehouse and made a big noise on Friday afternoon, October 2, 2020, in downtown Boston, to bring attention to major attacks by the military of Azerbaijan, supported by Turkey, against Artsakh and Armenia, that started on Sunday morning, September 27, 2020.

By Ken Martin

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Organized by a quick reaction team of the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) Boston Nejdeh chapter, nearly 1,000 protestors held signs and shouted slogans stating that Armenians wanted peace while Azerbaijan made war. Speakers gave dramatic presentations and the crowd sang the Armenian national anthem, *Mer Hairenik* [Our Fatherland], and other patriotic songs. Many carried the flags of Armenia and Artsakh as automobiles blaring their horns in support of the demonstration circled Boston Common and demon-



strators repeatedly shouted, "Artsakh is Armenia!" Members of sister organizations under the Armenian Revolutionary Federation umbrella of groups included in addition to AYF, several Armenian Relief Society chapters, the Boston Hamazkayin cultural organization, and the Boston HMEM scouts and athletic group. Several members of the clergy were in attendance and blessed the protestors.

Though the AYF organized this action it is to be noted that a large segment of the crowd were non-party affiliated Armenians and friends from throughout New England including many residents and their families who were from the Armenian Republic and Artsakh. Many others were immigrants from past and recent conflicts in the Middle East from Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Iran demonstrating with the older Armenian-American community who are the

see BOSTON, page 10

## Eastern Diocese Appeals to Sister Churches to Condemn Attack On Artsakh

NEW YORK – In the crucial week following the vicious Azeri attacks on our homeland, the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America has been reaching out to sister churches across the country and the world to gain support for Armenia and Artsakh.

In a personal appeal to hierarchs of the Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, and Roman Catholic churches in America, Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel Findikyan described the attack on Artsakh and asked the leaders to "pray alongside the Armenian Church faithful, as we implore our Lord Jesus to place his protection over the people of Armenia and Artsakh."

In his letter asking for the church leaders to share the information with their respective clergy and faithful, he made a special plea to help "dispel the terrible misinformation campaign that has attempted to cast blame on both sides of the conflict, or characterize Armenia as the aggressor, against every shred of evidence."

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, the Diocesan Legate and Ecumenical Director, has been working among the world's major inter-church groups – resulting in strong statements from the National Council of Church in the U.S.A. (NCC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) condemning the escalation of violence, and calling for the international community to take diplomatic action.

The strongly-worded NCC statement was explicit in its condemnation of Azerbaijan as the aggressor, affirming that "NCC opposes this unprovoked surprise attack by Azerbaijan that has brought Armenia into a state of war." It stated further: "The NCC stands in solidarity with the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, the World Council of Churches, and people of goodwill everywhere in expressing our outrage and deep sadness at this conflict."

The letter added, "We deplore the use of military force by Azerbaijan and the Syrian rebel fighters that are funded and sent by Turkey to assist their assault on the Armenian community. The use of armor, aviation, heavy artillery, and drones suggests a planned operation. It is time that Turkey ends their involvement in the region by stopping their participation in the fight and their encouragement of the war."

"We recognize that the fighters from Syria have been displaced from their homes and are desperate to feed their families which may have caused them to be recruited into this destructive conflict."

"NCC calls on the United States to undertake diplomatic measures to halt the fighting. We hope and pray that the U.S. Department of State will not be indifferent to this situation. We ask our member churches to immediately convey this message to their elected officials."

"We pray according to the Armenian tradition: 'Listen to the cry that rises from every corner of this fragile earth, from our human family torn by violent conflict. It is to You we pray, O loving Lord –today, in the days to come, and always—for the repose of the departed, for the healing of the spiritual and moral afflictions tormenting [us], and for an end to the violence that can only lead to ruin and destruction. [Amen.]' (Armenian Church of America).

"This is an extremely important statement issued by America's largest, most influential ecumenical body," said Aykazian, who is a former NCC President and present board member, a board member of the WCC, and a senior leader on the worldwide ecumenical stage.

The statement from WCC interim Secretary General the Rev. Dr. Ioan Sauca lamented the attack "which has already resulted in dozens of

see APPEAL, page 12



# Unified Young Armenians Organize Glendale Rally for Artsakh

GLENDALÉ — The Los Angeles area organization Unified Young Armenians organized a rally on October 4 at Artsakh Street in Glendale, California, in support of the Republic of Artsakh's battle against Azerbaijani and Turkish aggression which was then on its eighth day.

**Ani Duzdabanyan-Manoukian**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

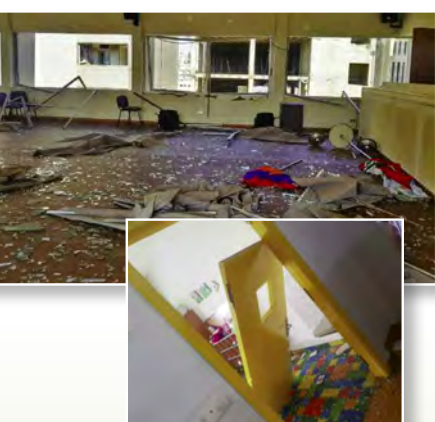
At the rally, Mayor of the City of Glendale Vrej Agajanian, City Council members, Glendale Unified School District Board President Armine Gharpetian and civil and religious leaders of the Armenian community were encouraging donations to the All Armenian Fund in support of the Artsakh Defense Army. According to Unified Young Armenians, so far Armenians in Los Angeles donated over 8 million dollars to the fund. Teams of event organizers helped prospective donors with their donation efforts at several stations.

After the rally the participants joined others in Los Angeles in front of the headquarters of CNN, where people have been gathering since October 3 to demand awareness and fair coverage of the war in Artsakh.



## The Tekeyan School of Beirut

The Vahan Tekeyan School, founded in 1951, was damaged by the August 4 explosion in Beirut. It primarily serves a low-income segment of the Armenian community and already was struggling due to Lebanon's economic crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic. Now it is trying to reopen for the fall semester.



The Tekeyan Cultural Association of the US and Canada is sending aid and asks your assistance too. Make your donations by credit card at <https://givebutter.com/bXn8Lm> or as checks mailed to the Tekeyan Cultural Association (memo: Beirut Tekeyan School), at its headquarters (755 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown MA 02472). All administrative costs for this campaign will be borne by the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the US and Canada.

For more information, email [tcadirector@aol.com](mailto:tcadirector@aol.com) or call 617 924-4455.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# New England Armenians Protest Azeri Attack on Homeland

BOSTON, from page 8

descendants of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide. Members of other Armenian political, cultural, and religious groups including the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the Tekeyan Cultural Association and chapters of the Armenian Student Association (ASA) were in attendance in a show of unity and solidarity with the Artsakh and Armenian Republics in the continuing war.

A heavier-than-usual Massachusetts State Police and Boston police presence was on the periphery of the protest as protection against Azerbaijani thugs who have been attacking peaceful Armenian gatherings and community properties around the world, including a recent incident in Boston, the vandalism of Armenian schools in California and the arson attack on the Armenian Cultural Center in San Francisco.

Media presence included local TV Channels 5 WCVB and Boston Fox 25, as well as the Boston Globe.

When asked what else protestors and Bostonians could do to help Artsakh and Armenia organizers suggested people give of themselves to others by supplying non-perishable food, surgical supplies and non-prescription medicine. Financial donations should be made to the All Armenia Fund and to With Our Soldiers.

As the scheduled time for the event concluded, the entire crowd of protestors marched in solidarity through Boston Common with hopes of peace and an end to the war now six days old, and into the early autumn evening.

(All photos courtesy of Ken Martin)



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The Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada gratefully acknowledges the donation by Dr. and Mrs. Larry Najarian of \$250 to the Krikor and Makrouhi Kuredjian Educational Fund.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# San Francisco Area Armenians Rally for Artsakh

OAKLAND, Calif. — Approximately 100 Armenians from the San Francisco area gathered at St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 2 for a prayer vigil to show support for the Armenians of Artsakh during the ongoing Azerbaijani attack.

Parish priest Rev. Krikor Zakaryan presided over the outdoor vigil. Local Bay area television crews, including Fox News (KTVU) and NBC, filmed the gathering, and KTVU reported on it in its 10 p.m. broadcast that night. Social distancing and the wearing of masks were enforced.

Fox News broadcasted its report on the vigil, presenting the Artsakh conflict as two communities fighting over land. It also included an interview with a local member of the Azerbaijani community who argued that the perpetrators of earlier anti-Armenian acts in the area such as graffiti on the local Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan Armenian School painted this July and the fire in the Armenian church and its community complex were not Azerbaijanis and that his community felt insecure.

(All photographs courtesy of Kim Bardakian)



Fr. Krikor Zakaryan speaking at the vigil

## Armenians for Biden Event Covers Genocide, Artsakh, Broader Issues with Prominent Officials

BIDEN, from page 8

Woodward about how well he gets along with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, that “For me, it works out good.” She said that it is always about what is in it for Trump, and that she would not be surprised to see in his tax returns that he has taken loans from Erdogan or Turkish oligarchs. She added that it was the president who allowed Turkey to move into Syria, and that his secretary of defense, secretary of state, and national security advisor all have said that Trump’s conduct has created a national security risk.

She contrasted this to Biden’s years of experience in foreign policy. She said Biden would not cozy up to dictators but would protect fledgling democracies like that of Armenia and provide them with the resources they need to thrive. Speier concluded on a general note, declaring: “This really is the most consequential election, not just for us but our grandkids — our children and our children’s children. We are at a point where this country could become an autocracy literally overnight. And frankly that is typically the only way it happens.”

Dr. Michael Carpenter, former assistant secretary of defense in the Obama Administration and managing director of the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement, provided some key insights on the Armenian Genocide issue and the question of why Armenians should trust the Biden campaign’s promises when the Obama one did not keep its campaign promise of recognition.

He said that he was in the Pentagon at the tail

end of the Obama Administration and it was not the Pentagon’s objection that prevented recognition. He said, “I am just going to be very honest with you and tell you that there were people in the administration who were making the case for recognizing the Genocide — Samantha Power was one, and there were others, there were many others — but at the end of the day, the buck stopped with President Obama. I love President Obama. I think he did a lot of enormously wonderful things for our country and took our country forward in so many ways. On this one, however, the decision rests with him.” Carpenter said that the US should have recognized the Armenian Genocide long, long ago, but, he stated, “I am confident that a Biden administration would take the move on April 24, 2021 to recognize the Genocide and have it be done with. We will deal with whatever Turkish backlash comes up and we will be able to handle this just like the other 32 countries that have recognized the genocide and have had to deal with Turkey’s negative reactions.”

Speier said she concurred with Carpenter’s assessment that Biden would take this action.

In addition to recognizing the Armenian Genocide, which Carpenter said was not only immensely important for rectifying the historical record but also for preventing future ones, Biden would support democracy and the Velvet Revolution in Armenia. He said, “We have this remarkable democratic national awakening in 2018 led by Nikol Pashinyan, which I think the United States under this current administration has completely neglected. We should be supporting this.” He added, “it is as if the State

Department is on a different planet. They are not paying attention to this.” A Biden administration, he said, would provide support programs, assistance dollars and technical advisors and work also with the European Union to help Armenian democracy.

A third foreign policy reason for Armenian Americans to support the Biden candidacy, said Carpenter, is that it would support a resolution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. He observed that the 1994 peace fire was imperfect, allowing sometimes dozens to die annually along the line of contact, while the current administration remains “completely absent.” He asked rhetorically why President Trump, Vice President Pence or Secretary Pompeo were not picking up the phone to tell President Erdogan to stay out of this conflict, and Aliyev as well in no uncertain terms.

Carpenter said that Turkey’s recent international actions in general call for censure for the United States, which has enormous leverage over Turkey if it wants to use it.

He said the US is not invested sufficiently in the mediation efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, as it has only appointed a mid-level bureaucrat as the US representative unlike the other two co-chair countries of France and Russia. He said that a Biden administration would energize this process and use both positive and negative incentives to move forward.

Diplomatic leverage would be used to press Azerbaijan, which has resisted monitors on the line of contact for at least 13 years. Monitors

would allow calling out responsibility for incidents. Snipers also must be called back from both sides, he continued. Only Azerbaijan, he said, opposed both these measures.

Finally, the status quo in Karabakh must be changed, as at present demining has not been accomplished (with the current administration having halted the humanitarian demining program there) and there is a lack of investment and development. The US should also provide assistance for things like clean water and sanitation, as it does for other young democracies.

Carpenter did not, however, state what the final international status of Artsakh should be.

Ambassador Hachigian was the last main speaker, and summarized the case for Armenian Americans voting for Biden, both on general issues such as the economy, climate change and the California fires, healthcare and preschool education, as well as on specifically Armenian related topics. She observed that Biden is not personally beholden to Turkey and Russia, unlike Trump who received 13 million dollars from Turkey and 5 million from Azerbaijan for a failed deal. She said that the Biden administration would put real diplomats in positions to reinvigorate the State Department and that he would care about democracy in Armenia and in general.

Several questions were taken from participants after which Mekenian ended the session and called for all to vote.

The *Mirror-Spectator* has reached out to Armenians in the Trump campaign and is waiting to hear back.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Armenia Supporters Block Los Angeles Freeway in Protest Over Azerbaijan Conflict

HOLLYWOOD (*Los Angeles Times*) – Protesters in Hollywood supporting Armenia in its conflict with Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region temporarily blocked the 101 Freeway in both directions the night of Saturday, October 3, at Bronson Avenue.

The protest began before 9 p.m. on surface streets a few blocks to the west, as at least 100 cheering demonstrators, including some waving the Armenian flag, blocked lanes of Hollywood Boulevard at Van Ness Avenue and Vine Street, video posted to the Citizen social news app showed.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) was asked to respond to the southbound 101 at 9:30 p.m., said Officer Don Conley of the agency's Traffic Management Center.

Video from KCBSTV Channel 2 showed a small group of demonstrators had forced the closure of both directions of the 101 by 10:15 p.m. But as of 10:20 p.m. a SigAlert had not been issued, the CHP said.



## Legislators Condemn Azerbaijani and Turkish Aggression at LA City Press Conference

**By Michelle Mkhlian**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

LOS ANGELES – On Monday, October 5, California elected officials and US Representative Adam Schiff gathered at Los Angeles City Hall to stand in solidarity with Armenia and Artsakh. LA City Councilmember Paul Krekorian spearheaded this press conference to condemn Azerbaijan's brutal attacks on the Republic of Artsakh that began on September 27, 2020. With the unwavering support of the Turkish government, Azerbaijan has continued to target much of Artsakh, taking the lives of hundreds of civilians and soldiers alike. Each legislator shared his or her own sentiments of solidarity, outrage, and determination to achieve peace and justice.

Rep. Adam Schiff, who led the passage of the US Resolution to Recognize the Armenian Genocide, worked with Congresswoman Jackie Speier to introduce a resolution condemning Azerbaijan and Turkey's aggression. This resolution calls on Azerbaijan to cease its aggression, demands the installation of ceasefire-monitoring equipment along the line of contact, and urges President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to stop aiding and abetting the violence

against the people of Artsakh and Armenia.

Schiff announced: "We have a strong bipartisan message for Turkey and Erdogan – you're a member of NATO, start acting like one! And we have a message for Azerbaijan – cease the hostilities or there will be consequences."

The representatives echoed each other's stances urging President Donald Trump and the federal government to condemn Turkish and Azerbaijani aggression, call for a ceasefire, halt all military aid to Azerbaijan and Turkey, and reconsider future relations with the two countries.

LA City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell emphatically exclaimed: "We have to do everything in our power to de-escalate the attacks against the Republic of Artsakh by Azerbaijan with Turkey's direct involvement and move forward with resolve for a lasting, peaceful outcome. This ancient bloodlust against the Armenian people that is fomented by Turkey must come to an end once and for all! The refusal of the Turkish government to acknowledge the

Armenian Genocide has consequences, this is one of them – the perpetuation of hatred and violence against the Armenian people. We stand with Artsakh and the Armenian community!"



Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (AD #46) speaking (photo Michelle Mkhlian)

Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, whose grandparents fled Shushi and Stepanakert, Artsakh, in 1920 to escape Turkish violence highlighted the media's crucial role in this conflict.

Nazarian made his request clear: "What I ask of the press is to do your journalistic due diligence... to not be silenced. If we have 400 correspondents, why are there qualifying words being used. Why is it being said that there has been an 'escalation of hostilities' by now? Over 5,000 people have died in this meaningless battle, all in place to exhaust the Armenian population – that's all this is! Yet we are staying complicit. It is your obligation to make sure that that does not happen. You are an educational force in this situation. It's your responsibility to make sure that people have a historical context and understand what is going on."

With the largest population of Armenians outside of Armenia living in the greater Los Angeles area, the current situation in Artsakh hits home for these legislators and their constituents. Over the past week, thousands of Armenian-Americans have taken to the streets of Los Angeles resolutely rallying for media coverage, recognition, and solidarity.

LA City Attorney Mike Feuer expressed the shared anguish of Angelenos: "Today as we awakened in Los Angeles, we were all Armenians, not only because Los Angeles has such a significant Armenian-American population. today we are all Armenians because we stand in solidarity with those who are victims of aggression. Today we are all Armenians because we stand together with those who are weeping at the losses of friends and family. Today we are all Armenians because when one member of the international

community is victimized by aggression, all of us are victimized by aggression."

Like his colleagues did before him, he urged the United States Federal government to intervene and hold Azerbaijan and Turkey accountable by saying: "We are all Armenians today, let's act like it."

LA City Council President Nury Martinez shared her sentiments, remarking poignantly: "As a mother, it's been incredibly difficult to see images of mothers in the Republic of Artsakh and Armenia sending their sons and daughters to the front lines knowing they might not return. In the middle of a global pandemic, the people of Armenia and Artsakh are fighting to protect their people and their land. Their very existence is being threatened where the international community silently stands by. I want the people of Armenia and Artsakh to know that the city of Los Angeles and its leadership are here today to stand with you, we see your pain and we're advocating for you."

### Eastern Diocese Appeals To Sister Churches to Condemn Attack On Artsakh

APPEAL, from page 8

casualties including civilians, and which risks provoking a wider armed conflict in the region," and drew attention to "the aggressively partisan stance taken by the government of Turkey, which as a member of the Minsk Group should maintain a neutral role, rather than that of an antagonist."

Sauca's letter also noted, "To stop this bloodshed, the WCC calls on all combatants to desist immediately from further military action and to return to the table of dialogue and negotiation. On its behalf I appeal for urgent initiatives by the Minsk Group, under the auspices of the OSCE, for progress towards a peaceful solution to this longstanding unresolved conflict."

"I am dismayed by the aggressively partisan stance taken by the government of Turkey, which as a member of the Minsk Group should maintain a neutral role, rather than that of an antagonist."

"I appeal therefore to our WCC member churches from the countries in the Minsk Group to engage with their governments to convey this message and to encourage urgent and sustained diplomatic efforts for peace in the region."



Legislators at the Los Angeles City Hall October 4, 2020. From left: front row Senator Maria Elena Durazo (SD #24), Council President Nury Martinez (CD #6), Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian (AD #46), Councilmember Paul Krekorian (CD #2), Speaker Anthony Rendon (AD #63), LA City Attorney Mike Feuer, Congressman Adam Schiff (CD #28), 2nd row, Assemblymember Luz Rivas (AD #39), 3rd row Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (AD #45), Council Member David E. Ryu (CD #4), 4th row Assemblymember Chris Holden (AD #41), City Council Member Mitch O'Farrell (CD #13), Assemblymember Richard Bloom, (AD #50), Assemblymember Tom Lackey (AD #36), Council Member Monica Rodriguez (CD #7), Council Member Mike Lee (CD #12) (photo Michelle Mkhlian)

# Azerbaijanis Harass Noor Mediterranean Grill near Boston during Attacks on Artsakh

**By Aram Arkun**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

SOMERVILLE, Mass. — Noor Mediterranean Grill and its customers have been subject to harassment and death threats over the span of a week starting on Sunday, September 27, which also was the date Azerbaijan began its attacks on Artsakh.

Noor is an Armenian-own restaurant founded in 2014 in a suburb of Boston by Arsen Karageozian and his wife Hilda Darian Karageozian to offer Armenian and Middle Eastern food to the area. On Sunday evening, related Hilda Karageozian, there were a couple of people who came in and began to talk, supposedly on their phones. They spoke partly in their language, which was Azerbaijani, but they deliberately mixed in threatening phrases of English, saying things like “that’s an Armenian, kill them all,” so that they would be understood.

On Monday, September 28, they came in groups, and stayed in front of the store on the sidewalk, talking to both customers and the restaurant staff when either came in or out. The workers, who themselves were not of Armenian background, started to become afraid, Karageozian said.

That night, phone calls started to come to the restaurant ordering large quantities of food. They asked for five trays of beef kebab, or 5 trays of chicken kebab. Karageozian said it was clear from the accents that they were Azerbaijanis. As soon as the restaurant staff asked for 50 percent deposit, as is the usual procedure, the callers began to curse and hanged up.

Tuesday night, September 29, Karageozian said, threatening calls were received, saying “you f...ing Armenians, we are going to f... you up, we are going to kill you.”

Karageozian realized the situation was worsening and it was necessary to call the police. She did so on Monday or Tuesday. The Somerville Police Department told her to call directly if anything else happens. On Wednesday, she went in to file a formal police report concerning the telephoned death threats.

On Thursday, October 1, a detective came over to do a security walk in the restaurant. The police department began to add a directed patrol and stop by the restaurant every half an hour. The police are also looking into the phone numbers of the threatening callers, who seemed to have used their personal phones.

While all this was happening, Karageozian said that there were more than 50 attempts to hack into the restaurant’s website over the course of two or three days. Fortunately, they were locked out after a certain number of attempts.

A smear campaign against the restaurant soon began online, with negative reviews and derogatory statements made on its Yelp and Google review pages. Karageozian posted on the restaurant’s Facebook page about what was happening, writing in part: “We are a small, family-owned business and we value all of our customers equally while treating them with the utmost respect and providing the highest quality food & customer service. Noor Mediterranean Grill is not the place for anyone’s political agenda or hate and we strongly condemn these acts here in Boston and anywhere around the world. We thank you for your unwavering support and pray that the situation in Artsakh will come to a peaceful end soon.”

That led to further hostile comments on Facebook, claims that the owners made up “fake news,” as well as declarations such as “Karabakh is Azerbaijan.” It is clear that many of the post were generated by Azerbaijanis who were not living in the Boston area but in different parts of the United States and even abroad. Identical comments indicate an organized campaign, while many of the writers use broken English.

In a way, Karageozian said, it was this online campaign that bothered her husband the most. He exclaimed that they had a five-star record and achieved that through blood, sweat and tears, yet in the matter of a few days this had been destroyed. But, as Karageozian told her

husband, people can see these are fake reviews.

When asked whether there were any reasons why Noor would be singled out for these attacks, Karageozian could not think of any. The only thing she could note was that their Armenian identity was clear to all, with crosses, traditional Armenian pomegranates, and even a painting of the Armenian flag by one of her children who go to Armenian school on the walls. Clearly the crisis in Artsakh was the immediate spur to the attacks.

She emphasized that “whoever comes to the store, we were always respectful towards everybody. We treated everybody the same. We obviously need to keep our customers well. I am not running a political party here.”

The positive side to this situation is the support Noor has received from Somerville residents and customers, both non-Armenian and Armenian. In fact, Karageozian said that they did have a lot of Turkish customers, and those who learned about what was going on were very supportive. They would come in and say it is not acceptable. Some even sat in the store for four or five hours, waiting for the return of agitators.

Furthermore, Karageozian said, “We have been getting an outpouring of support, with

phone calls from Los Angeles, Montreal, Chicago, Detroit, and all over the US saying ‘we support you, let us know if you need anything.’”


An Armenian from Seattle who works for Facebook spontaneously reached out to Karageozian and asked if Noor needed any help. She promised that she would try to take up the issue for Facebook, and this led to a Facebook investigation, which hopefully will get the coordinated recent negative reviews removed.

The Azerbaijani harassment was exposed by the Boston Globe on September 30. In July of this year, there were attempts by Azerbaijanis to disrupt two Armenian demonstrations in Boston. Clearly, both incidents have to be viewed in the context of international developments, though Noor seems to have been a target merely based on the Armenian identity of the owners and not due to any political activity.


Karageozian concluded, “We are grateful for the outpouring of support from Armenians and non-Armenians alike. We are grateful to the Somerville community that they have pledged to stand with us. We are going to continue to do what we do and are not going to be bullied by Azeris and forced to shut down.”



Noor Mediterranean Grill



## Donations Towards Renovations of Vahan Tekeyan School of Beirut



**In response to the appeal of the Tekeyan Cultural Association Central Board of Directors, the following donations were received as of October 2, 2020, after the publication of the first list on August 29, 2020, for the renovation of the Vahan Tekeyan School of Beirut, Lebanon, which was heavily damaged during the August 4 tragedy. Donations continue to be received.**

Please mail your tax-deductible donation to:

**Tekeyan Cultural Association**  
**755 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472**

or donate by credit card at <https://givebutter.com/bXn8Lm>

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<i>In memory of late daughter Sabrina Dimidjian-Kalfayan</i>		
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TCA Los Angeles Chapter	\$1,000	Pasadena, CA
Mr. and Mrs. Garapet Karakelian	\$1,000	Chester Springs, PA
Sami and Annie Totah Foundation	\$500	Potomac, MD
Ara and Sonya Babayan Family Trust	\$500	Glendale, CA
<i>In memory of their late father, Vahan Tekeyan School Principal Yervant Babayan)</i>		
Yervant Chekijian	\$500	Watertown, MA
Mr. and Mrs. Mihran Minassian	\$500	Burlington, MA
Alyne and Michael Kassardjian	\$250	Manhattan Beach, CA
Garry and Hilda Kassardjian	\$250	Palos Verdes Estates, CA
Vera Tavoukjian	\$200	London, England
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Vicky Hovhannessian	\$100	Fort Lee, NJ
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K. Jack and Geraldine Kouyoumjian	\$50	Woodbridge, VA
Shahe Boghossian	\$50	Birmingham, West Midlands, UK
Movses Pogossian	\$50	Glendale, CA



# Arts & Living

## Nor Ashkharh Artist Ani Marganian Creates a New World Of Encouragement

**By Michele Mkhlian**  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

ORANGE COUNTY, Calif. – Speech pathologist and artist Ani Marganian is an Orange County native who co-founded the Instagram account “Nor Ashkharh” in 2019. Since then, she has created and shared over 150 illustrations and affirmations inspired by culture, color, and creativity.

Ani’s love for Armenia and its rich culture grew immensely when she visited Armenia for the first time with her family in 2016. Her desire to become fluent and literate in Eastern Armenian only became stronger when she volunteered for Birthright Armenia in Gyumri the following year. When Ani eventually returned home, she began receiving weekly Armenian lessons from her cousin Anoush Khojikian. Having a mutual love of positive affirmations, they began writing uplifting phrases together and translating them into Armenian. Affirmations are positive reminders that are used to empower oneself and others. The cousins would share an affirmation with each other, Anoush would translate it into Armenian, then Ani would doodle it, and soon, Nor Ashkharh was born.



Ani Marganian

Ani explained Nor Ashkharh’s mission: “It was initially to spread joy with color and vibrance and the message of wholeness and worthiness. We just wanted to put it in the universe and let it be and hopefully someone would enjoy it and feel encouraged by it. When something feels so helpful for you and is a reminder for you, or really resonates, you hope maybe it can resonate with someone else.”

Although the Chapman University graduate minored in art and spent four months in Italy taking art history classes, Ani didn’t spend much time creating art until this last year. She reminisced: “I always loved art as a child and my mom and family really embraced it. My mom said, you can paint your walls, you can paint your furniture. My dresser growing up had rainbows and checker-print on it.” Her passion for art was reignited when she visited Armenia and began the journey of exploring her Armenian heritage.

Anoush supports her cousin Ani’s vision by brainstorming with her and of course serving as Nor Ashkharh’s resident translator. She lovingly gushed about Ani’s character, saying: “Ani works to send this message of positivity, compassion, and grace. She has so much to say and the way she says it with her art is just beautiful. I feel like it resonates with a lot of people and the things they’re going through in life. On some of those off days even I just look at her work and it lifts me up. It’s bright, it’s beautiful, it’s fun, and it’s uplifting.”

Ani devotes herself to elevating the Armenian community in any way she can. The tragic explosion at the Beirut port in Lebanon on August 4, 2020 left Mayrig Restaurant in Beirut totally devastated. The explosion not only destroyed the beloved Armenian restaurant, but also injured 25 of its employees and wrecked their homes. After learning about what had happened to the restaurant which she had actually dined at a few years prior, Ani knew she had to do something to help.

Ani explained her motivation: “Beirut is such see MARGANIAN, page 17



“I Am Alive” still

## A Voice for the Voiceless

### Denise Gentilini Creates Triumphant Armenian Genocide Musical

DENVER – California native Denise Gentilini has always had a musical calling. A child prodigy and autodidact with a taste for Carly Simon, Elton John and old-fashioned love songs and ballads, Gentilini writes some of the most tender lyrics and memorable melodies around. A noted composer who has also garnered three Emmy® awards for film scoring and audio mixing, she also acknowledges John Williams’ early influence on her.

**By Christopher Atamian**  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

rewarding part of scoring is seeing the emotional response of people – if I can’t make them cry, I haven’t done my job.”

And just as the truly good writer writes with a higher purpose in mind, so too does every truly important musician.

Gentilini has made it her particular mission to give voice to those who don’t have one of their own or who cannot advocate for themselves.

As she told KDVR Fox’s Lois Melkonian in 2015: “I’ve composed music for the Children’s Hospital on Autism, for the Iliff School of Theology Courage Award ... and for genocide awareness. I grew up with my grandparents nearby and always knew that what they lived through and handed down to us was amazing. It made me want to be an activist and do something: to be the voice for the voiceless.”

While this important aspect of her work is indeed commendable, I am also an admirer of her classic love songs and ballads.

*The Little Things*, a take on the traditional American songbook love song is as complex and reminiscent as see MUSICAL, page 15



Denise Gentilini

## Andi Roselund

An Armenian composer In Korea

**By Artsvi Bakhchinyan**  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN / SEOUL – Andi Roselund is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, three-time iF Award-winning commercial sound designer, music educator and music director. He was born and raised in Los Angeles, to a Swedish-American father and Armenian-American mother. Since 1992 he has lived in South Korea.

In 1998 he received his B.A. from Music Composition, Yonsei University in Korea.

Since 2011, he has been the director of music at convergent media production company, Sangwha. Andi lives with his wife Nakyoung Kim, who has participated in some of his pop project tracks as a singer.



**Dear Andi, you live in Korea for 28 years – what is the experience of a Westerner to live and create in the country like that?**

It has been very challenging, but also exciting. Being a small country with a rich but very difficult history (especially in the 20th century), South Korea is often overlooked and there are not nearly as many Westerners here as in Japan, for example. Koreans have a very deep-rooted social order based on neo-Confucianism, which dictates strong collectivism in society not only with adherence to family and friends, but also within any organization, school, or church, and is even built into the language. As such, it is hard to feel a part of any social body unless you speak the language, which is why I have felt that Westerners in general have trouble living in Korea in the long-term. I came to Korea to learn the language and go to school to study music, so I got to experience first-hand many of these challenges, but it is very much now a part of my life, personality, and work in the music industry. In fact, I still work on music projects with my university classmates from over 25 years ago. In the same way, being a creative individual of any sort of art in Korean society requires you to find a balance between individual expression and association with your collective body. Some say this contributes to some limitations that both musicians and visual artists sense in Korea, but I have felt that it is also helpful for opening up more and more to diverse styles of expression within artistic communities.

see ROSELUND, page 16



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## A Voice for the Voiceless

MUSICAL, from page 14

the best Cole Porter melody. Written by Gentilini and Lisa Nemzo, and as sung by Lauren Shealy in her expressive soulful voice, it approaches the beauty of *I Love Paris*. The lyrics themselves tell a story of love using a traditional metaphor of the rose blooming and describes a couple who find they only have each other to count on when their children have grown up:

"My love when springtime comes around each year

I wish for all the things that bring you near

A red rose in bloom holds a promise

Of passion so sweetly renewed

It's the little things

And if we only knew

That seasons come and seasons go

It's just you and me

Now that the kids have grown

There are some who might say we're old fashioned

Cuz we still feel the magic of love

In the little things

That's what life's made of..."

The song's universal appeal lies in the fact that the specific situation at hand extends to all lovers, friends or people who find themselves abandoned or alone. Listen to its tender melody while you drink a glass of dark wine and feel the warmth of knowing that there is someone out

there for you to depend as well, even if you are alone – in this case the ravishing Lauren Shealy.

The song is entered in this year's Grammy competition in Best Instrumental Arrangement with Vocals, Denise Gentilini, arranger.

But it is as a human rights activist and historical conscience that Gentilini makes her strongest impact. She is currently working on the Cindy L. Abel film, "Surviving the Silence," the untold story of two women in love who helped change military policy. They previously collaborated on "Breaking Through," about openly LGBTQ elected officials.

Gentilini's second documentary film "Conviction" (2006), directed by Brenda Truelson Fox, relates the unlikely story of three peacenik Dominican nuns who break into a nuclear missile silo in Colorado in order to expose American weapons of mass destruction. The film earned Denise her second Emmy® award for film score.

Four years prior, in 2002, Denise had produced and scored the music to "The Handjian Story: A Road Less Traveled." This first documentary film tells the story of her grandparents, Malvine and Kourken Handjian, whose families perished in the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923.

Based on interviews with the two survivors, it is a heart-rending account of hard-working and family-oriented Armenians suddenly ripped away from their loved ones and murdered in the cru-



elest of ways. Listening to Malvine describe her father's last minutes before a train takes him away to a concentration camp and certain death is indeed painful.

Using the research that she conducted and

footage from "The Handjian Story," Gentilini has created "I Am Alive," the definitive Armenian Genocide musical retelling, with lyrics as catchy as "Fiddler on the Roof" and music that ranges from the soulful and sublime to intense, almost electronica-influenced ballads.

The two Genocide survivors, Kourken and Malvine, find love after witnessing intense hatred, a love which lets them begin anew in America and form a family, while passing on Armenian traditions that have endured for many centuries now. The opening *We are Blessed* takes the traditional Armenian church hymn and raises it to a different level, mixing in a more contemporary, Broadway sensibility. *Kapriel Underscore* grows from almost murmur-like undertones and builds to an incandescent, but always controlled, rocking climax. You want to dance around your room as you listen to it.

Other hits songs include *Bad Bad Men* and *On the Shores of the Euphrates: We Believed Them*. *Find our Way* tells the story of Hachó and Kourken after they find unlikely work in a bakery: "Today I am the baker, tonight I'll dream of girls/Tomorrow I will make simits or candies with swirls...together we will find our way. We are lucky to be alive/That is what matter most." The song and by extension the entire musical is at turns witty, fun and tragic, borrowing from a diverse music vocabulary that surprises the listener at every turn. The musical ends when Kourken and Malvine meet and finally marry. The title song *I Am Alive* should bring down the proverbial house.

To date Gentilini has self-funded the productions of "I Am Alive" along with her wife Lynette Prisner, including an initial production at the University of Denver's Newman Center for the Performing Arts on April 21, 2015.

She said, "I wanted to focus on the positive part of my grandparents' survival and the contributions of the Armenian people to society as a whole. I didn't want to bemoan the sadness of their history but still tell that history to a society who knew little of this past: the first genocide of the 20th century."

The latest performance was held in Glendale in September 2016 at the Alex Theater. Originally co-written with Lisa Nemzo, Gentilini continues to update both lyrics and score: "It's been a wild ride," says Gentilini, "and I'm not done just yet. After many rewrites and new songs and song updates, I'm creating a 'concept CD' featuring all the songs from the musical. The hope is to get interest from prospective producers to invest in a journey that could lead us all the way to Broadway in New York."

One hopes that moving forward Armenians will support such projects of note that relate to their history to the same extent that Jews, African Americans and other minority groups have in America. This is one fantastic project that all should see – and given Gentilini's resolve to give voice to the voiceless, I am fairly certain that she will somehow achieve her goal soon, once more.

Listen to Lauren Shealy sing The Little Things: [https://youtube/D1Xx-xhC\\_bk](https://youtube/D1Xx-xhC_bk)

Learn more about Denise Gentilini at [www.DeniseGentilini.com](http://www.DeniseGentilini.com) or [www.IAmAliveTheMusical.com](http://www.IAmAliveTheMusical.com).

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## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# An Armenian Composer in Korea

ROSELAND, from page 14

## How would you characterize the Korean music scene today?

Thanks to K-pop's greater acceptance on the world scene from about 2008 on to the present, it is by all means the most active Korean music scene from both an economic standpoint as well as a point of "soft power," to increase tourism and cultural awareness. Unfortunately this also means that both the historic significance of traditional Korean music as well as the quality of excellent new material coming out of the very active independent music scene (jazz, hip-hop, alternative, crossover traditional, etc.) does not get as much attention or support from the government or the general populace, in the same

Saturday mornings and sometimes listened to current pop music of the time (my grandmother Nelly would say that Eastern Armenian sounds "so beautifully high-class"), but it was just a point of fascination for my sister and I. I also was very interested in learning the *oud*, and fellow Californian Richard Hagopian's recordings were very important in my understanding of Armenian modes. And as hinted before, it is been wonderful to discover and immerse myself in the music of Komitas. Other than that, thanks to YouTube I regularly have anything from Sirusho to Tigran Petrosyan playing in the background at home, as I love all sorts of pop music. Currently I am working on arranging of two Komitas tracks for an upcoming

nod to the survival of our family: I gave myself this nickname because I loved how it sounded and because Mihr sounds very similar to a pure-Korean word for dragon, but the truth is it happens to be my mother's paternal grandfather's name. Mihran Constantian was the son of clergyman/bricklayer Avedis Constantian (who also helped translate the Bible into Ottoman Turkish in the late 1800s), who was from the Sisli neighborhood of Bolis. They escaped to America right before when the Hamidian massacres began, and ended up in Seattle, Washington. Mihran married Mary Tashkian in 1906, and my grandfather (another Avedis Constantian) was born in 1910. Like Dr. Haigazian safely sending his family away, I am grateful for my

ited home and bought some Armenian textbooks from the Pasadena City College bookstore (they had an Armenian course), and brought them back to learn. Unfortunately, I was not able to learn anything more than the alphabet and basic phonetic reading, and with no audio resources to learn Armenian at the time, I lost hope and gave up studying.

The only Armenian tradition we shared at home was really good food. And although I deeply regret that I was not able to learn Armenian, I have no way to fully understand my late grandmother Nelly's pain and sorrow that led to her and her sisters not wanting to pass on their distinctively Western Armenian culture to my mother's generation: My great-grandmother Matilda and daughters arrived in Troy, New York in 1921 and had received a few letters from Dr. Haigazian, in which he spoke of getting ready to leave the Jenanian Institute before the Turks would arrive to continue the ethnic cleansing of the Anatolian Plateau, he planning to meet up with them in New York. But later that year when they received news that he had died from typhus after an 800-kilometer march to Kharpert, the family took it as difficultly as one might expect; Nelly was (above all) furious, and ripped up all of his letters, and Matilda apparently conveyed to her daughters something along the lines of "Now in losing your father, we have no home country, no culture. This is your new country; this is your new life." Decades later, Nelly would speak Armenian with an extensive Turkish vocabulary to my grandfather Avedis (who grew up speaking Armenian at home), but she refused to have my mother and her siblings learn a single word. Sadly that is why food tradition is all that has been passed on to me, and not even church holidays were observed in the family. Nelly made it a priority to forget as much of the past as she could.

**This reminded me of what you have written on your life in LA: "We would regularly drive up to a shop or two in Pasadena for lahmajoon, cheese, grape leaves for making sarma and yalanchi dolma at home, and pre-made frozen bulgur kufte (as kids, we called them "hand grenades") filled with spiced lamb for stews." I assume you miss such dishes in Korea.**

I do miss the taste of home, as have not tasted anything in the world as good as my mother's lamb *sarma*. So accordingly, every time I visit home I ask my mother to teach me a new meal to make, since I love cooking here in Korea and regularly make my own *yalanchi dolma* and *lahmajoon*, and of course serve it with familiar Middle Eastern sides like hummus, muhammara, and braided cheese with nigella seeds. It is also interesting to hear from my Armenian friends here how different Adana-Armenian cuisine I have learned from my mother can taste when compared to in Armenia, namely that my *khovovatz* and *kuzu tandir*-style lamb roasts always feature mainly rosemary and lemon juice (instead of oregano and pomegranate juice), a very different flavor profile from what they are used to!

**Yes, there are slight differences between Armenian and Diaspora cuisines. I think it is time for you to come to your ancestors' country and test not only that. And in general, it will be great to welcome you in Armenia.**

That would be absolutely wonderful. Thank you so much for giving me an opportunity to share and I hope to as well! Although the lineage of my mother's parents were probably in Constantinople and Western Armenia for hundreds of years and likely had no association with Yerevan during the Ottoman era, it is a long-held dream of mine to one day visit Armenia: to first go to Tsitsernakaberd, and then places like Khor Virap, Garni, and of course Lake Sevan, to sit among nature and be still for a while. I am convinced that in just being there, I will hear ancient music and the enduring spirit of our forefathers in the land itself...



Andi Roselund lights candles before pictures of his Armenian grandparents.

way that K-pop does. That being said, there is a lot of creative synergy between different styles and live scenes, and places like the Hongdae neighborhood of Seoul has more new music being created and performed live every evening than ever.

**Yes, due to PSY's Gangnam Style and the boy band BTS's music has become quite known internationally. Andi, can we consider you a Korean composer or you are just an American musician who lives in Korea?**

I am the latter. Just the same, even though I did my graduate studies in traditional Korean music theory and have lived here for nearly 30 years, I consider myself a composer without a national identity related to my music or background. One of my favorite things to do is studying the tone color of different (acoustic) instruments when blended, and seeing how musical modes and rhythmic cycles from different cultures sound when blending. Some examples are my love of reinterpreting folk music of the British Isles with traditional Korean instruments, and more recently, seeing how well I can express much-loved songs by Komitas in a Korean context as well. I was recently was so touched to hear from a gayageum player/classmate of mine from 20 years ago (presently a professor of music and cultural studies in the US), when she heard some of my recent work and said, "you are not taking music of other cultures and forcing it into another context with one culture over another; your diversity of expression is simply a part of your natural musical vocabulary." It was something I have felt for a long while, and was so grateful to hear her opinion.

**Are you acquainted with Armenian music?**

Not nearly as much as I wish I could be. When I was younger we had occasionally have Armenian Teletime turned on the TV on

recording. One is *Sareri Hovin Mernem*, to which I will be adding traditional Korean instruments along with *duduk* and *qanun*, and a wonderful Armenian singer here in Korea will sing the original lyrics. I also may have another version of *Sareri Hovin Mernem* done, translated into Korean and sung in *jeongga*, which is a type of traditional Korean court vocal method that is very slow and reserved. And among the tracks will be the final version of a composition I wrote called From Hadjin to Seoul, which traces the story of my grandmother's journey down to my own here in Korea, starting sorrowfully with the *duduk* and ending with an inverted melody that uses traditional Korean instrumentation.

**In the year of the Armenian Genocide centennial you joined the "I am a descendant of a survivor of the Armenian Genocide" initiative on Facebook and put the photo of Dr. Armenag Haigazian (1870-1921).**

That is a photograph I knew not of until my uncle James Constantian showed it to us at a Haigazian descendants' reunion in Southern California a few years ago, and it was such a powerful image that is hard to forget after seeing it. You can see Dr. Haigazian's blue eyes and stern but warm-hearted facial expression, with wife Matilda's beauty hidden behind the difficulty in their transition from Northern Adana (Hadjin), and it is a look I have seen on pictures of my friends' relatives as well: their faces speak such sorrow that so many of our grandparents and great grandparents in the Diaspora endured. It was most likely photographed in Konya in 1919 or 1920, before he had sent Matilda and his daughters to America.

**You sign your videos as Mihran. Is this your artistic name?**

I like to think of it that way, but also as a

great-grandfather Mihran's safe passage to America, and want to remember him in a name I can call my own.

**It is interesting if you are aware of Armenians and other people of Armenian origin living in Korea. I know there are IT specialists from Armenia; what about culture?**

Most Armenians that I know in Korea are fairly recent arrivals, coming here in the last 10 years. And in addition to highly educated IT specialists, there are chemical engineers, mathematicians, and numerous people learning Korean in order to translate and/or work in tourism. Unfortunately though, very little is understood by the local Korean population about Armenia, history, and culture. But thanks to Instagram, many of the Armenians in Korea have been very active to talk about Armenian culture even while basically blogging about local tourism, and we can hope for a greater collective awareness in the future. Among them Narine Haroyan (from AGBU Young Professionals, Seoul) has been a wonderful soul connecting other Armenians in Korea, and instrumental in helping everyone engage in cultural discussion. And all of them are very active on social media regarding the current war on Artsakh, posting extensively in Korean and helping locals understand the geographic and historic plight of Armenians, and our strong will to endure.

**What kind of Armenian traditions does your family have?**

I grew up as a half-Armenian kid (and equally half-*odar*, as I became known among more conservative Armenians from the old country!) living in one of smaller Armenian communities in Montebello, opposite Los Angeles from Glendale. Being third-generation and not able to speak the language, however, I tried to study Armenian. In 1995 I vis-



ARTS & LIVING

Ani Marganian Creates a New World of Encouragement



MARGANIAN, from page 14

an important piece of our larger Armenian community. It's the city that raised both mine and Anoush's dads and our aunts and uncles. It's been a refuge for our [Armenian] people for so long so we wanted to find a way to contribute because there's so much going on there. Food is an important part of culture and Mayrig is working to preserve Armenian culture and heritage in Lebanon."

Nor Ashkharh is selling a set of three stickers inspired by some of the foods served at the Mayrig restaurant in Beirut including baklava, boreg, and banir. All of the proceeds from the "B is for Beirut" sticker initiative will be donated to Mayrig Restaurant. (<http://www.mayrigbeirut.com/> or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/mayrig>)

Ani's future goals center around communication, both in the form of speech therapy and of course, art. She is currently working on a speech therapy project with folks in Armenia and plans to donate 100% of the profits from her sales to support non-verbal communicators there.

Ani declared: "I want my art to create a new world of hope, encouragement and worthiness, especially since at the moment there is so much chaos, suffering, and fear in the world."

You can keep up with Ani's vibrant and inspiring artwork by following @norashkharh on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/norashkharh/>.

Calendar

MASSACHUSETTS

- OCTOBER 17 — St. James 73rd Annual Take-Out Bazaar** - Delicious Armenian Food and Pastries. \$100 Raffle. Online Silent Auction. Pre-order curbside pickup only. To order meals and pastries, visit [www.stjameswatertown.org/bazaar](http://www.stjameswatertown.org/bazaar) starting on October 1st, or call the Church office. St. James Armenian Church – 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For more information contact 617.923.8860 or [info@stthagop.com](mailto:info@stthagop.com).
- OCTOBER 21 — Wednesday at 10 am, Celebrating What Unites Us! A virtual cooking series**, a collaboration of City of Boston Age-Friendly Boston, OLDWAYS and Friends of Armenian Heritage Park to keep us connected, coming together. To register, email [hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org](mailto:hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org). Mexican Cuisine Executive Chef Colton Coburn-Wood & Friends C smica Restaurant in the Revolution Hotel
- NOVEMBER 18 — Wednesday at 10 am, Celebrating What Unites Us! A virtual cooking series**, a collaboration of City of Boston Age-Friendly Boston, OLDWAYS and Friends of Armenian Heritage Park to keep us connected, coming together. To register, email [hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org](mailto:hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org) Afghan Cuisine Chef Sharifa Zareen, Sanctuary Kitchen Catering
- DECEMBER 2 — Wednesday at 10 am, Celebrating What Unites Us! A virtual cooking series**, a collaboration of City of Boston Age-Friendly Boston, OLDWAYS and Friends of Armenian Heritage Park to keep us connected, coming together. To register, email [hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org](mailto:hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org) Indian Cuisine Madhu Gadia, Cookbook author, The Indian Vegan Kitchen, and New Indian Home Cooking; founder, Cuisine of India
- DECEMBER 5-6 — SAVE THE DATE. Trinity's 2020 Christmas Bazaar.** Saturday, December 5 & Sunday December 6, 2020. Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston. 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA 02138. Questions? 617 354-0632
- DECEMBER 16 - Wednesday at 10 am, Celebrating What Unites Us! A virtual cooking series**, a collaboration of City of Boston Age-Friendly Boston, OLDWAYS and Friends of Armenian Heritage Park to keep us connected, coming together. To register, email [hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org](mailto:hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org) Desserts! Chef Nathan Kibarian Pastry Chef, Island Creek Oyster Bar Chef/Owner, Desserts by Nathan

RHODE ISLAND

- The Sts. Sahag and Mashtots Armenian Church of Providence hosts the following Armenian Cultural Hour programs virtually every Friday at 7:30 pm.** For information on how to watch or participate in the programs, contact the church office.
- October 16 – "A Century of Light, Hope and Faith"** Concert dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church
- October 23 –** Saro Danielian, Virtuozo Duduk and Zurna player (Argentina)
- October 30 –** Garo Nicheanian, Bass-Baritone, Canada "A bouquet of Armenian songs".
- November 6 –** "Musical greetings from Lisbon" Levon Muradian, Cello ( Portugal)
- November 13 –** Emma Tovmasian & Vazgen Avetian (CA) in concert" Sere chi tsera-noom", Armenian popular songs
- November 20 –** "Meet with Armenian Doctors" – Dr. Aznif Calikyan, Anesthesiologist
- November 27 –** "Nor Serund" Youth Talents from Armenia Armenian folk music and songs
- December 4 –** Renown Armenian Bass & Songwriter Ruben Telunts in Concert "Karotee Kanch"
- December 11 –** World Renown "Cadance" Ensemble from Armenia
- December 18 –** Christmas Concert, featuring "Yerevan" Chorale &Orchestra, Boston, MA
- December 27 (Sunday) –** Memorial Concert "David Ayrian

Recipe Corner



by Christine Vartanian

Sini Kufte (Kibbeh Bil-Sineyah)

This original recipe and photo are courtesy of Salpy's International Kitchen. Salpy Rozario posts an extensive selection of international recipes at her popular food blog like this traditional recipe for Sini Kufte from June 2, 2013.

KUFTE DOUGH INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups fine grade bulgur #1
- 1 lb. fine ground, extra lean beef ("chi-kufte meat")
- 1 teaspoon Aleppo pepper or 1 tablespoon red pepper paste
- 1 teaspoon black pepper, to taste
- 3 tablespoons flour
- Salt, to taste
- A little water to moisten the bulgur
- 2 to 3 tablespoons flour while mixing the shell dough

GHEEMA MICHOOG (Ground beef filling) INGREDIENTS:

- 3 lbs. ground beef (preferably 20% fat)
- 1 large onion, finely chopped in a food processor
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon salt, to taste
- 1 teaspoon Aleppo red pepper flakes (Salpy prefers to use red pepper paste.)

PREPARATION:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Gheema Michoog:

Heat a large pot, add the ground beef and 1 cup of water, stirring often. Cook until browned, breaking apart the large lumps as it cooks. Add the onions and spices, and stir to combine. Cook covered on medium to low heat until all liquid is gone and the meat and onions are cooked.

Remove from heat and let it cool. Scoop out any extra grease, and the mixture is ready to be used as filling for various dishes.

Kufte Dough:

In a shallow bowl, mix the bulgur, flour, spices, and a little bit of cold water just to moisten it. Set aside to soak for a few minutes. Gradually add the "chi-kufte meat" and start kneading until you have a soft dough.

Assembly:

Brush the bottom and sides of a baking dish with olive oil. Spread half the kufte dough covering the bottom completely about 1/2" thick. Spread the cooked gheema michoog over the layer of kufte. Then, taking a handful of the remaining kufte dough in batches, pat open in your hands to about 1/2" thickness and start laying them on top of the gheema michoog until you have the whole surface covered.

Gently press down on the top (wetting your hand in a small bowl of water) until you smooth out the patches, and have a smooth and uniform top. With a sharp knife cut through all the way to make squares or diamond shapes. At this point, depending on your preference, brush the surface with some olive oil or dot the top with small cubes of butter. Bake in a pre-heated 350 degree oven until golden brown.

For this recipe, go to:

- <https://www.facebook.com/SalpysInternationalKitchen/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/SalpysInternationalKitchen/photos/a.196232397195545/201094320042686/?type=3&theater>
- [https://www.facebook.com/pg/SalpysInternationalKitchen/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=196232397195545&ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/SalpysInternationalKitchen/photos/?tab=album&album_id=196232397195545&ref=page_internal)





COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL

# No Endgame in Sight in Karabakh War

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The war in Karabakh has caught the attention of major world powers because in an interconnected world, all conflicts are the result of the intersection of the interests of many countries, although they may seem to relate only to a certain localized region. Conversely, all conflicts have far-reaching impact around the world. (See related stories on page 1.)

For the last thirty years, the Karabakh conflict has resulted in many flare ups between Armenia and Azerbaijan with no conclusive results. In 1994, the parties agreed on a ceasefire, on the basis that the conflict has no military solution and that the parties will not resort to the use of force.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, which is co-chaired by the US, Russia and France, has been working for a solution based on that assumption. However, Azerbaijan has broken its agreement more than once; it tried to use force first in April 2016, as well as in July of this year. Every act of aggression was repulsed forcefully, as well as with additional retaliation, to convince the leadership in Baku that violence would not deliver its hoped-for results.

The conflict has also been used by regional and world powers for their own ends. The leadership in Azerbaijan has been encouraged by such developments, adopting a maximalist posture. President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly said that the only solution is based on the complete surrender of the Armenian side. To this day, he insists that peace will not be established until all Armenians leave Karabakh. That has led Mr. Aliyev further, to the delusion that he might occupy the entire territory of the Republic of Armenia itself.

The current flare-up is the direct result of Turkey's involvement in the conflict with intentions and plans much greater than Azerbaijan's goals. Turkey is in the Caucasus to contain the influence of Russia and Iran, a goal very much in synch with the West's aspirations. But Turkey's present leader has also a more selfish agenda: to restore the Ottoman Empire and bring the nations formerly within that empire back under its bloody thumb.

Mr. Erdogan's adventures in Syria and the Eastern Mediterranean thus far have backfired and as a fallback, he is trying his luck in the Caucasus. Today Azerbaijan is a virtual colony of Turkey under the catchphrase "One Nation, Two States."

But that second state is hardly visible under Turkey's dark shadow.

President Aliyev has lost control completely. The war is commanded by Turkish military advisors and is fought with Islamist mercenaries imported from Syria at the behest of Mr. Erdogan.

It is no exaggeration when Karabakh President Arayik Harutyunyan states that the Armenian forces are fighting Turkey, not just Azerbaijan.

Incidentally, Harutyunyan has turned out to be an outstanding wartime leader, even braving the frontlines personally. Before his election, his forte was considered to be his contribution to the Karabakh economy. He had participated in the liberation war as a young man but had chosen to go into business rather than politics.

As the war extends to its second week, the outcome is appearing grimmer. The fact that the Armenian side has held up successfully speaks highly of the professionalism of its armed forces. Azerbaijan began to target civilian structures in Stepanakert and Vardenis in Armenia, betraying its frustration and exasperation.

That, in turn, not only will result in misery for the Armenian side but it will create problems for Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Armenia has already lodged a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights against Azerbaijan for violating the terms of the Geneva Convention by indiscriminately bombing civilians.

The Turkish and Azerbaijani war planners were anticipating that Armenia would be intimidated by the former's unconditional support of Azerbaijan. But that was not the case. Instead, the Armenians lobbed a well-planned retaliation by destroying

the military airbase in Ganja, Azerbaijan, after warning the civilian population there to leave, in advance of the attack.

Targeting Ganja had more than one symbolic meaning. First, the F-16 fighter jet, which had shot down an Armenian warplane over Armenia, had flown from that base. Second, that base also houses the repair facilities of Azerbaijan's air force and the guidance center of their drones.

Lastly, Ganja historically has been the hub of Azerbaijan's Turkic nationalism, the birthplace of the Mosavat Party and the city where Azerbaijan's independence was declared in 1918.

Armenians found the Ganja military airport to be an easy target because it was not well defended.

Armenians are finding many other undefended military targets, which leads one to the conclusion that Azerbaijan's military doctrine is based on only offense. Their armed forces wage war under the assumption that the enemy will surrender and therefore, they will not need a defensive backup plan. Their assumption has not proved successful thus far. The Armenian armed forces were able to absorb the first shock, and follow it by attacking and engaging the enemy in continued operations. Thus, Armenia proved that it has the most professional fighting force in the region.

In addition to Armenia's complaint to the European Court,

Amnesty International has also accused Azerbaijan of using cluster bombs. They stated, "Over the weekend, footage consistent with the use of cluster munitions in the city of Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno Karabakh, was published by the region's de facto authorities. They also reported unidentified civilian casualties after further shelling in Stepanakert and the town of Shushi."

Turkey is in the Caucasus to change the status quo by containing Russia's influence and by creating a counterweight to Iran, the world's major Shiite force. Turkey is competing for the leadership of the Sunni bloc. That is why it has tangled with the other contenders for that title, namely Saudi Arabia and Egypt. But Turkey's fallout with those two powers was also not only due to its desire to

lead that religious bloc. Ankara was fighting to scare off a host of nations which had interest in hydrocarbon deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkey's bullying so far has led to a coalition formed against it, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Greece and Cyprus.

It is not just those countries that are taking a vocal stand against Turkey; France and Germany have also been offended to a dangerous point.

France has been vociferously critical of Turkey's actions in the region.

Erdogan's calling German Chancellor Angela Merkel a Nazi angered that country so much so that Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Erdogan had crossed a line.

With France and Germany disposed against Turkey, the US has found itself facing a catastrophic crack in the NATO structure. It looks like Turkey is wearing out its welcome there.

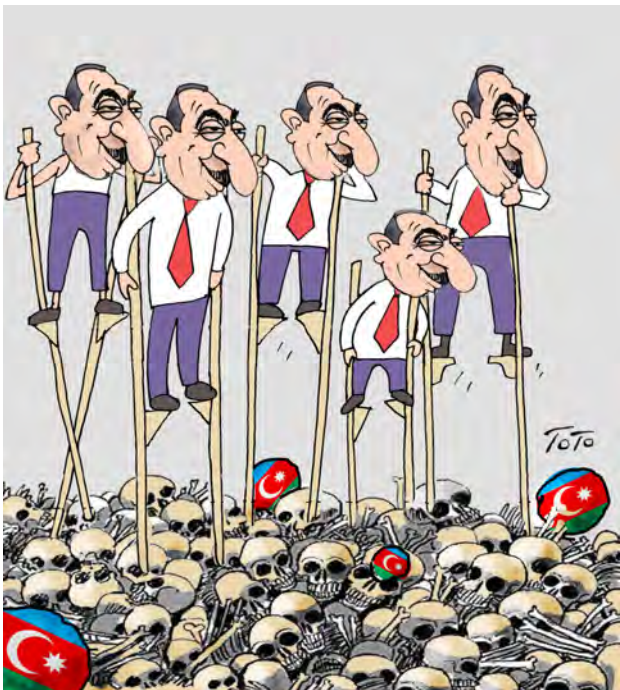
Germany has already begun moving its military assets from Incirlik air base in Turkey. The US is also considering an alternate site on Greek islands. Turkey no longer holds hostage its allies in periods of crisis, as it has done in the past.

Russia has not yet spoken as the fighting continues. Many in Armenia are questioning when the Collective Security Treaty Organization pact with Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan as members will kick in to support a fellow member in trouble.

To demonstrate how dysfunctional that pact is, suffice it to observe fellow signatory of the pact, Belarus, sending military equipment to Azerbaijan!

However, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has announced that as yet Armenia can fight its war but no one knows what could happen if the war is protracted.

The developments have caused grave concern also for Iran, which has been a historic rival of Turkey. The Eurasian Times reports in its October 5 issue that Tehran has concentrated 200 tanks and troops on its border with Armenia, supposedly to help Armenia. If in fact there is such a concentration of Iranian forces, certainly it is not intended for Armenia. Iran has other concerns; indeed, Azerbaijan has lent itself to Israel as a launching pad for a potential attack on Iran. With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's sagging popularity and with the US in an electoral mood with an ailing president, the opportunity may be



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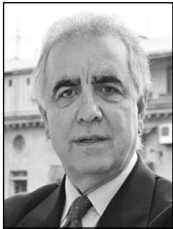
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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

# Analysis of the Key Participants In the Artsakh War

At the time of writing this analysis, on Oct. 5, 2020, the war between Armenia and Artsakh on one side, and Azerbaijan, Turkey and Islamist mercenaries on the other, is continuing with countless deaths of soldiers and civilians, and widespread damage of cities and villages. This week, I will analyze the role of each of the key participants in the conflict:

**Azerbaijan:** Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, refusing to accept Artsakh Armenians' right to self-determination and following up on his numerous threats to solve the conflict militarily, launched a massive attack against Armenia and Artsakh on Sept. 27, 2020. Before the war, Azerbaijan secured the support of the Turkish armed forces and a large number of terrorists from Syria paid by the Turkish government.

The Presidents of Azerbaijan and Turkey have ignored all appeals for ceasefire, including a joint statement by France, Russia and the United States. Aliyev announced that there will be no ceasefire and no negotiations until Armenian forces leave Artsakh. Azerbaijan and Turkey not only want to occupy Artsakh, but unleash a second genocide on Armenians. This is an existential threat to the Armenian people. It is a war against all 10 million Armenians worldwide. Fortunately, Armenians have understood the serious danger to their existence and have joined hands to repulse the enemy. After the Azeri/Turkish attack fails, Armenia should refuse all proposals for negotiations and safeguard the land of Artsakh which has been liberated with the blood of our brave young men. Azerbaijan and Turkey have attacked not only Armenian military targets, but also civilians in major cities and villages. This is a war crime for which Azerbaijan and Turkey should be held responsible in front of the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice.

Armenia should also file a complaint with the United Nations since Azerbaijan is a signatory to the UN "International Convention Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries." The Convention calls for punishment "by appropriate penalties which take into account the grave nature of those offenses."

**Turkey:** Turkey should have no role in the Artsakh conflict. Erdogan keeps talking about one nation, two states, referring to Azerbaijan and Turkey. Why does he then not accept the same concept for Armenia and Artsakh? He has no right to speak about Artsakh's status, since Turkey itself occupied

Northern Cyprus in 1974.

For far too long, Turkey has armed and trained terrorists in Syria, Iraq and Libya, and now in Azerbaijan. The international community is just as guilty as Turkey for not sanctioning it for its terroristic activities. Erdogan has learned that he will get away with murder and no country will say a word. It is time to muzzle Erdogan and check his expansionist desires.

Besides the physical war, there is also a war of propaganda and falsehoods being waged by Azerbaijan and Turkey. As usual, Turkey is lying about the most obvious facts. If it can deny the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians, it can also deny that it has military forces and advisors in Azerbaijan fighting against Armenia and Artsakh. Turkey also denies that it has recruited Islamist terrorists to fight in Artsakh.

**Terrorist Mercenaries:** Hundreds, if not thousands, of Islamist terrorists have been recruited by Turkey from Northern Syria to go to Azerbaijan to fight against Armenia and Artsakh. Many of their phone calls have been recorded in recent days stating that they were misled by Turkey into believing that they will only perform guard duties, not fight in a war. The terrorists stated that they want to leave, but are prevented from doing so. They have come to Azerbaijan after Turkey offered them a couple of thousand dollars a month. Despite the denials of Azerbaijan and Turkey, Armenia's National Security Services have recorded the terrorists' phone calls speaking in Arabic and Turkish and advising their fellow terrorists not to come to Azerbaijan.

**Russia:** Russia is the only world power that can stop the fighting as it has done many times before. Either Russian President Vladimir Putin is unable to pressure Azerbaijan and Turkey to declare a ceasefire or unwilling to do so, until it can secure concessions from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey for its own benefit.

The problem is that Armenia is a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) which has a mutual defense agreement with Russia and several other former Soviet states. So far Armenia has not applied to CSTO to come to its defense from Azerbaijan's attacks on the Republic of Armenia, announcing that it can protect its own territory. Armenia should ask CSTO to secure its protection from attacks by Turkey and Azerbaijan. If Armenia applies and CSTO rejects to fulfill its treaty obligations, then we will know that CSTO is a paper tiger. There may be behind the scenes discussions between Armenia and CSTO to come to Armenia's rescue at the appropriate time, before Armenia is in danger.

Supporting Armenia is also in Russia's own interest. First of all, the Caucasus region is considered Russia's sphere of influence which Turkey should not be allowed to encroach. Secondly, the Islamist terrorists that Turkey has sent to Azerbaijan could end up being a threat to Russia's security. The sooner Russia pressures Azerbaijan and Turkey to send the terrorists back, the better for its own interests.

Armenia is also displeased that Russia sells sophisticated jets and missiles to Azerbaijan. This is an inappropriate conduct for a strategic ally of Armenia. It is understandable that Russia is

making these military sales for its own economic benefit, but Armenians have to constantly remind Russia that it is undermining its own reputation in Armenia by supplying weapons to Armenia's enemy.

**Iran:** The Iranian government has always maintained a neutral position in the Armenia Azerbaijan conflict. In the current war, Iran was alarmed when Azeri missiles fell inside the Iranian territory killing a child. Iran also expressed its serious concern with Azerbaijan importing mercenary terrorists which could pose a danger to Iran's security.

**Israel:** It is shameful that the Israeli government continues to provide sophisticated drones and missiles to Azerbaijan in return for Azeri oil. Would Israel, if it existed during World War II, have sold weapons to Hitler in return for financial gains? No wonder Armenia last week recalled its newly-appointed Ambassador from Tel Aviv. American Armenians should impress upon American Jews and American Jewish organizations that Israel's arming of Azerbaijan is morally repugnant and it will be held responsible for the deaths of Armenian civilians and soldiers. Even during the height of this war, scores of Azeri cargo planes have been seen in Israel loading advanced weapons for Azerbaijan!

**France:** France is the only country in the world that has told the truth about the conflict. French President Emmanuel Macron declared that Azerbaijan was the one that initiated the attack on Artsakh and also confirmed that Turkey has sent Islamist terrorists to Azerbaijan. It is not clear what France will do beyond mere words, nevertheless, Armenians worldwide appreciate the French position.

**US:** The United States, if it wanted to, could also pressure Turkey to stay out of the Armenian-Azeri conflict. Unfortunately, despite Pres. Trump's statement that he will look into the conflict, nothing has been done. Trump's close friendship with Erdogan does not give Armenians any comfort that the United States will play a moderating role in the conflict, particularly at a time when Trump is infected with the coronavirus.

The only positive action coming from the House of Representatives is its planned adoption of Resolution 1165 which condemns Azerbaijan for its attack on Artsakh and denounces Turkey for its participation in the war on the side of Azerbaijan. Going beyond condemnation, the United States should sanction Azerbaijan and Turkey, cut off all military and foreign aid to both countries, and designate them as terrorist states!

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, Armenia cannot rely on anyone but its own people to defend its homeland. It is very encouraging that Armenians worldwide have come to the support of Armenia and Artsakh donating funds and humanitarian supplies. All Armenians have to continue to counter Azeri and Turkish military and propaganda attacks. When Azerbaijan sees that its military has failed to yield any results, it will be forced to admit that Artsakh will never become a part of Azerbaijan. After these vicious Azeri and Turkish attacks, no Armenian will agree to have the Artsakh people live under the brutal rule of the corrupt dictator Aliyev.

## No Endgame in Sight in Karabakh War

ripe. Turkey will become an active participant despite its angry exchange with the Israeli leadership. There is a tacit understating with Israel that Erdogan may criticize Israel, pretending to defend the Palestinian cause. It has even gone so far recently as to suggest that Jerusalem should revert back to Turkey. Had there been an actual row between the two countries, Israel would have already recognized the Armenian Genocide.

Pashinyan's government is composed mostly of young cadres, not experienced in dealing with this kind of situation in the global news media, especially in the diplomatic field. A diplomatic challenge was thrust upon it and it has so far fared well. Compared to previous conflicts, it received wider news coverage and Armenia projected, in general, a positive image. The leadership also gave cogent interviews to major publications around the world and the military leadership continuously updated the situation on Twitter and other social media. They also stressed that reporters were free to come to Armenia and Artsakh, unlike Azerbaijan.

Armenian government representatives, taking the cue from Erdogan himself, were able to capitalize on the issue of the Genocide, indicating that this struggle was between Armenia and Turkey and that Turkey had come to finish what it had started in 1915.

Pashinyan called US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien to question the US about US-made F-16 fighter-bombers Turkey sent against civilian populations. He also raised the same question in an interview with the *New York Times*.

Armenian President Armen Sarkissian

reached out to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin to complain about the Israeli-made cluster bombs being used against civilians by Azerbaijan. Yerevan also recalled its ambassador to Israel as an act of protest.

François-Philippe Champagne, Canada's foreign minister announced that his country was suspending arms supplies to Turkey.

Jens Stoltenberg, secretary general of NATO, advised Turkey to use its position to bring the parties to the negotiating table.

In previous unsavory Turkish adventures, he had unquestionably supported Turkey's actions.

When the OSCE called for a cessation of hostilities, the first party it reached out to was Erdogan, not Aliyev. Even when supposedly Azerbaijani forces had taken Jebail (which later proved not to be true) again Erdogan had broadcast the "good" news.

This haste means one thing: Turkey is in command and Azerbaijan is a shell of its former self.

This war has propelled Arayik Harutyunyan to the world scene. Pashinyan himself has been enhancing Karabakh's image, with the apparent intention that he will propose that the Karabakh government sign the ceasefire or peace agreement and that Azerbaijan recognizes the Karabakh government as its counterpart. But before reaching that point, Armenia has to pave the way by itself recognizing Karabakh's independence. It is already high time.

Erdogan and Aliyev have changed their tone. They are the ones who are now eager for a peace deal.

The Karabakh army is not defeated. In all probability, it is Karabakh which will call the shots.

## Between Poverty and Death:

### Why Syrian Mercenaries Are Going to Azerbaijan

It is no secret that hundreds of mercenaries from Syria and Libya have been recently deployed to Nagorno Karabakh. Turkey is attempting to assist its brother state Azerbaijan in confrontation with Armenia.

By Ahmad Salah

announced that his country had information on the transfer of jihadists to Azerbaijan. "It is a very serious new fact, which changes the situation," he said.

Journalists from CNN also managed to find out details about recruiting of the so-called "Syrian National Army" fighters by Turkish Armed Forces. According to the channel, Turkey promised Syrians about \$1500 a month to go to Azerbaijan. Syrian sources also confirm this information.

Some of those mercenaries themselves reveal the way how Turks carried out the recruitment. The recruits were initially brought in to ensure the protection of gas and oil pipelines. One Syrian fighter told CNN about 1,000 fighters have already been sent to Azerbaijan.

Elizabeth Tsurkov, a fellow at the US-based Foreign Policy Research Institute, wrote the main reason why Syrian mercenaries are fighting for Turkey is the extreme poverty and catastrophic situation of young men and their families in the countries of origin.

However, the Syrian combatants should not forget the experience of their comrades from the Sultan Murad group, who were first recruited to join the fighting on the side of the GNA in Libya and then were sent to Azerbaijan. In fact, Turkey regards them as cannon fodder, pushing them into the middle of fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis. Many of them did not obviously receive the promised salary at least because they died fighting for Turkey's interests.

According to recent reports, since October 1, more than 12 fighters from the Syrian National Army have already been killed in Nagorno-Karabakh. BBC news producer Riam Dalati claimed eight mercenaries were killed when assaulting Armenian defenses.

The armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh is another example of a proxy war which Ankara is tirelessly running in North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Greater Middle East. There is no doubt that in his war planes Turkish President Recep Erdogan doesn't care about Syrian and Libyan mercenaries fighting for financial reward. Battling for Turkey's geopolitical interests promises them only injuries and death.

Ahmad Salah is a freelance Syrian journalist focused on the Middle East and especially the Levant. This item first appeared in *Modern Diplomacy*.



# NY Armenians Rally at UN in Support of Artsakh

RALLY, from page 1

An impressive number of 300 participants gathered in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, where the vibrant red, blue and orange tri-colors stood out among the sea of people. The Armenian flags were draped around shoulders and waved high in the air as protestors chanted and held posters to appeal to the public. The energetic yet somber mood prevailed as the crowd voiced their demands and called for an end to Azerbaijani and Turkish aggression that began on September 27 and has since intensified.

Mourning the loss of soldier and civilian lives, the hymn Der Voghormia was sang in their memory, led by Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) and Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, who both addressed the audience in English and Armenian.

In his remarks, Bishop Findikyan called for the unification of Armenians while the “greatest imaginable catastrophe is unfolding and escalating in our homeland of Armenia and Artsakh.”

He cited the power of unity, setting aside all differences, and “supporting our soldiers, our people and our brothers and sisters in our homeland.”

“Although we are far away from Armenia, we show the world that we are one people and we will always defend our homeland and our sacred land of Artsakh,” said Bishop Findikyan. “I join you today in confidence, prayer and faith as God protects our people and our lands.”

Bishop Tanielian called for “unity in action” and for the world community to witness the “hidden and secret agenda behind the large-scale war” launched by Azerbaijan and Turkey against Armenia and Artsakh.

“We salute the brave and heroic efforts of the soldiers and people in Artsakh and Armenia, who immediately and effectively responded to this unnecessary attack,” said Bishop Tanielian.

He highlighted the cycle of denialism over the last century from Turkey – that has tried to bury the truth of the Armenian Genocide – and the subsequent denial of Azerbaijan that Artsakh, which was annexed to them by Stalin in 1920, belongs to the Armenian people.

“Artsakh was, is, and always will be Armenia,” he said. “We express solidarity and support of the soldiers victorious march that will pave the road towards permanent peace, understanding, cooperation and prosperity in the entire region.”

Despite the fact that the event was organized in a short time on a weekday, a significant portion of young professionals and youth were present at the rally, many of whom have dedicated their time and resources to help build a solid bridge between the diaspora and the homeland.

New York native Garen Spendjian said it was his duty to attend



Close to 300 people gathered to condemn Azerbaijani and Turkish aggression in Artsakh

the rally “in support of our beautiful Armenia and for our troops.”

“If an 18-year-old boy or a 55-year-old man can volunteer to defend Armenia on the front lines, then the least I can do is stand in front of the UN and get my voice heard to help put an end to this and bring our soldiers home,” said Spendjian, whose cousin fought for the liberation of Artsakh in the 1990s.

Spendjian, who attended with his family, cited the power of social media and its ability to help disseminate the message of the Armenian cause. The photos and videos of the eye-catching event could be picked up by news outlets, an important way to “help fight the war on this side of the world.”

“I urge the Armenian community to show up to any peaceful protest or rally because we need to be vocal for our Hayrenik

[homeland],” said Spendjian, acknowledging the importance of strength in numbers when it comes to spreading awareness of the terrorism being committed by Turkey and Azerbaijan.

“A nation that becomes an army is impossible to beat,” said Spendjian, a professional basketball player who co-founded the nonprofit organization Hoops4Hayastan with his friend Matt Madoian.

While playing on the Armenian National Basketball Team, they noticed the enthusiasm of local kids who watched their workouts and games. When Spendjian and Madoian returned to the US, they asked themselves how they could help the youth in Armenia and connect them with their budding interest in basketball. They began their efforts by collecting athletic gear from around the world and distributing the donations by hand in villages from Karbi to Barzdrashem.

Noticing the positive impact of the donations, Spendjian and Madoian expanded their vision further and set their sights towards renovating gyms in villages across Armenia in order to “provide kids with indoor and outdoor basketball courts so they can have the same experiences and opportunities as us growing up.”

“As you can imagine this deepened my bond with Armenia because I now have a direct tie to the future of our country,” said Spendjian, whose family has also undertaken another initiative to help bolster the garment production business in Armenia. “I want to continue to see its growth and reach its potential not just for Armenians, but for the whole world.”

For New Jersey participant Arianna Mesrobian, standing in solidarity with soldiers was a priority.

“They deserve to feel supported by the diaspora,” she said. “While our soldiers are on Artsakh’s frontline, we are surely on the frontline of this cause in the U.S, because if it is not us, then who?”

She commended the global Armenian community that has “come together to an incredible extent in light of the recent events.”

“What we need now is for the rest of the world to lend their voice to us as well,” said Mesrobian.

Community leader Mher Janian, who helped lead the Rally for Artsakh with the New York and New Jersey chapters of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation and the Armenian Youth Federation, alongside the participation of all regional organizations, commended the youth for showing up in strong numbers.

“What we’re doing here pales in comparison to what the soldiers are risking on the frontlines,” said Janian. “We will provide as much help as we can, from sending supplies to raising funds, in order to keep the morale high for our soldiers.”



# PROTEST FOR ARTSAKH

**Sunday, October 11, 2020  
1:00-4:30pm**

Michigan State Capitol  
100 N Capitol Ave,  
Lansing, MI 48933

On Sunday, September 27th, Azerbaijan once again attacked Artsakh, reigniting a three-decade-old conflict over the Caucasus region.

Since then, there have been significant casualties, civilians murdered, and infrastructure destroyed.

**Please wear a mask and join us in peaceful protest against the murderous actions of the Turkish and Azeri governments**





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**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020  
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Online bidding begins at midnight on October 10, 2020 and ends at 9 pm on October 18, 2020.

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