

## Ceasefire Does Not Hold as Karabakh, Armenia Come Under Attack

STEPANAKERT (Combined Sources) – A ceasefire agreed upon over the weekend at a meeting of the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Moscow with their Russian counterpart collapsed almost immediately. Azerbaijan started shelling the contact line immediately, killing civilians as well as soldiers.

A team of French, Russian and U.S. mediators urged Armenia and Azerbaijan on October 13 to immediately stop hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh in line with a ceasefire agreement brokered by Russia.

The diplomats co-heading the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group warned that continued fighting in the Karabakh conflict zone would be fraught with “catastrophic consequences for the region.”

“The Co-Chairs note with alarm the continuing violence in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict,” they said in a joint statement. “The Co-Chairs call on Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to take immediate steps to execute in full the obligations of the sides according to the



Destruction of Stepanakert

October 10 Moscow statement, in order to prevent catastrophic consequences for the region.”

“The Co-Chairs reiterate that civilian casualties are unacceptable under any cir-

cumstances. The Co-Chairs call on the sides to implement the humanitarian ceasefire immediately to allow the return of remains, prisoners of war, and detainees, see ATTACKS, page 4



At the Turkish consulate in Los Angeles

### Some 100,000 Armenian Angelenos Protest Turkish-Azerbaijani Violence against Artsakh at LA March

**By Michelle Mkhlian**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

LOS ANGELES – The streets of Los Angeles were blanketed with the colors red, blue and orange on October 11 during the “Artsakh under Attack: March for Victory” demonstration organized by the Pan-Armenian Council of Western USA. The Pan-Armenian Council is a broad coordinating council of 24 Armenian-American organizations in Los Angeles, including the Armenian churches, political parties, cultural organizations and philanthropic groups. The March for Victory that commenced at 3 p.m. at Pan Pacific Park culminated in front of the Turkish Consulate on Wilshire Blvd in Beverly Hills.

Roughly 100,000 Angelenos, according to Los Angeles Police Department estimates, were in attendance protesting see LOS ANGELES, page 10



### Strategist Anna Magzanyan Joins Dr. Soon-Shiong to Grow the *LA Times*

**By Aram Arkun**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

LOS ANGELES – Among the many influential Armenians in Los Angeles, Anna Magzanyan of the *Los Angeles Times* stands out as a top marketing strategist with a background that covers all types of media to date. She was hired in March of this year as head of strategy and revenue but also as chief of staff to Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, a philanthropist who is owner and executive chairman of the *LA Times*.

see MAGZANYAN, page 18

### Greater Boston Community Turns out for Artsakh

**By Ken Martin**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BOSTON – Armenian-Americans from New England and beyond hit the streets of Boston on Sunday, October 11, to protest the two-week-old war against Artsakh by Azerbaijan and its eager ally Turkey, this time with a noisy protest starting at the Turkish Consulate of Boston, followed by a raucous, car-horn-blasting march around Boston Common to the Armenian Heritage Park located on the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

see BOSTON, page 11

JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN PHOTO



Protestors marching in Boston

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 370 New Cases of COVID-19 Confirmed in Armenia

YEREVAN (news.am) – As of Monday, October 12, 370 new cases of the coronavirus were confirmed in Armenia, and the total number of these cases has reached 56,821 in the country, according to the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Also, six more deaths from COVID-19 were registered, making the respective total 1,026 cases.

Three more cases of coronavirus patients dying from some other illnesses were recorded in Armenia in the past one day, and the corresponding overall death toll in the country is 306 now.

### UNESCO Asks for End to Killing Civilians, Damaging Infrastructures

PARIS (Armenpress) – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on October 12 issued a statement expressing its concern over the continuing escalation of violence in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone.

“In line with the statement of the United Nations Secretary-General on 5 October 2020, UNESCO expresses its grave concern with the continuing escalation of violence in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone, which is causing rising civilian casualties and inflicting damage on civilian infrastructure, including on schools, cultural and religious sites, and also affecting the safety of journalists.

“UNESCO urges all sides to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, notably under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols, to ensure the prevention of damage to cultural heritage in all its forms.

“This also includes the obligations under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2222 (2015) on the protection of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel in situations of conflict, to promote free, independent and impartial media as one of the essential foundations of a democratic society, and which can contribute to the protection of civilians.

UNESCO also calls on all sides to refrain from any attacks on, or harm to, children, teachers, education personnel or schools, and urges them to uphold the right to education, recalling the principles of the Safe Schools Declaration, and its guidelines that restrict the use of schools and universities for military purposes, strengthen the protection of education from attack and ensure continuity of safe education during armed conflict.”

## INSIDE

### Media on Artsakh War

Pages 16

#### INDEX

Armenia . . . . .	2-5
Arts and Living . . . . .	14
Community News. . . . .	8
Editorial . . . . .	16
International . . . . .	6-7





## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## World Monuments Fund Condemns Targeting of Shushi's Cathedral

SHUSHI, Artsakh (Panorama.am) — The World Monuments Fund (WMF) condemned the targeting of Ghazanchetsots (Holy Savior) Cathedral in the Artsakh town of Shushi in a statement on October 9. The church was badly damaged in the Azerbaijani missile attacks last week.

"At World Monuments Fund (WMF), we are saddened by the news that Holy Savior Cathedral in Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Ghazanchetsots Cathedral, has suffered damage during the current conflict.

Built in the 19th century, the cathedral was restored in the 1990s and became a symbol of the region's rebirth after the war.

"World Monuments Fund considers absolutely unacceptable any willful destruction of cultural heritage. Through our work around the world, we have seen how the destruction of cultural heritage irrevocably harms both local and global communities, forever marring our ties to the past and wounding the identity of countless groups," the group's statement read.

## New Constitutional Court Chair Named

YEREVAN — Armenia's Constitutional Court elected its new chairman on October 12 more than three months after the passage of controversial constitutional amendments that led to the ouster of its previous head, Hrayr Tovmasyan.

Arman Dilanyan was backed by six of the court's nine judges. "I will do everything to ensure that we have a Constitutional Court fully trusted by the people," he told reporters.

The amendments passed by the Armenian parliament in June called for the gradual resignation of seven court justices who were locked in a standoff with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's political team. Three of them had to resign with immediate effect. The amendments also required Tovmasyan to quit as court chairman but remain a judge.

Tovmasyan and the ousted judges consider their removal illegal and politically motivated. They have appealed to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) to have them reinstated.

This did not stop the parliament controlled by Pashinyan's My Step bloc from electing three new court judges last month. One of them, Yervand Khundkaryan, was the only candidate nominated for the post of court chairman later in September. Khundkaryan failed to get elected, however.

Dilanyan, who was appointed to the court in 2018, was the only candidate for the vacant position in the second Constitutional Court vote. He insisted as recently as two weeks ago that he does not want to succeed Tovmasyan as court chairman.

## Time to Punish Erdogan, Aliyev, OCCRP Founder Says

BAKU (Panorama.am) — "It's time to punish Erdogan and Aliyev for their aggression against Armenia. They should be sanctioned and their properties in the West confiscated," the Founder of the Organized crime and Corruption Reporting Program (OCCRP) Drew Sullivan tweeted this week.

According to Sullivan, it's pretty clear that "autocratic Azerbaijan orchestrated the attack on democratic Armenia but I can understand that you are not getting real news so you are ignorant of what's happening.

"International corruption leads to instability as has been made clear with Azerbaijan and Turkey's attack on Armenia. Aliyev and Erdogan both face bad economies and disgruntled populations and need the nationalist appeal and war to keep people inline. It won't work long term," Sullivan added.

OCCRP, founded in 2006, is a consortium of investigative centers, media and journalists operating in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Central America. OCCRP is the only full-time investigative reporting organization that specializes in organized crime and corruption.

## Armenian Foreign Relations Committee Chair Rubinyan Comments on Azerbaijani Attacks

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

YEREVAN — Ruben Rubinyan, chairman of the Armenian parliament's Standing Committee on Foreign Relations, on

October 7 spoke about various international relations aspects of the current Azerbaijani attacks against Artsakh and Armenia.

He pointed out that Nagorno Karabakh obtained its independence from Soviet Azerbaijan in full compliance with the constitution of the Soviet Union, according to the clause which stipulated that if a republic initiates withdrawal from the Soviet Union, autonomous entities like that of Karabakh may conduct referendums for this purpose, which Karabakh did do.

Legally, he said about a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions on Karabakh which were passed in the 1990s, "Azerbaijan always likes to underline what it likes but does not underline the most important part of those resolutions, which is about the fact that fighting should be stopped, meaning that the use of force is unacceptable. So Azerbaijan has been consistently acting against those resolutions."

Furthermore, he said that the most widely accepted format and framework of talking about the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is that of the Minsk Group of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). For decades, negotiations have taken place in this framework, and the principle of self-determination was and is one of the basic principles of this framework.

As far as the current fighting goes, Rubinyan said that simple logic indicates that it is Azerbaijan which is the party interested in starting a conflict. There were many statements made this year by Azerbaijani officials pointing in this direction, and at non-public reactions, Rubinyan said most of Armenia's international partners recognize this.

There are also public reactions, such as President Emmanuel Macron of France averring publicly that Azerbaijan started the war. Rubinyan said, "During this war, there has been a certain shift in the understanding of this conflict among our international partners." He gave as an example the statement of High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission Josep Borrell on October 7 in the European Parliament. Borrell said that when he spoke with the foreign minister of Azerbaijan it was worrisome that the latter put forth preconditions to a ceasefire.

Rubinyan concluded, "So, generally speaking, in the context of this war, we could say that the international community overall does recognize the fact that Azerbaijan started this war and even more actively does recognize that Turkey is a major destabilizing and involved party in this war, and that jihadi terrorists were indeed transported by Turkey to the war zone."

Rubinyan remarked that the Turkish F-16 jet which shot down an Armenian military plane over the territory of the Republic of Armenia, the presence of Turkish soldiers on Azerbaijani soil, including operators of drones, are further evidence of Turkey directly fighting in this war. He said, "Regarding an even more active involvement, there is such a risk, because Mr. Erdogan is unpredictable in his aggressiveness and the destabilization of the regions around Turkey, so when I say this conflict is not only an Armenian issue any more, I mean exactly that: Turkey has become an issue for all countries in the region."

### Ending the War

Rubinyan said that after international mediators and actors called for a ceasefire, Armenia said it is ready for one, but the problem is that even after it has made such statements, Azerbaijan and Turkey have made their intentions clear about continuing the war. He said, "Regarding negotiations, the position of Armenia is clear: you can't negotiate while the other side is shooting at you. As long as Azerbaijan does not agree to a ceasefire which the [OSCE Minsk Group] co-chairs have called for, negotiations are impossible."

Under these circumstances, Rubinyan said, "Everything depends on the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh. We don't have much hope that Azerbaijan and Turkey will suddenly become peace-loving, but the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh are able and will defend the people of Nagorno Karabakh."

In other words, he said, "The ideal outcome of any war is the end of the war, but given the situation and the level of aggressiveness of Azerbaijan and Turkey, right now it seems that the only way that this war could stop is an Azerbaijani-Turkish defeat by Nagorno Karabakh forces, which could theoretically of course include military advances, also geographical."

He said that the fear is that ethnic cleansing and genocide could occur if the Karabakh forces stop fighting, but that "winning in this war is more than realistic." As far as the borders of

the Republic of Armenia itself are concerned, Rubinyan stated, "Armenia's borders are defined by the mere fact of Armenian independence. They are internationally recognized borders. The fact is that they are not contested by Turkey, but should Turkey try to invade Armenia, there are countries around, including Russia, which are allies and have obligations in those cases."

The question of Armenian recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, or Artsakh, was discussed from day one of the current war, Rubinyan said. "It is still an open question, but the development of this war shows that the international recognition of the independence of Artsakh becomes a necessity because it is the best way to ensure the security of the people of Nagorno Karabakh," he added.

Missiles and similar military equipment are being used by both Azerbaijan and Karabakh at present but Rubinyan distinguished between the way each party was acting. He said, "the

Nagorno Karabakh armed forces have been using them solely to destroy military objectives in Azerbaijan as a means to defend themselves, because the Azerbaijani armed have been shelling civilian towns and villages in Nagorno Karabakh."

There were some complaints recently by the Iranian government of damage across its border during the fighting. Rubinyan said that the Armenian Defense Ministry has explained that Azerbaijan is deliberately moving its equipment and soldiers along the border with Iran in the hopes that Nagorno Karabakh's

armed forces would be reluctant to shoot at them, but they are not, and to Rubinyan's knowledge, the damage on Iranian territory was not caused by Karabakh Armenian actions.

Meanwhile, Rubinyan said that Armenia's other neighbor, Georgia, "is fairly neutral so far, which we do appreciate."

### Rubinyan's Career Background

The 30-year-old Rubinyan was born in Yerevan, and after graduating from Yerevan State University with a specialization in international relations, obtained two master's degrees, one from University College London and a second from Jagiellonian University in Poland, in related fields.

He said, "I am a founding member of the Civil Contract Party. We created the party and then we did the revolution with the people." Afterwards, in May 2018, he was appointed deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Armenia. He served in this post until January 2019, but then was elected as a member of the Armenian parliament. As such, he became chair of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Comparing his two most recent positions, he said, "As chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, I am at least as involved, or even more involved, in making foreign policy."

Rubinyan explained that "The committee is basically in charge of parliamentary diplomacy, which means interparliamentary contacts, on bilateral levels or on the level of interparliamentary platforms such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, or the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, or contacts with the European Parliament."

According to the Armenian Constitution, parliament has a role in creating foreign policy, although the policy is conducted by the prime minister. He said, "There is a certain synergy between the Foreign Ministry and the parliament as a whole when it comes to foreign policy." The representatives of the Foreign Ministry, including the foreign minister himself at times, are invited to the committee frequently to present plans, budgets, and specific situations. The committee discusses the budget, and in the end the entire parliament must approve the budget for the government as a whole.

Rubinyan continues to serve as vice president of the governing board of the Civil Contract Party, and is responsible for the foreign relations of the party itself, which basically concerns inter-party contacts.

### US Armenians

Rubinyan said, "I would like to greet our compatriots in the US and thank them for being with us. I am very happy to see that unprecedented amounts of money are being donated to the All Armenian Fund. At the same time making this issue salient and deepening the understanding of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict in countries where Armenians reside is important." The conflict was traditionally viewed as a somewhat frozen post-Soviet conflict, but it has a different and new context, he said, which hopefully can be better understood. He stressed: "This conflict is not about Armenians any more but it is about the whole Eurasian region."

The United States can be more involved too as a mediator. Rubinyan said, "We do appreciate the role of the US as one of the three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and we hope that the United States will be more active in stopping Turkish aggression against Armenia."







## ARMENIA

# Where Does Germany Stand?

BERLIN – Since the renewed outbreak of war in Nagorno-Karabakh, efforts have been underway on an international level to stop the fighting, and lay the basis for a political solution. The central institution involved has been the Minsk Group, which came together in 1994 at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Budapest summit. Its permanent members are Belarus, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Finland, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Co-chairmen are the Russian Federation, the United States and France.

In Germany, Armenian organizations mobilized and leading members of the Bundestag (Parliament) issued statements condemning the violence and calling for an immediate ceasefire.

On October 12, the Society for Threatened Peoples sponsored a virtual seminar that brought together experts to review the history of the conflict and explore proposals towards a durable solution. The topic of the meeting was “War again in the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan and NATO Member Turkey.”

Kamal Sido, a Syrian-Kurdish historian living in Germany and working with the STP, moderated the event, which drew the participation of dozens of people from across Europe. Prof. Tessa Hofmann, a leading genocide researcher and human rights activist, opened the discussion with a thorough overview of the history of the complicated conflict, from the late Middle Ages, through the period of Russian domination, up to the first World War and beyond. She reviewed the outbreaks of violence, from the Shushi massacres of 1920 to the massacres in 1988-1990. She reported on how, following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the independence of Karabakh, Azeri interior ministry troops forced the resettlement of between 5,000 and 32,000 people in 23 villages. There followed the undeclared war of December 1991 to May 1994, and the establishment of the 1994 ceasefire line. Since then, there have been repeated, unsuccessful efforts by Azerbaijan to reconquer territory, in 2016 and now.

The main reason for the continuing conflict, Hofmann said, lies in the fact that Karabakh has been left out of the international peace negotiations, a point she would return to later. A contributing factor to the periodic renewal of conflict is the ready supply of weapons to both sides; Russia arms both Azerbaijan and Armenia, while Israel and Turkey are delivering modern weaponry to Baku.

Participants in the webinar wanted to know facts about the situation, who supplies weapons and why; what role religion plays; how Iran figures in the regional geopolitical equation. But first and foremost, it was the role of Turkey that dominated the discussion.

Hofmann explained Turkey's self-conception as a protector state of Azerbaijan, and cited the formula, “one nation, two states” that Ankara uses to describe the relationship between the two nations. Turkey's self-conceived role does not end there, but extends to protector of Muslims throughout the region. Here she cited ongoing strife around relations with Greece, Israel, Libya and Syria, and confirmed reports of Turkish deployment of up to 9000 ethnic mercenaries recruited from among Syrian rebels, to Baku. In this light, Turkey exerts a greater influence on Azerbaijan than Russia does. Hofmann also pointed to the subjective factor of “hate potential,” noting how Turkey views Armenia as

**By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

“the greatest threat to peace and calm in the region;” and, if 63 percent of Armenians see Azerbaijan as the greatest enemy, a whopping 94 percent of Azerbaijanis consid-

er Armenia their greatest enemy.

From the problem, to the search for solutions: If the Russians have indeed succeeded in brokering a ceasefire, albeit fragile, and setting the stage for a new round of negotiations, how big is Moscow's influence? Russia does not consider itself Armenia's protector, in the way Turkey does vis-à-vis Azerbaijan, but has always been closer to Yerevan in crucial situations. This explains why Russian-speaking Armenians, even those who feel close to America, tend to trust Russia more. Ruling out the possibility that Russia would ever intervene militarily on Armenia's side – unless Armenian territory were attacked – Hofmann addressed the possibility of a political solution.

If for 30 years, nay, for 100 years, there has been no solution, she said, this does not have to do with the negotiations per se, but with the very nature of the problem. “It is a matter of squaring the circle,” she said.

She outlined several steps to be taken, beginning with effective international monitoring of the Line of Contact. Nagorno Karabakh must enter the Minsk Group. Here the question is, whether or not Turkey can still belong if it continues to push for war. Confidence-building measures should be pursued on both sides, including contact through journalists, for example. Weapons deliveries must be limited; the deployment of mercenaries must be stopped. Facilities must be provided for homeless, internally displaced persons. The international community must be brought into the process and Karabakh's right to self-determination must be respected.

Turning to the role of Germany, she demanded that it put sanctions in place against Turkey. Turkey exerts de facto blackmail pressure on Berlin, by virtue of the deal signed between the two regarding the millions of refugees on Turkish soil. Erdogan has repeatedly threatened to open the borders, and let thousands of refugees freely enter the European Union, if he is put under pressure through sanctions. When asked what she expected German Chancellor Angela Merkel would do in this context, Hofmann answered, Merkel has good relations with Turkey. The refugees' deal with Turkey is more important for Germany than sanctions to punish Turkish arms deliveries to Azerbaijan. This is the problem; Hofmann called for the blockade against sanctions to end.

Broadening the scope of the discussion, one participant asked how Germany views its historical responsibility to Armenia and Armenians, considering Imperial Germany's wartime alliance with Ottoman Turkey and the genocide. Hofmann answered that the German government – which did recognize the genocide in Parliament in 2016 – should draw the consequences for history. Though it is difficult to define where and to what extent Germany was guilty, it is undeniable that the German authorities were informed and did not to stop the genocide. As a result, Germany has a moral responsibility, also in consideration of the large Turkish community living here, a community that includes Armenians and Kurds from Turkey. In this context she also lamented the fate of the Armenian community in Turkey, “which is fighting for its life,” she said.

“What can be done?” was the last question by Kamal Sido, as the 90 minutes were up. “Don't give up!” was her immediate reply. “Stay involved.”

## Charny Says Majority of Israelis Stand with Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Executive-Director of Jerusalem's Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide, Co-founder and former Chairman of the International Association of Genocide Scholars Israel Charny is confident that the majority of Israelis stand with Armenia and is distressed by the ugly role of his country for selling arms to Azerbaijan.

In an interview this week with Armenpress, Charny said, “Our intellectual community and especially genocide scholars has taken a clear public stand. See for example Haaretz of two days ago for our statement calling on Israel to cease the sale of arms to Azerbaijan. However, in the present chaotic and corrupt state of government in Israel, the normal lines of good influence we had at times in the past are shut down, and we are not genuinely hopeful we can influence this irresponsible and destructive government.”

He added, “In the past we have had considerable support from our now President Rivlin who is strongly on the side of recognition of the Armenian Genocide, but paradoxically in his illustrious position as president has less influence on the political process than he had as Speaker of the Knesset.

“Turkey under the dictator Erdogan, is clearly a serious threat to the Armenian people and in my judgment also to Israel whom he threatens ominously with his rhetoric about Jerusalem (and who continues his evil persecution of the Kurds in Syria-for he

is clearly a killer).”

He said he was hopeful that Israel will change its ways. “I have no doubt that the natural majority of Israelis are with Armenia and deeply distressed by our ugly role in not limiting any arms sold to Azerbaijan from being used in any way against Armenia.”



Israel Charny

## International News

### Baku Charges Blogger For Visiting Artsakh

BAKU (TASS) – Azerbaijani Prosecutor-General's Office opened a criminal case on October 12 against Russian blogger Semyon Pegov for illegally visiting Nagorno-Karabakh.

“Investigation has found that Russian citizen Semyon Pegov entered into criminal collusion with a number of persons in Armenia and in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in violation of the law On the State Border of the Azerbaijani Republic and the country's Migration Code and illegally visited the city of Khankendi (Stepanakert - TASS) and other occupied communities illegally, without the necessary documents and bypassing the border checkpoints, in other words, through the territory of Armenia... Azerbaijan's Prosecutor-General has opened a criminal case over the incident. The PGO's Investigative Directorate has been instructed to probe into the incident,” the news release runs.

### Netherlands Parliament Calls for Action against Azerbaijan, Turkey

THE HAGUE (Armenpress) – The Dutch parliament on October 13 passed a resolution by an overwhelming majority, calling on the government to take action against Azerbaijan and Turkey in order to immediately end the current Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) war.

The person behind this resolution is the humble Martijn van Helvert, speaker of the coalition Christian Democratic Appeal party.

With this resolution, the parliament of the Netherlands also calls on the government to insist at the forthcoming EU summit that its conclusions should include the need for an immediate ceasefire and the return of the conflicting parties to the negotiating table under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

### Israel High Court Rejects Ban on Arms Sales to Azerbaijan

TEL AVIV (*Jerusalem Post*) – Israel's High Court of Justice on Monday, October 13, rejected a petition to ban arms sales to Azerbaijan as “lacking evidence” to justify a hearing on whether they have been used for war crimes against Armenia.

Justice Yosef Elron said the petition lacked basic evidence to hold a hearing. The ruling, however, does not preclude a later petition presenting more comprehensive evidence.

Human-rights lawyer Itay Mack said he is calling on Israel to cease arms sales to Azerbaijan as a moral matter, but he lacked sufficient evidence to file a petition. It was filed by activist Elie Joseph, who has been on hunger strike over the issue.

Joseph presented news reports that 60 percent of Azerbaijan's arms come from Israel and evidence of a potential airlift of weapons to Azerbaijan days before its current conflict with Armenia erupted. He also presented news reports and a report by Amnesty International with evidence that Azerbaijan is using Israeli drones to kill Armenians.

An Amnesty International investigation has also confirmed the use of banned Israeli-made M095 DPICM cluster munitions against civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh. The organization said the munitions appear to have been fired by Azerbaijani forces.

The Armenian side has been publishing video and photo evidence that prove the deployment of cluster munitions.

Azerbaijan has been targeting civilian settlements from the very first moments of unleashing a major assault on Karabakh. As a result, schools, kindergartens, residential buildings and other civilian infrastructure in the various cities of Karabakh have been damaged.

Armenian Defense Ministry representative Artsrun Hovhannisyan has said that the Azerbaijani Armed Forces are using Israeli-made LAR-160 multiple launch rocket systems to fire cluster munitions prohibited by humanitarian law into the civilians settlements of Karabakh.





## ARMENIA

# Ceasefire Does Not Hold as Karabakh,

ATTACKS, from page 1

and appeal to the sides to agree urgently upon a ceasefire verification mechanism," added the statement.

The mediators issued the statement shortly after meeting with Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan in Moscow.

According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry, Mnatsakanyan told them that Azerbaijani forces are "continuing large-scale hostilities" along the Karabakh "line of contact" in breach of the Moscow agreement. He too stressed the importance of putting in place a "verification mechanism."

The ceasefire accord was the result of 10-hour talks between Mnatsakanyan and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov mediated by their Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov. In a joint statement, the three ministers also said that Yerevan and Baku are "launching substantive talks mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to reach a peace deal as soon as possible."

The co-chairs said on Tuesday that they are now "working with the sides on the substantive issues of the Nagorno-Karabakh political settlement process." They did not give details.

Mnatsakanyan on October 12 lauded the talks with Lavrov held in Moscow as "constructive."

Speaking at a joint news conference with the Russian official, Mnatsakanyan said they had discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues.

"There is a high mutual understanding on all the issues on the agenda, which testifies to the high level of Armenian-Russian partnership," he said, praising the fact that his official visit to Moscow planned earlier took place despite the problems in the region.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday added his voice to international calls for the warring sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to abide by an Armenian-Azerbaijani ceasefire agreement.

"The United States calls on Azerbaijan and Armenia to implement their commitments to a

may lead to further casualties."

Pompeo likewise said last week that "outsiders ought to stay out" of the Karabakh conflict. He did not explicitly point the finger at Turkey or other regional powers.

The defense ministers of Russia and Turkey discussed continuing hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone by phone on Monday.

Lavrov discussed those efforts with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Çavuşoğlu in a phone call on Sunday. He said he told Çavuşoğlu that Moscow expects Ankara to support the implementation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani agreement.

A senior advisor to Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan charged earlier in the day that the Turks are "pressuring" Azerbaijan to continue military operations in Karabakh and thus torpedo Russian mediation efforts.

Meeting with Yerevan-based foreign ambassadors on Monday, Pashinyan said that the Armenian side is committed to fully implementing the Moscow agreement.

The Azerbaijani forces again bombarded Stepanakert and Shushi in Artsakh, and the heavily damaged Holy Savior (Ghazanchetsots) Cathedral was again hit on October 8.

Artsakh Public Radio Director Ani Minasyan said air raid sirens in Stepanakert are activated non-stop amid the Azeri strikes on civilians.

"One after another, they are striking from the morning on. The air raid siren doesn't stop. They bombarded minutes ago again," Minasyan said.

Artsakh presidential foreign affairs advisor Davit Babayan said the Azeri forces delivered another strike on the Holy Savior (Ghazanchetsots) Cathedral in Shushi.

"They again targeted Ghazanchetsots. This entirely fits in their style, because this is genocidal policy and a cultural genocide, because targeting a church is nothing else than targeting



The Holy Savior (Ghazanchetsots) Cathedral was targeted twice by Azerbaijani forces



forces. As a rule, the combat actions continue until late at night. During the night the operations relatively decline, with the enemy regrouping its forces to resume the offensives in the morning," he said.

## Unexploded Mines

The mining specialists of the State Service of Emergency Situations of Artsakh continue the works to discover and neutralize the unexploded bombs and mines.

As Armenpress was informed from the State Service, only in Stepanakert they have already discovered 673 missiles, bombs and cluster explosives of Turkish and Israeli production.

By the instruction of the Head of the State Service Colonel Karen Sargsyan, the unexploded ammunition has been taken out of Stepanakert and neutralized in a safe zone.

## High Death Toll

According to Armenian news sources, the Azerbaijani side suffered nearly 200 deaths on October 12, ARMENPRESS reports representative of the MoD Armenia Artsrun Hovhannissyan said in a press conference.

"During the last hours 3 UAVs, 1 warplane and 3 armored vehicles were destroyed. The manpower losses of Azerbaijan is nearly 200," Hovhannissyan said.

Hovhannissyan mentioned that when publishing the losses of the Azerbaijani side, they mention only the number of destroyed equipment, while those captured from them undamaged are not listed.

So far Armenia has reported 525 military casualties. Azerbaijan keeps secret the number of casualties, but according to the Armenian side, Azerbaijan has suffered nearly 5000 casualties, including regular army servicemen and terrorists.

The prime ministers of Russia, Armenia and two other Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) member states discussed in Yerevan on Friday the coronavirus pandemic and its economic consequences for the Russian-led trade bloc at a meeting in Yerevan overshadowed by the war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In his speeches delivered at the meeting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan mentioned the hostilities, calling them "Azerbaijani-Turkish aggression against the Armenian people."

*continued on next page*



Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan meets with the OSCE Co-Chairs.

ceasefire as agreed and cease targeting civilian areas, such as Ganja and Stepanakert," tweeted Pompeo.

"We deplore the loss of human life and remain committed to a peaceful settlement," he said.

The European Union urged the sides on Sunday "strictly abide by this agreement" and start "substantive" peace talks under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group co-headed by the United States, Russia and France.

An EU foreign policy spokesman also said all "external parties" should avoid "any actions that

the Armenian value system," he said.

Ghazanchetsots is the seat of the Diocese of Artsakh of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The cathedral suffered the first Azeri rocket strike earlier on October 8.

Russian journalists were injured as a result of the Azerbaijani bombardment of Holy Savior (Ghazanchetsots) Cathedral in the town of Shushi in Artsakh, according to RIA Novosti.

Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman, Artsrun Hovhannissyan, said that Azerbaijani forces are again shelling and attacking frontline

positions of Karabakh's Armenian-backed army. "Our troops are fighting heroically and hard," he said in a Facebook post.

"Azerbaijan continues to blatantly violate the humanitarian ceasefire and has resumed large-scale military operations along the entire front-line since early morning," a spokesman for Ara Harutyunyan, the Karabakh president, wrote around the same time.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also renewed its calls for a Karabakh ceasefire and reaffirmed its readiness to help the parties exchange prisoners of war and recover the bodies of their soldiers killed in action.

"The sides must agree on a format between themselves," Martin Schuepp, the ICRC director for Eurasia, said in a statement. "We are in continuous discussions with them, passing proposals back and forth. Operational and logistical arrangements must be in place and the safety of our teams guaranteed for the operation to begin."

The Russian-mediated agreement made clear that the process will be handled by the ICRC.

Armenian Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan discussed the matter with the head of the ICRC office in Yerevan on Saturday. Authorities in Karabakh said afterwards that they are ready to closely cooperate with Red Cross representatives as soon as the fighting stops.

Hovhannissyan said at a briefing hosted by the Armenian Unified Infocenter on October 12 Azerbaijani military launched offensives in several directions, using heavy artillery in the direction of Martakert. Throughout the day, the air force of Azerbaijan, with the support of the Turkish air force and command points and using combat UAVs, carried out 36 flights, during which the Artsakh forces managed to destroy one Su-25 fighter jet in the northern direction.

"The subversive-reconnaissance infiltration attempts in the direction of the town of Hadrut were thwarted and the enemy was pushed back. Hadrut is under the full control of our armed

Telephone (617) 924-7400

## Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET  
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN  
PAUL BEDROSIAN  
LARRY BEDROSIAN

## Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

**John K. Najarian, Jr.**

Rhode Island's Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

1278 Park Ave. Cranston, RI 02910 (401) 942-1220  
1111 Boston Neck Rd. Narragansett, RI 02882 (401) 789-6300

**www.nardolillo.com**



ARMENIA

# Armenia Come Under Attack

from previous page

“I want to assure you that despite all the difficulties our people are more united than ever before and determined to hold out till the end and defend our freedom and independence,” Pashinyan told his Russian, Belarusian and Kazakh counterparts in his opening remarks. “I want to specially thank all members of the [visiting] delegations for coming to Armenia in this difficult time,” he said. “We highly appreciate that.”

The regular session of the EEU’s Eurasian Intergovernmental Council went ahead even though fighting along the Karabakh “line of contact” spread last week to an Armenian region bordering Azerbaijan. The Armenian military claimed to have shot down seven Azerbaijani army drones in that region late on Thursday.

Two Russian journalists injured by Azerbaijani bombing of the Ghazanchetsots Cathedral in Shushi will taken to Russia with the governmental delegation.

On October 8 the Azerbaijani forces bombed Ghazanchetsots Cathedral twice. One of the Russian reporters is critically injured. The Armenian Foreign Ministry has announced that the regular targeting of international reporters in Artsakh by Azerbaijan is aimed at preventing them from covering the war crimes committed by Azerbaijan. Earlier two French reporters had been injured. Azerbaijan has banned international reporters to cover the developments from the territory of Azerbaijan.



A destroyed drone in Artsakh

### F-16 Planes

Planet Labs satellite images analyzed by the New York Times Visual Investigations team show at least two Turkish F-16 fighter jets at the Ganja International Airport in Azerbaijan, New York Times reporter, analyst Christiaan Triebert said on Twitter, sharing the photos.

The Armenian Defense Ministry said last week that an F-16 fighter shot down an Armenian SU-25 fighter jet, killing its pilot in Armenia’s airspace over the Vardenis region. However, Turkey denied the report.

According to Triebert, the fighter jets are likely operated by the Turkish Air Force, alongside a possible CN-235 cargo aircraft.

### Kim Kardashian Raises Her Voice

Reality television star and criminal justice reform advocate Kim Kardashian West is pushing for President Trump to do more to support Armenia amid an outbreak of fierce fighting with its neighbor and decades-old adversary Azerbaijan.

The influential celebrity is broadcasting to her hundreds of millions of social media followers to demand Congress condemn Azerbaijan as the instigator of the recent fighting and denounce Turkey for interfering in the conflict.

Behind her efforts is the L.A.-based gastroenterologist, Emmy-nominated film producer and human rights advocate Eric Esrailian, who has been drafting statements for Kardashian West, her famous family members and other high-profile celebrities of Armenian descent calling for more support to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

“The situation currently with a lack of appropriate international attention is frustrating for a lot of people,” Esrailian, who was a producer on the 2017 film “The Promise,” about the Armenian genocide, said in an interview with The Hill.

“What I’ve done with my friends, like Kim Kardashian, her family, her siblings, and other friends like Cher, Serj Tankian, Alexis Ohanian, all of us – obviously they have a bigger platform than I do, but I have the ability to pull everybody together ... and I feel honored that everybody cares and they basically say, ‘what can I do?’”

(The Hill, RFE/RL, Armenpress and Panorama.am contributed to this report.)



## Soldier in Widely-Used Photo Dies in Artsakh

YEREVAN – Albert Hovhanissyan died this week defending Artsakh.

Hovhanissyan’s image was shared all over international media and is a symbol of Armenia’s and Artsakh’s courageous spirit and unrelenting fight for freedom. His father’s statement, originally posted on Facebook, is below:

“My son, Albert Hovhannisyan, whose photo became widespread all over the world these days, stepped into immortality. My pain and the pain of my family is indescribable.

My grief is heavy, but I am even more proud to be the father of a patriotic Armenian, a real modern-day Hero. I realize that my Albert is not only my Hero, he is the Hero of all of us, he is the example of the Hero Armenian of present and future generations, who followed the path of his heroic ancestors and became immortal.”

## Indian Family in Armenia Converts Restaurant to Free-Meal Center for Refugees

By Geeta Mohan

YEREVAN (*India Today*) – The ongoing military conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has left scores of people homeless from Nagorno-Karabakh region. Many have fled their homes and moved to the capital city of Yerevan.

While the nation has come together to help the refugees from the border areas, here is an Indian family living in Armenia for the past six years who are doing their bit for the country they now call home.

Parvez Ali Khan, a 47-year old Indian from



Parvez Ali Khan and his family and staff

Malerkotla in Punjab, has been running the Indian Mehak restaurant for the past six years in Armenia. He lives in Yerevan with his wife and two daughters, who are studying.

When he heard of the crisis, he wanted to help the affected people out in any way that he could.

Speaking to India Today from Yerevan, he said, “When war started I saw the entire country come together. Everyone was extending help with food, medicine, supplies. We also offered clothes. But I saw they needed cooked food, not food supplies. That’s when I thought of delivering cooked food to them.”

Owning a restaurant seemed like a great advantage to them but they were short-staffed since most of their workers were sent back to India due to the Covid-19 pandemic. That didn’t stop this Punjabi family, however.

“This time the Indian staff we have is pretty small. Many went back to India because of COVID. Now, because we had put up numbers and so many people reached out for food, so the first few days were difficult because of shortage of staff,” he said.

“Then we sent out messages seeking help from volunteers. Every Armenian wanted to come forward and help. It was heartening to see. We have 50 volunteers who help us in the kitchen and help deliver the food. Many Armenians have joined our cause,” he said.

How did the Khan household make this happen?

Well, through social media.

After realizing that there were people out there who needed cooked meal, Parvez and his daughters put up messages on Facebook. That resulted in many connecting with them.

Aqsa, his daughter, said, “We put up numbers



Parvez Ali Khan, a 47-year old Indian from Punjab, delivering food to refugees. (Photo: India Today)

and people shared it in different groups. People are sharing our numbers with refugees that they come across. They then call us.”

“We are also working with a few organizations, which are supporting us. They contact us with lists and food requirements. They come and take food and deliver it themselves. We have two days of advance booking but we are trying to increase the quantity being prepared so as to reach out to a maximum number of people,” Aqsa said.

They started the service on October 4. While the first few days were difficult with the family working from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m., it got easier when volunteers joined in.

The family was heartened to see so many Armenians join them. They have also kept the food to the taste of Armenians even if some of the dishes are Indian - such as, puris, naan,

chole-bhature, vegetables with potatoes. They give that or sandwiches and rolls. But always make sure that the meals are cooked in less oil and almost no spice to suit their palette.

“We cook for children and grown-ups. We are cooking according to their taste. They don’t eat spicy food. We are taking care of them. They are also enjoying some Indian food as well,” said Parvez.

For now, Yerevan is safe but the Indian mission there has asked the Indian diaspora to be on alert and shared emergency numbers with them.

“Yerevan is safe. There are problems in Karabakh areas. The government is very supportive. Our embassy and ambassador are in touch with the Indians. Emergency numbers have been put up on the Facebook.

We feel safe and are not scared,” he said.

# Giragosian

F UNERAL

H OME

James “Jack” Giragosian, CPC  
Mark J. Giragosian

Funeral Counselors

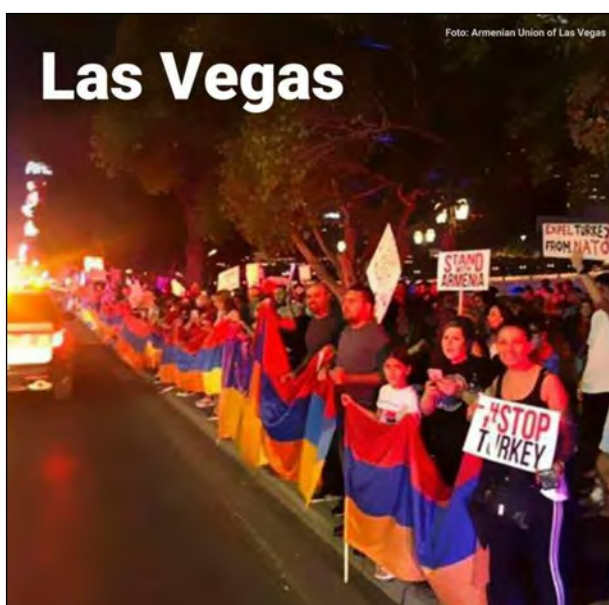
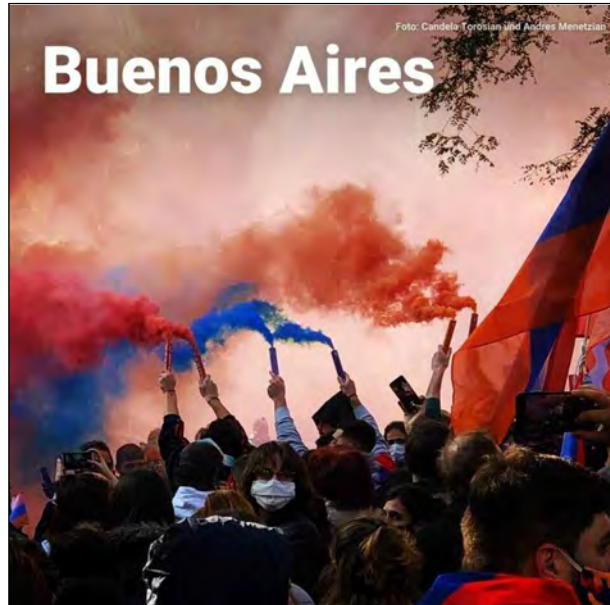
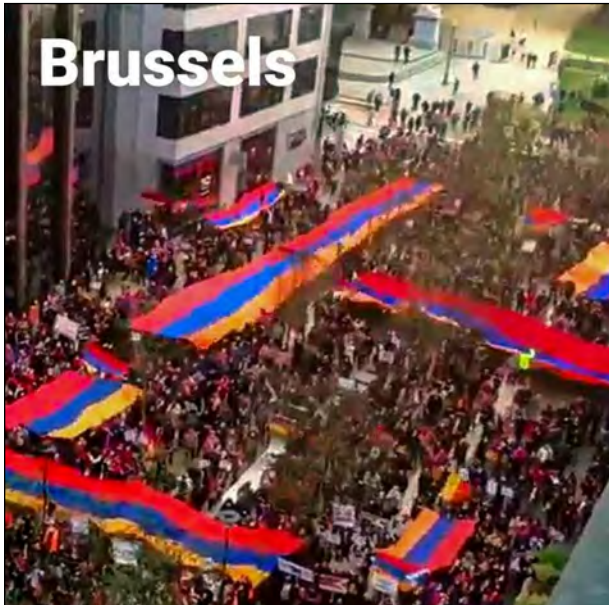
576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606  
www.giragosianfuneralhome.com





## INTERNATIONAL

# Armenians Rally For Artsakh Around the Globe



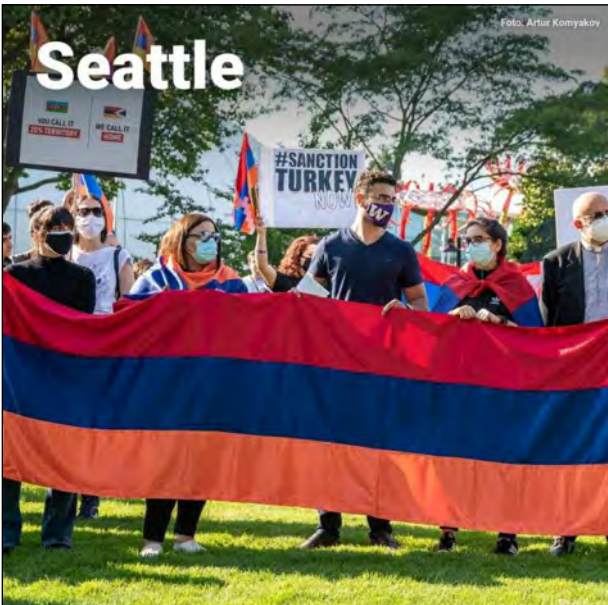




Paris Armenians Demonstrate to Support Artsakh And Armenia

By Jean Eckian

PARIS – Several hundred young Armenians from Paris and surrounding areas blocked traffic at the famous Place de l'Etoile at around 8 p.m. Friday, October 9. They waved the flags of Armenia and Artsakh, shouting “Turque assassin!”, “Aliyev assassin!” and asked for the recognition of Artsakh. Security forces intervened shortly before 9 p.m. to unblock traffic, with no incidents to report.







# Two Rallies In New York City Protest War

## *Demand Accurate Coverage*

NEW YORK – Two protests took place in New York City over the weekend, protesting the attacks on Armenia and Artsakh by the Azerbaijani and Turkish forces, as well as the inaccurate media coverage of those attacks.

On Saturday, October 10, throngs of marchers gathered for the “Report the Truth March/Protest.” Thousands marched from NBC Studios (Rockefeller Center) to ABC Studios (Lincoln Center) demanding accurate media coverage on the war in Artsakh. It was organized by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation.

The following day, on October 11, the Knights of Vartan sponsored the “United for Artsakh” Rally. Among the speakers were Archbishop Vicken Aykazian of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Nvair Kadian Beylerian, Souren Israelyan, Esq from the Armenian Bar Association, Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian of the Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America, Van Krikorian of the Armenian Assembly and Razmig Arzumian from the Armenian Wounded Heroes Fund.



Taleen Babayan speaks in New York



Van Krikorian and members of the clergy at the October 11 rally.





# Bay Area Armenians ‘Bridge’ Connection to Homeland

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

SAN FRANCISCO — Nearly five thousand Bay Area Armenian residents and supporters marched over a mile along the iconic Golden Gate Bridge on Saturday, October 10, to raise a unified voice in protest of Azerbaijan’s egregious attacks against Artsakh and Armenia. The march, sponsored and organized by the San Francisco Rosdom Chapter of the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF), was peaceful and dignified as the community not only bridged the gap between their homeland of Armenia and Artsakh, but it was a symbolic and unified stance against Azerbaijan’s and Turkey’s continued human rights violations and attacks.

As Mayor John Goodwin of neighboring Colma joined community and church leaders, he proclaimed, “Today, we are all Armenians” to the cheers of thousands. The peaceful and unified protest was joined by upstanders of all ages, from all facets of the community. Fr. Smbad Saboundjian of Saint Gregory’s Armenian Apostolic Church, Fr. Datev Harutyunian of St. Andrew Armenian Church, Father Mesrop Ash of Saint John’s Armenian Church, and Father Krikor Zakaryan of Saint Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church led the group in a unified force across the bridge – a bridge which symbolizes unity and the American spirit.

AYF member and KZV Armenian School graduate Krikor Der Abrahamian articulated the importance of standing up for justice through this and future marches in support of the war. He stated, “It is a humanitarian issue at the end of the day...it’s something every person should care about.”

This protest was especially important to the Bay Area community as the Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan (KZV) School, the Bay Area’s only Armenian day school, was riddled with bullets last month in an early morning shooting, following an earlier attack where the school was spray painted with hateful Azerbaijani slogans and expletives in the middle of the night. San Francisco’s Saint Gregory’s Armenian Church was just recently attacked through arson which shocked the Bay Area community, but has catalyzed Bay Area Armenians to stand up against all forms of hatred. KZV Armenian School Principal Mrs. Grace Andonian articulated, “as educators, it is our job to not only teach our children the importance and strength of our language and culture, but our duty to teach the world about the trickle-down effect of man’s inhumanity to man. we are strong and united, and we must protect our homeland.”



ERIC PANOSIAN PHOTO

KIM BARDAKIAN PHOTO



From left, Fr. Krikor Zakaryan (St. Vartan, Oakland); Fr. Smbad Saboundjian (St. Gregory; San Francisco) (photo Eric Panosian)



A small boat in the bay

KIM BARDAKIAN PHOTO

KIM BARDAKIAN PHOTO







COMMUNITY

# 100,000 Armenian Angelenos Protest Turkish-Azerbaijani Violence Against Artsakh at LA March

LOS ANGELES, from page 1  
the joint Turkish-Azerbaijani aggression and human rights violations committed against the people of the Artsakh Republic that began on September 27. Since then, joint Turkish-Azerbaijani forces have bombed several civilian cities eulting in over 400 Armenian military casualties, and at least 31 civilian deaths.

Armenians throughout the diaspora have been steadily mobilizing, organizing marches, protests, and fundraisers, and educating others about the history of this conflict with steadfast determination to achieve justice, and Los Angeles Armenians have been particularly active.

On October 11, Armenians young and old marched the streets of Los Angeles. Among those marching were Raya DerBedrossian and Tigran Sarkissian.

Tigran, a 17-year-old Glendale High School student, who had been leading chants like “Shame on Aliyev” and “Shame on Turkey,” continued marching as he passionately shared his thoughts. He said: “A ceasefire that’s not going to be respected is not what we need. We need the world to come together and stop Erdogan and Aliyev from killing innocent Armenians. Our local representatives have done a great job of bringing attention to the issue, but we need to have a greater voice in the media through events like this where people come together. We need the Armenian diaspora to come together. We no longer have the privilege to live in

our own lands; the majority of it has been taken away. We’re all in different corners of the world and we all want to represent Armenia the best we can.”

Raya, a 20-year-old UCLA Public Affairs student ardently exclaimed: “We’re out here on the streets of Los Angeles protesting the Azeri occupation of Artsakh and the violation of the ceasefire that was agreed upon. Being the largest diaspora community of Armenians in the world, Los Angeles Armenians want to make their voices heard in our community. Being here [at the march] is such an overwhelming feeling of unity that hits really deep.”

US Congressman Adam Schiff was one of the many speakers to address the mass of Armenian demonstrators gathered in front of the Turkish Consulate of Los Angeles. He said, “Despite this illegal war, the people of Artsakh are still standing. The people of Armenia are still standing, and we are standing with them. Armenia and Artsakh did not seek war, they seek only to live in peace, to build prosperous, stable democracies... It is past time for Azerbaijan and Turkey to face consequences for their actions. A regime that would use its weapons to bomb churches and schools is not a regime that should receive a dime of U.S. military assistance.”

Following the March for Victory, demonstrators made their way over to the CBS Studios building to protest the network's biased coverage of the situation in Artsakh.



Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Vice-Chair Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA)



MICHELLE MKHIAN PHOTO



Tigran Sarkissian (left) and Raya DerBedrossian (right)





# Greater Boston Armenians Turn Out for Artsakh

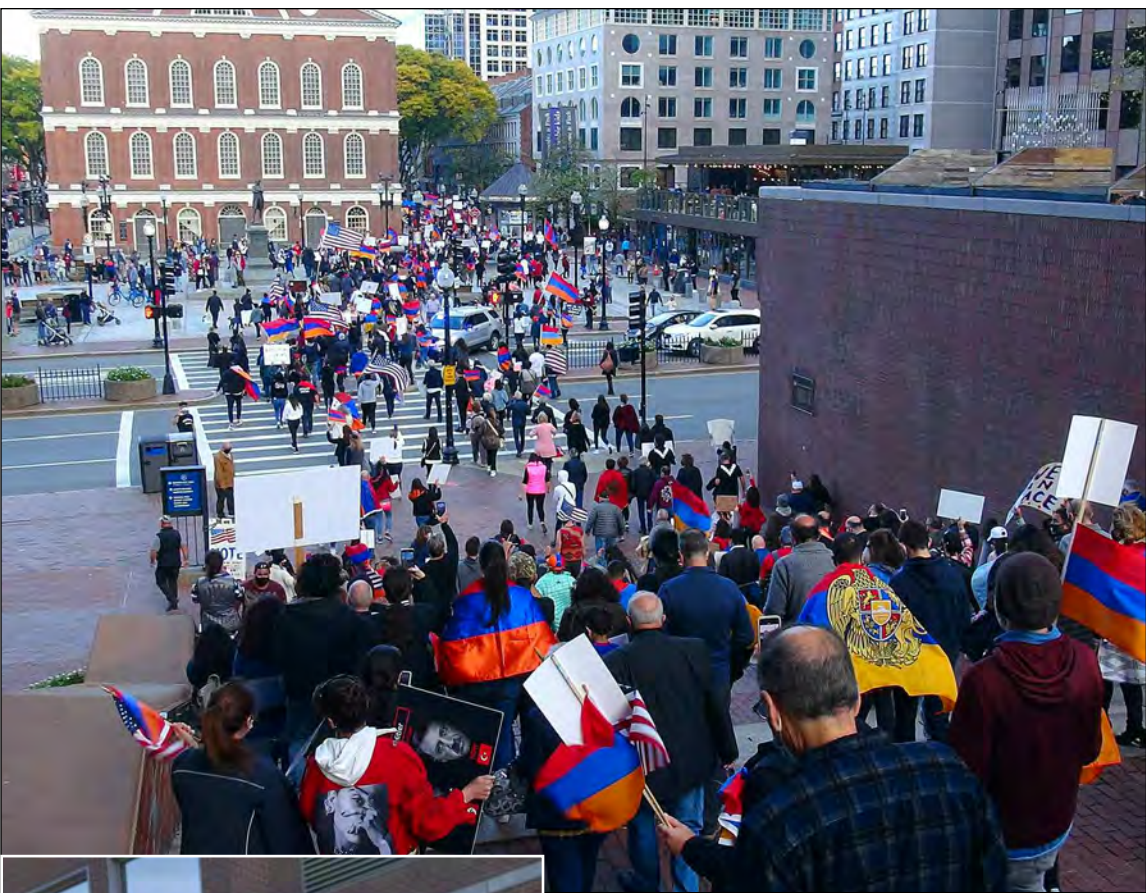
BOSTON, from page 1

Two thousand protestors, masked against the Covid-19 virus, chanted slogans and carried signs calling for Turkey's ouster from NATO, stopping Azerbaijani aggression, recognizing Artsakh, and demanding the return of Armenian lands. A more than average number of Bostonians and tourists, given pandemic restrictions, were stunned by yet another protest march during nearly a year of human rights marches in the city.

Traffic along the Rose Kennedy Greenway near the North End and Boston Harbor slowed to a crawl as demonstrators, including many youth and families, representing the city, Massachusetts and the New England States, swirled into the circular configuration of the labyrinth and settled in next to the abstract sculpture Armenian Genocide monument and reflecting pool.

Many young participants occupied the sidewalks with their signs so that residents and visitors could see them as they wandered from the Faneuil Hall Marketplace and the North End to the normally tranquil Armenian Heritage Park. A brief period of chanting against Azerbaijani aggression and pro peace led to the opening of the rally by Ani Zargarian singing the *Star Spangled Banner* and *Mer Hairenik*, the Armenian national anthem, and the entire rally joined in, singing in unity and solidarity.

Master of ceremonies George Barmakian began the rally by inviting the Armenian clergy's blessing. Fr. Antranig Baljian of St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church of Watertown, made an impassioned speech about Turkey's true intentions, decrying Turkey's and Azerbaijan's actions in Artsakh as inhumane. He stressed the power of prayer – "Don't be afraid to pray!" – during these and all difficult times. Fr. Baljian said that what is



JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN PHOTO



KEN MARTIN PHOTO



KEN MARTIN PHOTO



KEN MARTIN PHOTO



KEN MARTIN PHOTO



JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN PHOTO

happening is not about land, but about Genocide.

Barmakian informed the demonstrators about the support of the Federation of Hellenic American Societies of New England in Boston, a move for businesses to divest investments and products from Turkey and Azerbaijan, and moves to demand the independence of Artsakh.

A powerful presentation was made by the East Coast Chairman of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation George Aghjayan. He questioned why American citizens' taxes go to Turkey and Azerbaijan, which in turn oppress others.

Armenian General Benevolent Union New England District Chair Ara Balikian spoke in a clear voice about the difficult situation in Artsakh and Armenia and how funds were being raised and matched by AGBU for a total of \$10.4 million for aid so far.

Poetry presentations were made by local poet Avik Deirmenjian and Garen Spendjian of New York. They ended the event with shouts rallying the demonstrators of "Hakhtelooenk!", "We will be victorious!"

KEN MARTIN PHOTO



KEN MARTIN PHOTO







## COMMUNITY

# Michigan Armenians Rally For Artsakh

By Harry Kezelian

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

DETROIT/LANSING – The Michigan Armenian community rallied in support of Artsakh on the steps of the Michigan State Capitol Building on Sunday, October 11. A crowd of about 100-150 people congregated at Michigan's capital, Lansing, coming from Metro Detroit's large Armenian community, as far as away as Grand Rapids as well as the small but proud Armenian community in Lansing itself.

The event, though not drawing a large turnout, was symbolically important and was actually more successful than expected since it was not explicitly backed by any Armenian organization and was pulled together by one man – Metro Detroit Armenian community member George Kurajian – in less than a week. Speakers included State Representative Mari Manoogian (D-Birmingham), Armenian Democratic Liberal Party Supreme Council member and president of the Central Board of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the US and Canada Edmond Azadian, Fr. Armash Baghdasarian of St. John's Armenian Church, Armenian Assembly leader and former State Representative John Jamian, and representatives of the Lansing Armenian community.

Local Tekeyan Cultural Association leader Diane Alexanian served as MC and read a poem by Vahan Tekeyan in English translation, and her husband and fellow TCA/ADL activist and leader Hagop Alexanian assisted behind the scenes.

Samvel Arakelyan, classical violinist, performed Ara Gevorgyan's piece, Artsakh. Azadian gave the most in-depth speech of the event, explaining in detail the political and



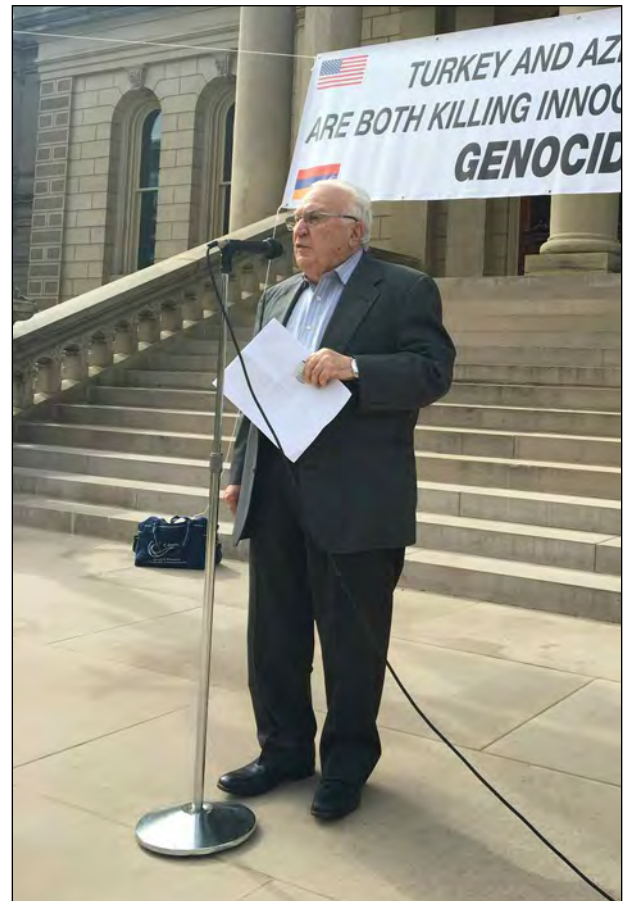
ernment to do the same, an achievement that took place two years ago. The most poignant moment of the gathering was when the microphone was declared open to anyone who wanted to speak. Several individuals who were natives of the Republic of Armenia and/or the USSR came forward, pleading emotionally with the Diasporan crowd to continue to give money to aid the homeland during this crisis. "Give, until giving becomes financially difficult for you," one speaker implored. A large percentage of the crowd was composed of young people, from both Armenia/former Soviet and Diasporan backgrounds, holding signs and flags. George Kurajian, whose grandfather, Mesrob Kurajian, was a notable ADL activist born in Palu, Western Armenia, must be commended for carrying on his grandfather's legacy of organizing and putting this event together in an extremely short period of time.

Just four days prior, on Wednesday, October 7, a crowd of some 400 mostly local Metro Detroit Armenians gathered in a large and lively demonstration in the heart of downtown Detroit. Attendees also came from as far away as Grand Rapids and Chicago. The demonstration was positioned in the large traffic island in the middle of Jefferson Avenue, where Detroit's main street, Woodward Avenue, meets the Detroit River. This symbolic central location is flanked by the statue of the "Fist" of Joe Louis, the Detroit native African-American boxing legend, and directly across from that, the Gomidas Vartabed statue which was



humanitarian situation of Artsakh and Armenia to the crowd and urging them to support the cause. His in-depth analysis including historical background was especially valuable given the presence of local news teams from WILX-10 (Lansing's NBC affiliate) and WLNS-6 (Lansing's ABC affiliate).

Michigan is one of the few state governments to recognize the independence of Artsakh and call on the Federal gov-



Edmond Y. Azadian speaks at the Lansing rally.



erected by the Armenian community many years ago in commemoration of the 1915 Genocide.

Scores of motorists drove past and witnessed the demonstration which took place at 5 p.m., at the height of the in rush hour.

The demonstration, though organized and led by the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF), took on a unified community tone as members from all Armenian churches, political groups, organizations, and backgrounds were present. A large number of more recently arrived natives of Armenia stood proudly in the back, visibly moved as Diasporans carried signs and shouted slogans.

Speakers included Mari Manoogian as well as representatives of the AYF, Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Armenian National Committee of America, and Homenetmen. Clergy from the Prelacy and Armenian Catholic Church led prayer along with Fr. Armash of the Diocesan St. John's Armenian Church, and Der Voghormya (Lord Have Mercy) was movingly sung. Local AYF chapter Chairwoman Talar Baghdasarian organized and led the proceedings and must be commended for setting a tone of Armenian unity both in the content of her remarks as well as the emotional tone as she stated "Armenians United, We'll Never Be Divided" – one of the many chants with which she led the crowd to protest the Azeri attacks, most notably "Stop Azeri Aggression," "Artsakh is Armenia," and "Armenia Wants Peace," which along with the flags and signs, attracted the attention of Detroit commuters.

As members of all organizations and churches attended





both rallies, the comments on all sides were positive and even emotional as to the unity that was displayed at both events by Michigan’s and particularly Metro Detroit’s longstanding Armenian community.

For this writer, a Metro Detroit native, as well as others, the connection between Diaspora and Homeland has

never been stronger than right now, as 4th generation Diasporans, whether from an American or Middle Eastern background, stood shoulder to shoulder with natives of Armenia as well as refugees who fled the Baku pogroms 30 years ago, in a display of complete solidarity with the plight of our brothers and sisters in Artsakh.







# Arts & Living

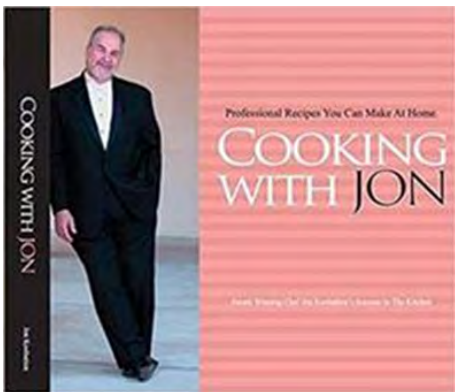


## Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

### Chef Jon Koobation's Famous Chicken George

This recipe is featured in *Cooking With JON*, the engaging cookbook written by award-winning chef Jon Koobation. Jon was the owner and head chef at the acclaimed Jon's Bear Club in Reedley, California for several decades before he retired. Born in Dinuba, a small town in the central San Joaquin Valley, Jon's history with The Bear Club started many years earlier. He learned his trade on the job, working first as a prep cook and sous chef at major Lake Tahoe-area restaurants before returning to Central California. He worked at the famed Vallis' Restaurant in Kingsburg, the Redwood Inn of Sultana, Dinuba Ranch, and the Swedish Mill, and became The Bear Club's executive chef in 1973. Through the 1970s and mid-1980s, Jon's restaurant established itself as a fine steak-



house featuring excellent food and friendly customer service. "Using the freshest ingredients available each season was always appreciated by our guests," says Jon, "and one of the reasons they chose to return again and again."

His cookbook is a legacy of Jon's vast culinary experiences, family traditions, and memories, and includes signature recipes like Charred Asparagus Roll-Ups, New York Steak, Lobster Bisque, Tortilla Crusted Salmon, Cabernet Braised Short Ribs, Cabbage Dolma with Beef and Lamb, and Jon's Grandma Bazarian's Armenian Shish Kebab. "I created this special chicken recipe for our first menu at Jon's Bear Club in 1973. To this day, it was the most popular dinner entrée of all time, and has been copied by many restaurants since then," he says.

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 8 artichoke bottoms or hearts
- 1 large lemon, zest and juice
- 1 tablespoon heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons cold butter
- Kosher salt and cracked black pepper

#### Chicken:

Cut chicken breasts in half and remove the center cartilage. Season with salt and pepper.

In a skillet, over medium high heat, melt the butter and sauté the chicken for 3-4 minutes on one side, turn and add mushrooms and cook until chicken is firm to touch, 2-3 minutes more. Add the artichokes and lemon juice. Swirl the pan to loosen any brown bits from the bottom of the pan.

Add the cream and reduce for a minute or two, turn the heat off and add the butter, stirring until the butter is incorporated.

Note: You do not want the butter to completely melt, that's what makes the mouth-watering sauce for this recipe. Serve on a warm  
see RECIPE, page 15



Marine Galstyan

## Marine Galstyan

An Armenian from Yerevan on the Italian Stage and Screen

YEREVAN / ROME – Marine Galstyan, actress, director, dancer, and choreographer from Yerevan, has been living and working in Italy for 17 years.

From 1999 to 2004 she studied at the Yerevan Institute of Theater and Cinema, where she acted as Nora in Ibsen's "A Doll's House," Dorothea in De Filippo's "Risk," Mother in Mémérie's "Mateo Falcone" (also she was the director of the play), Nina and Elena Andreevna in Chekhov's "The Seagull" and "Uncle Vanya."

In Italy she studied flamenco, Spanish classical dances and Argentine tango, later taught those dances in different cities (Florence, Grosseto, Pistoia, Rome). In the theater Marine acted in "Bernarda Alba's House," "Sold Apartment," "Reality," "Vico Renica's Strange Night" and other plays. She made her film debut in 2004, in Armenia, in Arthur Vardanyan's film "I Love You, I Will Love You," later in Italy in films like "The Whole World Is a Country," "The Rest Is Through My Eyes," "Giudecca's Son," "Miradas," "Amat Malik's Case," etc.

Together with her husband, Sargis Galstyan, a graduate of the Yerevan Pedagogical Institute, dancer, director, laureate of various dance festivals, in 2008 she founded the "Aurum" dance duo, performing various styles of dances. In 2012, Sargis and Marine Galstyan founded the "InControVerso" Italian-Armenian theater group. They have been living in Rome for eight years and have one son, Edgar.

**Dear Marine, I first heard about you from actress Sofik Sargsyan, who described you as "Maya Plisetskaya and Maria Callas in one person." You preferred dancing and acting, but what happened to singing?**

In fact, I have never been involved in singing. There have been performances in which I have sung, but I cannot say I possess the vocal art professionally. I thank my dear Sofik Sargsyan for such a description, which, however, is an exaggeration.

**In general, you always remember your teachers with gratitude.**

Yes, I remember my Yerevan lecturers with great happiness and warmth. I was one of the happy students who gave a lot, but also received a lot, being loved and appreciated by the teachers. It is so important to have the right teacher at the right age. Always in my soul, in my heart is the late Rafael Jrbashyan, who taught me not only my profession, but also the art of life. In every work of mine there is a trace left by him. Until now, I keep my notebook, where I have written down the interesting thoughts and quotes by Mr. Jrbashyan. I was always seeing Sofik Sargsyan in the corridors of the institute, who was encouraging us with her directness. Thanks to Sona Ghazanchyan, I fell in love with Italy and Italian culture. She was presenting Italian art with such admiration that Italy became a great dream for all of us. Now, living in Rome, not far from St. Peter's Basilica, I remember Sona Ghazanchyan's lectures. Our lecturer of foreign theater history, Hasmik Khudaverdyan, from the moment she entered the classroom, was inspiring us with her fascinating conversations about the theater of this or that country. The classes of Elena Sergeyevna and Heghine Hovhannisyanyan, were also unforgettable.

**And how did it happen that two dancers-actors with the surname Galstyan met in Italy, connecting the stage and personal lives?**

Before our meeting, I had seen Sargis once on the Yerevan stage. Then, when  
see GALSTYAN, page 15

### Dr. Charlie Laderman To Speak on 'Armenian Genocide and America's Global Role'

FRESNO – Dr. Charlie Laderman, King's College London, will give a Zoom presentation on "The Armenian Genocide and America's Global Role" on Sunday, October 25, at 1 p.m.

The presentation is part of the Fall 2020 Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program and is supported by the Leon S. Peters Foundation. All Lecture Series events will take place online, and not face-to-face, through the Fall 2020 semester.

Laderman is the author of *Sharing the Burden: The Armenian Question, Humanitarian Intervention, Anglo-American Visions of Global Order*. Ara Sarafian, director of the Gomidas Institute in London, will be a discussant for the presentation.

The destruction of the Armenian community in the Ottoman Empire was an unprecedented tragedy. Even amidst the horrors of the First World War, Theodore Roosevelt insisted that it was the greatest crime of the conflict. The wartime mass killing of approximately one million Armenian Christians was the culmination of a series of massacres that Winston Churchill would later recall had roused publics on both sides of the Atlantic and inspired fervent appeals to save the Armenians. *Sharing the Burden* explains how the Armenian struggle for survival became so entangled with the debate over the international role of the United States as it rose to world power status in the early twentieth century. In doing so, Laderman provides a fresh perspective on the role of humanitarian intervention in US foreign policy, Anglo-American relations, and the emergence of a new world order after World War I.

Laderman's discussion will cover US domestic politics (and the position of senators, presidential candidates and presidents, such as Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and Warren Harding), imperial rivalries and alliances (mainly between Great Britain and the United States), and the impact of a devastating world war.



Dr. Charlie Laderman

Laderman is a lecturer in international history and part of the core team responsible for directing the Centre for Grand Strategy. He is also a senior research associate at Peterhouse, University of Cambridge, for the 2019-20 academic year. Before joining KCL, he was a Research Fellow in History at Peterhouse. His first monograph, *Sharing the Burden*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2019 and was awarded the Arthur Miller Institute Prize from the British Association for American Studies as the best first book on any American studies topic in 2019.

Zoom Registration Link: [bit.ly/armenianstudiesladerman](https://bit.ly/armenianstudiesladerman)

For information about Dr. Laderman's lecture follow Armenian Studies on its Facebook page, @ArmenianStudiesFresnoState or at the Program website, [www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies](http://www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies).





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Marine Galstyan: An Armenian Italian Stage and Screen

GALSTYAN, from page 14

was already in Italy, once I was invited to Milan to perform an Armenian dance at the wedding of the daughter of one of our statesmen. Since I did not have any Armenian dance in my repertoire and I knew that Sargis works in Italy, I got in touch with him, a little scared, because I did not know him. He accepted my offer to perform together, which became fate. We met; Sargis performed three dances in two hours. After the

rehearsal, when we sat down and looked at each other, we realized that our life would be together. Of course, we went a long way until we joined, but it was one of the most beautiful events of my life.

**Usually, Italy, despite being a super-cultural country, does not attract artists from Armenia. What makes it special to be a foreign dancer and actor in Italy?**

Actually for a non-local artist it is much more difficult and cruel in Italy. If we had known that in advance, we might have chosen another country. Everything is much more complicated and difficult here, which makes our victories much sweeter. It can be said that you almost bleed to achieve something here. Unlike France, the USA, Germany, not to mention Armenia or Russia, in Italy, unfortunately, dance is perceived differently, and the attitude towards dancers is different. Dance is one of the most complex arts, which, in addition to physical, also requires great, heavy mental and intellectual work. And the country where you put a lot of effort, you start to love a lot, so we do not regret that we did not have a career in the United States, as we had previously intended. If you are an accomplished actor in Rome, you will have an agent, constant invitations from theater and cinema. We have been in Rome for eight years and now we understand that we went through every difficulty and gained a lot of life experience.

**I am interested in whether the Spaniards are not jealous of the fact that an Armenian performed and taught flamenco dances.**

My flamenco teacher, the famous master of that genre, Spanish Pilar Carmona, both admired and sometimes tried to “destroy” me. That was because of her strong Spanish temperament, but I am very grateful to her for the skills I have acquired in performing Spanish dances. I have also performed Spanish dances in Spain, but being a self-critic, I have never considered myself a master of flamenco. I prefer the art of acting, I invest the rest of my skills on demand; they are already in my blood, which I can activate if necessary. In recent years, I have played leading roles in Italian theater, for example, in the play “If the World Shocks” I acted for an hour and a half as a blind woman, a survivor of a great tragedy, who speaks, sings and dances. It is a very difficult job, but there were praiseworthy articles about my performance. My last big role was Ophelia in the staging of “Hamlet,” the performance of which, however, was postponed for well-known reasons.

**Our audience watched your “No Exit” dance performance first in 2004, with the participation of our ballet dancers Maria Divanyan, David and Ara Harutyunyan, then another dance-dramatic version of it in 2013. How is to present this famous play by Jean-Paul Sartre through dance?**

I loved that play thanks to the lecturer I remembered, Hasmik Khudaverdyan. When she presented “No Exit” in a very impressive way, I immediately said I want to stage it. And I do not know why I saw the whole story in the language of tango. That hellish state, the relationship between these people, it was possible to give a stage solution through tango steps, which, I think, was relevant.

**Tell us about your involvement in cinema.**

Both Sargis and I, from time to time acted on TV and cinema, being often chosen together. I have participated more in international film projects and independent films. Sargis has recently played episodic roles in two TV series. By the way, I am the main actress of the Italian part of the film “In the Same Garden” about the Armenian-Turkish conflict. The film is a collection of 20-minute films shot by six important directors, showing how deep the wound caused by that conflict is. The film has already started to be shown at international film festivals.

**Tell us about the dramatic performance “The Great Pain” staged by Sargis on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.**

It is the first Italian play written by Sargis, where there is inexplicable depth and scale, confident thought. It starts with the gathering of the Young Turks, and the whole performance takes place behind a thin net, then the shots with 3D technology appear on the screen, the characters are in historical costumes, we see how Soghomon Tehlirian finds Talaat, etc... We used the music of Avet Terteryan and Yousif Bashir, the final music of Henri Verneul's film, “Mayrig,” recordings of Lusine Zakaryan's singing and duduk melodies. All the actors were well-known Italians, except of me and Arsen Khachatryan from Yerevan, who is now an actor in Florence. We performed “The Great Pain” only three times, I hope we will present it again. After that, Sargis wrote two more Italian plays: the grotesque “Blablataca” and the absurd “Poll Dance,” a surreal comedy. Writing comedy in Italy takes a lot of courage, and it was gratifying that the audience did not shut their mouths from beginning to end. “Poll Dance” was considered the best performance of the Roman theatrical season and was included in the play list of Cometa, one of the most important theaters in Rome, but because of the Covid epidemic its performances were postponed...

In general, this epidemic has had a negative impact on those who perform on stage. What have you and Sargis been doing during these difficult months?

Sargis busied himself in writing his fourth play, and I went into staging new performances, the drama “Angel Child” and the comedy “Anonymous Motives.” Well, I highly hope we will present them to audiences soon.

## Chef Jon Koobation's Famous Chicken George

RECIPE, from page 14

plate with Armenian pilaf and fresh vegetables, and spoon sauce over the top.

### Pilaf:

1/2 stick butter  
10 pieces angel hair pasta, broken  
1/2 cup almonds, blanched, skins removed  
1 cup long grain rice or cracked wheat (bulgur)  
2 cups Swanson's chicken broth  
1/4 teaspoon each Kosher salt and cracked black pepper

### PREPARATION:

Melt the butter over moderate heat in a large stainless steel pot; add the pasta and almonds, brown, stirring constantly. When you smell the perfume of the browned butter, you are ready to add the rice. Stir, and combine the rice with the browned pasta to coat.

Add the chicken broth, salt, and pepper. Stir well to combine. On high heat, bring the pilaf to a boil, cover, and reduce heat to a simmer.

The pilaf will be done in 20 minutes. Do not stir after the lid has been put on. Let pilaf rest for 10-12 minutes. Transfer to serving bowl.

Serves 4.

Jon is the recipient of the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award in the California Restaurant Association's “Best of the Valley” awards. Contact Jon at <mailto:chefjonkoobation@gmail.com> chefjonkoobation@gmail.com to order his book and for a personally signed copy. His book is also available for sale at The Market Grocery Store and at Sam's Deli & Cucina in Fresno, California.

<<https://www.amazon.com/Cooking-JONJon-Koobation/dp/0692769315>

# 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 Cós mica 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 23** – Saro Danielian, Virtuoso Duduk and Zurna player (Argentina)

**October 30** – Garo Nishanian, 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 Ayriyan

## Artsakh Fundraiser Concert

Organized by Tekeyan Cultural Association

Boston, Detroit, Greater NY, Los Angeles, Metro Los Angeles, Pasadena-Glendale, Montreal

Համերգ Արցախի համար

Saturday, October 17, 2020

8:00 pm EST 5:00 pm PST



credit: Jan Osipyan



credit: Emma Kazaryan

Nuné Melik

Konstantin Soukhovetski

Watch on Zoom: [rb.gy/h28fc0](https://rb.gy/h28fc0)

Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/nunemelik](https://www.facebook.com/nunemelik)

[www.facebook.com/Tekeyanculturalassociation-montreal](https://www.facebook.com/Tekeyanculturalassociation-montreal)

All donations will be transferred to:  
Hayastan All Armenian Fund



### Canada

<https://tekeyanmontreal.ca/donate/>

### USA

<https://givebutter.com/ueu4bT>

Tax deductible receipt will be issued





COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL

# Global Media Finally Notices Karabakh War

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The Karabakh conflict has seized headlines and netted global news coverage like never before, because this time around, major players have been involved directly, raising the tension to an international level.

For long, it was considered a frozen crisis, created by the fall of the Soviet Union.

The news media has its biases and parameters. Any incident, war or political development, has to be filtered through the same prism. In today's Karabakh war, the parties involved, in addition to and behind the actual warriors, are Turkey and Russia.

Journalists have already resorted to formulaic characterizations of the actions of each faction; in the West, Turkey has to be presented in a favorable light, trying to find justifications for its actions, no matter how nefarious, because Turkey is a "trusted" NATO ally.

Conversely, Russia and its leader get a cold shoulder because in the lexicon of Western journalism, they have their own description: authoritarian President Vladimir Putin sitting atop a decaying empire.

Since these two powers feature in the story of the Karabakh war, those biases overshadow the true reasons for the war.

To study the background of a crisis is a prerequisite for journalists, the other attribute being to have the civic courage to stand by the truth, no matter how inconvenient.

In Lawson's case, both criteria were met. He had unearthed historic facts all the way from the time of the great-grandfather of UK Premier Boris Johnson, Ali Kemal, who had been an interior minister in Ottoman Turkey, but was hanged for his fair treatment of the Armenians.

After covering a good deal of history, outlining Erdogan's Ottomanist ambitions, he wrote, "The silence of the British government is shameful." Then he concluded his essay with the following: "This raises three questions. Is Erdogan really the person to whom the British government should be increasing arms sales? How will the prime minister feel if they are used to massacre more Armenians? And what would his great-grandfather say?"

There were more nuances in the Israeli press. Many analysts and statesmen, all of them descending from the families of Holocaust survivors, were already embarrassed by their government's refusal to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. They felt that the same government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, now added insult to injury by supplying Azerbaijan with lethal modern weapons, even right as when the war was raging. In the October 10 issue of the Jerusalem Post, we are invited to witness a Kafkaesque charade, under the headline "[Israeli] High Court Rejects Ban on Arms Sales to Azerbaijan as Lacking Evidence."



Despite these built-in biases, the situation has been changing, and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkey have been helping to bring about that change through their belligerence and aspirations to resurrect the Ottoman Empire.

It is not within the scope of this article to cover all or even the majority of media outlets; however, a sampling would suffice to present the general approach of the media to the Karabakh war.

The BBC's coverage gives the impression that it is being broadcast from the headquarters of British Petroleum.

Oil interests and Prince Andrew's shady investments in Azerbaijan were distinctly shining through the story. To the best of this writer's knowledge, the BBC covered the war once from Stepanakert, where the journalist was hiding from Azerbaijani shelling of the civilian population. The rest of the coverage was from Azerbaijan or Tbilisi, Georgia, with a distinct pro-Azerbaijani bent.

While the BBC coverage was soaked in petroleum, it was rewarding to read Dominic Lawson's column in the *Sunday Times* (October 11) with the headline "Turkey's Game Is Lethal, as Johnson Well Knows."

That column was significant not because it gave a fair treatment of the Armenian side, but because it reflected journalistic integrity. Most of the writers fail to do due diligence, namely to study the background of the topic they are covering; they cover up their ignorance by presenting a false sense of evenhandedness. That's when we see "Armenians claim" while "Azerbaijanis deny." It's much easier to treat ignorance as a tool for faux justice. They spin the existing clichés, pretending to master the topic.

"The High Court of Justice on Monday rejected a petition to ban arms sales to Azerbaijan as lacking evidence to justify a hearing on whether they have been used for war crimes against Armenia."

In 2018, an Israeli drone manufacturer attempted to bomb the Armenian military on behalf of Azerbaijan during a demonstration of one of its "suicide" unmanned aerial vehicles last month, according to a complaint filed with the Defense Ministry. Only through a series of lucky coincidences no casualties were reported. Instead, they merely received a slap on the wrist from the Israeli government.

But another article in *Jerusalem Post* vindicates the former, writing "The [Turkish] government ordered the media to report that 'terrorists' were working with Armenia, an invented news story that usually foreshadows a Turkish invasion, and then encouraged Azerbaijan to attack the disputed area of Nagorno-Karabakh on September 27."

In its October 12 issue, the Times of Israel has published an opinion piece by Genocide scholar Prof. Israel Charny, whose headline says it all: "Would Israel sell a drone to Hitler?"

The Israeli newspaper *Arutz Sheva* [Israel National News] on October 12 published an editorial with the headline "Brave Armenians Teach the Cowardly West a Lesson in Courage." The article concludes by issuing a call to Western countries like Canada to suspend arms sales to Turkey, and recognize the sovereignty of Karabakh.

In Germany, the newspapers *Bild* and *Zeit* have provided scant

*continued on next page*

# Mirror Spectator

Established 1932

An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

## SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:

Edmond Y. Azadian

## CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Dr. Haroutiun Arzoumanian, Philippe Raffi Kalfayan, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Harut Sassounian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

## CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian  
Boston - Nancy Kalajian  
Los Angeles - Taleen Babayan  
Berlin - Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

## Contributing Photographers:

Jirair Hovsepien

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July and the first week of the year, by:

## Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U.S.A.	\$80 a year
Canada	\$125 a year
Other Countries	\$190 a year

© 2014 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator  
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston, MA  
and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, 755 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472

Other than the editorial, views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the policies of the publisher.

Copying for other than personal use or internal reference is prohibited without express permission of the copyright owner. Address requests for reprints or back issues to:

## Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA  
02472-1509





## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Azerbaijan Doesn't Retrieve Its War Dead; Continues Shelling Civilians in Artsakh

Azerbaijan and Turkey kept insisting that they will not accept a ceasefire until the Armenian armed forces vacate Artsakh. In other words, they want to reoccupy Artsakh and eliminate the Armenian presence there.

Turkey, an outsider, kept pouring fuel on the fire by stressing that the war on Artsakh should not stop until Armenians return the land back to Azerbaijan. However, as the Azeri and Jihadist terrorists' losses mounted, President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan started softening his stance by announcing last Friday that the "principles to settle the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, which had been put forward by the United States, Russia and France, should form the basis for a settlement."

That same day, at the invitation of President Vladimir Putin of Russia, the Foreign Ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia met for over 10 hours in Moscow and agreed to a humanitarian ceasefire starting on Oct. 11, at 12 noon (local time), for the purposes of exchanging prisoners of war and retrieving the bodies of dead soldiers. Under Islamic law, a burial ceremony should be held within 24 hours of someone's death.

However, not surprisingly, Aliyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had no intention of abiding by the ceasefire. Azerbaijan continued the shelling of civilian and military targets within few minutes of the start of the ceasefire. Aliyev showed no respect for the dead and their grieving families by refusing to make arrangements to pick up the bodies of killed Azeri soldiers. He also showed no respect for the strict Islamic burial timetable as he is not a devout Muslim.

The real reason Aliyev pretended to accept the ceasefire was to use it as a cover to regroup its shattered armed forces and rush in new military hardware from Israel. Meanwhile, Turkey continued to recruit more terrorist mercenaries from Syria as they kept getting killed in the field of battle.

The blatant Azeri and Turkish violations of the ceasefire should finally wake up President Putin from his slumber. The transfer of these mercenaries to Azerbaijan is not only against the interests of Armenia and Artsakh, but more importantly, against the national interests of Russia. If

Putin does not care about the killings of Armenians, he should care about future acts of terrorism by the mercenaries who had been fighting in Syria against the Russian forces. Armenia and Artsakh are doing a big favor to Russia by eliminating hundreds of Islamist Jihadists that were a menace in Syria and potentially in Russia. These mercenaries could not fight well against Artsakh since they are not trained soldiers, but are capable of committing suicide bombings and blow up civilian targets in Russian cities.

Furthermore, President Putin should feel embarrassed that a ceasefire he had arranged between Armenia and Azerbaijan is being disrespected by Aliyev and Erdogan. This may finally force Putin to take more decisive measures against both Azerbaijan and Turkey. Otherwise, Russia's own prestige will go down the drain.

Russia also has to respect its commitment to the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) with Armenia. It has to defend Armenia's borders since Azerbaijan has repeatedly shelled civilians inside Armenia.

Even more concerned with these Islamist terrorists is Iran which has been fighting them in Syria. To have thousands of terrorists on Iran's border is a serious security risk. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has repeatedly warned Azerbaijan and Turkey about the transfer of these mercenaries to areas next to the Iranian border. Rouhani even spoke with Putin about this threat. If the danger persists, Iran may be forced to take military action against these foreign terrorists to defend its own borders.

One thing that remains puzzling is the polite and civilized reaction of the Armenian forces in the battle. Azerbaijan has kept shelling the civilian population of Stepanakert, Artsakh's Capital, on a daily basis, causing dozens of deaths and injuries both before and after the ceasefire. However, it is not understandable why the Armenian forces refrain from shelling Azeri cities and villages in return. The only exception was the Armenian shelling of the airport of Ganja (Gantsak) in Azerbaijan where Azeri and Turkish air force jets are stationed.

Armenians have every right to respond to Azeri targets. This is war. When the enemy does not respect international law and commits war crimes repeatedly, Aliyev should understand that Armenians will hit back until he stops targeting Armenian civilians. Even the historic Cathedral of Ghazanchetsots in Shushi came under Azeri missile attack causing major damage to this house of worship. Unless such barbaric Azeri attacks cease, Armenia should hit back all Azeri targets, particularly Azerbaijan's oil pipeline.

I was very pleased that on October 11, a massive protest was organized by the Armenian community of Los Angeles in front of the Turkish Consulate.

Erdogan, the delirious leader of Turkey, should be pressured to stop its continuation of the genocide against the

Armenian people. Armenian communities around the world should organize similar demonstrations against Turkish Consulates and Embassies and demand that all governments pressure Turkey to stop its involvement in the war and the recruitment of terrorist mercenaries. The war has unified 10 million Armenians worldwide who are ready to support their homeland against the pan-Turkic onslaught which is far more sinister than the coronavirus pandemic. Everything must be done to foil Erdogan's attempt to stick his nose in the Artsakh conflict. Contrary to the Turkish Foreign Ministry's announcement, Turkey should have no involvement either at the war zone or at the negotiating table.

Just as importantly, protests must be held in front of Israeli Consulates and Embassies in various countries as Israel has sold and continuous to sell billions of dollars of lethal sophisticated drones and missiles to Azerbaijan, killing and maiming hundreds of innocent Armenian men, women and children. A statement circulated on Facebook appropriately describes this insane situation: "The grandchildren of genocide perpetrators are killing the grandchildren of genocide survivors with weapons provided by the grandchildren of Holocaust survivors!"

Last week, a group of prominent Israeli intellectuals issued a joint statement calling on Israel "to cease immediately the sales of arms to Azerbaijan... 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." I am pleased that among the signatories are Professors Yair Auran, Israel Charny and Michael Stone, who have always defended the truth of the Armenian Genocide and called for its recognition by the Israeli government.

Since the Russian government has failed to take decisive action against Azerbaijan and Turkey, I suggest that protests be organized in front of Russian Consulates and Embassies in various countries, particularly in Yerevan and Moscow to let President Putin know that his inaction in this war is causing Armenians everywhere to lose their sympathy for Russia and its government.

Finally, the governments of Artsakh and Armenia have urged everyone in the world to recognize the independence of the Republic of Artsakh. This is a very sensitive subject with far reaching consequences. However, given these tragic circumstances, Armenians have no choice but to resort to such a measure, as a reaction to the Azeri and Turkish attempts to annihilate the Armenians of Artsakh. The recognition of Artsakh's independence would be an adequate response to Azerbaijan's and Turkey's war crimes. However, the first step should be the recognition of the Artsakh Republic by the Armenian government. Otherwise, when Armenians approach foreign leaders, they will be told why should they be the first to recognize Artsakh, since Armenia itself has not!

## Global Media Finally Notices Karabakh War

from previous page

coverage. The former interviewed Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, while the latter interviewed Azerbaijani analyst Bakhtiar Aslanov, who has stated that the Azerbaijani side does not trust Russia, yet does not wish to alienate Moscow either.

President Emmanuel Macron of France has been very vocal in criticizing Erdogan's adventures. He was the first major political figure who revealed that Azerbaijan was the aggressor and that Turkey had brought Islamist Jihadists to fight Armenians. Despite France's unequivocal official position, the television station France 24 continues to cover the war from Azerbaijan. Its journalist Catherine Norris-Trent tries to present balance reporting from the ruins of Barda in Azerbaijan. Norris-Trent did say, however, that the Azerbaijani government constantly monitors their movement and violates their right to cover the developments. She added that someone accompanies them and immediately intervenes whenever they want to just speak with the citizens.

However, the newspaper *Le Point* provides extensive coverage with five articles analyzing the history of the region. The editorial signed by Franz-Olivier Giesbert is entitled "Empathy for Armenians and Shame on Erdogan."

The editorial in its first paragraph characterizes Erdogan as the warmonger of the Mediterranean and states that "there is too much resemblance between Adolf Hitler and the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan."

The last article in the issue signed by journalist Max Sivaslian and is titled "If Nagorno-

Karabakh falls, the Armenian population will be subjected to genocide."

Erdogan's bullying and adventurism have helped the western media to awaken to the world disorder that the tyrant is wreaking. Indeed, antagonizing France, calling German Chancellor Angela Merkel a Nazi and threatening Greece, another NATO ally, had US State Department worried that NATO was about to split. Thanks to these actions, we see more balance in the US news media.

To begin with, that media tried to ignore the entire war situation in a cavalier manner, as if Armenian lives did not matter. In general, the US news media has an endemic malady regarding world affairs, instead amplifying silly issues as "breaking news." This is a studied trend to keep the US citizens in a myopic state, unaware of the activities of the US government and other governments what is transpiring overseas.

Demonstrations in California by Armenians eventually sensitized the *LA Times* and CNN finally to beginning to cover the war in Karabakh. (The tone of the *LA Times* coverage has become a bone of contention for the Armenian community there.)

It is significant that major newspapers not only covered the story, but that their editorial boards stated their positions.

This particularly refers to the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*. David Ignatius had more than one article in the former, while its editorial board had a clear stand when it stated on October 3, "But what seems clear is that Azerbaijan's autocratic ruler, Ilham Aliyev, has launched an offensive to regain territories his

country lost in the 1990s – and that he is doing so with the direct support of Turkey. It's a reckless gambit that reflects both the shrinking influence of the United States under President Trump and the mounting ambitions of his sometime-friend Recep Tayyip Erdogan."

The *New York Times* editorial board position suggests that "the immediate goal is to put out the flames before they spread. For that to happen, a dangerous element has to be confronted. That is Turkey."

Then, after citing the "bad blood" between Armenia and Turkey over the Ottoman era Genocide, it drops the responsibility on Russia by stating "whether Mr. Putin likes it or not, he has the greatest responsibility and the most effective levers to restrain his former empire mates and dissuade Mr. Erdogan from a dangerous adventure."

The *Fresno Bee* and the *Boston Globe*, which are based in cities with large Armenian populations, have provided more balanced coverage, however the latter has not forgotten the overused cliché of "Nagorno Karabakh, an Armenian separatist enclave internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan."

Out of the anti-Armenian hysteria witnessed in Azerbaijan news media, one dissenting voice finally expresses the truth. Azerbaijani journalist Arzu Geybullayeva, who has either repatriated or thus far evaded a Baku jail, writes in *Global Voices*, from relative freedom in Istanbul, under the headline "Karabakh: Hatred and euphoria are fueling madness."

The Azerbaijani journalist states "Ilham Aliyev has cracked down on civil society, caused so much despair to countless families of former and current political prisoners, silenced free media. This war is clearly the only card that Aliyev had left to legitimize his leadership. He will be

president for life. So where does that leave us? A corrupt undemocratic president will be ruling the country, while continuing to suppress independent voices."

The Russian news media is abuzz with news coverage and commentaries about the war. Some pro-Azerbaijani voices are balanced by the comments favorable to Armenians of Konstantin Zatulin and Vladimir Soloviev. Vladimir Posner, a Russian TV commentator who enjoyed great popularity among US television viewers during the détente after the collapse of the Soviet Union, had a nostalgic, almost lyrical comment about the people of Karabakh.

However, a war of words continues between the Armenian media and Russian media giant RT director Margarita Simonyan, who rightfully blames the spewing of anti-Russian rhetoric from the Armenian media and politicians, when Armenia is in dire need of Russian support.

The seminal statement in the Russian news media comes from Yevgeny Satanovsky, a Middle East expert, writing in the publication MEMRI (Middle East Media Research Institute). He states, "The old enemy is risen – the Ottoman [Sublime] Porte in a new guise. ... One thing is clear. If Erdogan puts his pan-Turkic theory into practice, Russia will cease to exist. This is not about the Armenians and not about Azerbaijanis. If our leadership wants to keep the country, they need to shorten the new Sultan [by the head]. They must use whatever means they want, but they shouldn't have a foothold in the region [Karabakh]."

As we can see, the world media has been awakened to Erdogan's new pariah state, a threat to world stability and peace.

That awakening is perhaps also Armenia's safeguard.





## COMMENTARY

# An Escalating Conflict Has Fresno Armenians Fearing New Bloodshed in Their Homeland

By Steve Adams

For 105 years we have been having commemorations, peacefully demonstrating, building monuments, writing op-ed pieces to our local newspapers, asking world leaders and their countries to recognize and condemn the 1915 Genocide of the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

These commemorations have spanned over three generations of Armenians. And people would ask ... why? Why go through all of this trouble to commemorate something that happened more than 100 years ago? As Armenians, we would often hear people tell us to “just move on.” The past is the past, just let it go.

Well, guess what ... the past just became the present! Have our peaceful demonstrations and monuments fallen again on deaf ears? Were all of our warnings really in vain? Did anyone care about the Armenians in 1915? There were plenty of articles in the newspapers at that time telling of the massacres of the Armenians. Did anyone lift a finger to help those poor people? The result back then was 1.5 million Armenians were massacred in what Raphael Lemkin in his 1944 book, “Axis Rule in Occupied Europe,” termed a “genocide.”

So now we find ourselves, 105 years later, facing the same situation. We are reading in our newspapers of the attacks by Azerbaijan on the people of Artsakh (Karabakh). You would have to ask yourself, why? Are there rich oil deposits, maybe huge gold reserves? The truth is there is nothing but mountains, ancient

churches, and the Armenian people who have worshipped in those churches for centuries. Now they are being attacked for what can only be for one thing – to claim land that was never theirs and to eliminate the people and culture that have inhabited those lands for centuries. What do you call it when a country eliminates a people from their ancestral lands and wipes out their culture? Genocide!

The land of Artsakh/Karabakh had been ruled over by many powerful neighbors throughout its history, but the one indisputable fact is that it is the Armenian people who have lived there all this time. Yes, just like any other country, minorities are living there, but if you do just a little research you can find the truth. In 1926 shortly after the formation of the Soviet countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia, the population of Artsakh (Karabakh) was nearly 90% Armenian. They were recognized back then as a semi-independent people and given the status of an “autonomous oblast.”

Let’s take a closer look at that term. Autonomous oblasts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were administrative units created for a number of smaller nations, which were given autonomy within the 15 republics of the USSR. The keyword is “autonomy.” This small nation of people was given “autonomy” but placed within the borders of Azerbaijan by Joseph Stalin to appease Turkey. They were also granted the protection of the Soviet government. With the collapse of the USSR, that protection ended. The member nations of the former Soviet Union declared their independence, and this included the Republic of Artsakh.

Now 105 years later, history repeats itself. Have we learned nothing? We see countries all over the world condemning the attacks. We hear countries calling for a ceasefire. How do you “ceasefire” when you are the ones being shot at? If the Armenians don’t defend themselves, they will be annihilated. This small group of people are defending themselves against major world powers and armies. If we don’t want a repeat of 1915, then countries of the world will need to do more than “lip service.” Just telling Turkey to stop supplying weapons and armies to Azerbaijan is not enough. The U.S. doesn’t need to send troops to fight – there are plenty of ways to influence Turkey. If countries are serious, a complete economic blockade of Turkey or any nation adding fuel to this fire should be put in place immediately. Turkey has already been a thorn in the side of the U.S., it’s time to stop the talk and take action.

The 1915 Genocide of the Armenians was the first genocide of the 20th century. Please world powers, don’t let the Republic of Artsakh become the first genocide of the 21st century.

At this very difficult time please consider donating to

<https://www.himnadram.org/en>

<https://kovcasp.org/donate> - Ararat Lodge project

<https://armenianwoundedheroes.com/donate-awhf/>

Mamigonian lodge is involved

(Steven R. Adams of Clovis is the grand commander of the Knights of Vartan, a fraternal Armenian organization formed in 1916 as a result of the Genocide of the Armenian people. There are 22 chapters throughout the United States.)

## Strategist Anna Magzanyan Joins Dr. Soon-Shiong to Grow the *LA Times*

MAGZANYAN, from page 1

Magzanyan said that she is working closely with the *Los Angeles Times* and the *San Diego Tribune* to increase revenue with their existing portfolio and create new opportunities and products for this purpose. She oversees advertising, circulation, marketing, ad operations, business development and events for the *Times*. She said, “I am excited to work closely with Dr. Shoon-Shiong and bring his vision to life. It’s great to be back at the *Los Angeles Times* because journalism is so important to democracy.”

Dr. Soon-Shiong clearly proclaimed his intentions for the paper in a September 27, 2020 article: “Our guiding hope has been to rebuild the *Times* following years of disinvestment, strengthen the newsroom that plays a critical role in our democracy, and help make the paper a beacon of truth and inspiration. We also feel a deep personal responsibility and duty to fight racism and bias.”

Even though at present Dr. Soon-Shiong is focused on finding a vaccine and cure for Covid-19, he is still involved concerning the vision and direction of the newspaper. Since Magzanyan began her new position this year, she said she has been learning about the various departments and meeting with everyone in the organization. She has been developing plans for implementation in various areas of the newspaper.

Magzanyan noted that despite the financial challenges for the *LA Times*, the company has expanded its digital portfolio and subscription model. With Dr. Soon-Shiong at the helm, it was able to rejuvenate and revitalize the newsroom with 140 new reporters. Since he started, there are more resources and a focus on increasing diversity in the company.

She said she is looking at how the *LA Times* is positioned for the modern day.

Magzanyan looked back at an earlier stint when she worked at the newspaper to explain the current situation. She was vice president for Advertiser Marketing and Events from 2005 to 2011. She stated “When I joined in 2005, we made an assumption that print would be gone because digital was the new wave of the future. As we embark on 2020, print is still at the forefront with digital right beside it. We continue to have strong numbers for Sunday print circulation while we are growing our digital portfolio quickly.”

Magzanyan said that though print is declining, there are opportunities to bring products to the marketplace that are special to people, such as, for example, the Kobe commemorative issue. Print is still relevant with several

industries, including the entertainment business, especially when highlighting nominees for Oscar and Emmys.

Magzanyan said, “Many industries are trying to find their voice and execution in the digital space. They are trying to evolve their media choices as publishing companies continue to invest in digital products. We are seeing companies explore video and podcasts across many industries.”

Covid may have accelerated these changes, and it does affect advertising revenues, but Magzanyan said, “We have seen a huge increase in digital paid subscribers. The *Los Angeles Times* is continually investing in new content vehicles such as podcast programming, videos and creating new virtual events to bring the business and local communities together. We are working with advertisers and clients to be able to meet their demands.”

She added, “We will continue to evolve with our clients to create new ways in which they advertise and focus on increasing our readership. Both of these revenue components are important to our business.”

When asked about how local news coverage in areas like Glendale, with many Armenians, might change after the *Glendale News-Press* was closed by the *LA Times* earlier this year, Magzanyan said, “We are very focused on local coverage. What we are trying to accomplish on a bigger scale is to bring more local coverage to the *Los Angeles Times*.”

### Background

Magzanyan’s father’s family is from Musa Dagh and her mother’s side from Zeytun. Her family left Yerevan for the United States in 1980, when she was only four-years old. She grew up in Los Angeles and attended various American private schools, but was sent by her parents to Armenian Saturday school. She said, “My parents were proud of our Armenian heritage. We had to read and write in Armenian, and follow Armenian traditions. My goal is to continue this tradition with my children.”

“I am a very proud Armenian living in America. Nothing more special than meeting other Armenians around the world and discovering their background. I love my country as much as I love my home in America,” Magzanyan said.

She tries to visit Yerevan with her family every year if possible, and if not, every other year. When they visited Artsakh several years ago, she exclaimed, “I have never seen a more beautiful place. So much history, beauty and peace! Armenia too is so beautiful and what is happening

now is breaking my heart.”

Though her children were born in the United States, they have been going to Armenian day school from the start of their education. She said, “I love that they know all the Armenian hymns, songs and prayers. It is a very essential part of who we are and I embrace it daily.”

She added that she supports Armenian fundraising causes, and “when the time comes that I need to speak up, I speak up.”

Magzanyan went to California State University, Northridge and graduated with a psychology degree in 1997. As she tried to figure out what she would enjoy doing, she said she stumbled into media as her first job. She tried the agency client side, doing marketing and advertising, and then eventually went into the publishing world. She also earned an MBA from the University of La Verne.

Prior to her current position at the *LA Times*, Magzanyan was publisher and CEO of the *Los Angeles Business Journal* for three years, where she increased its revenue and profit. She also has served in executive positions at the *Hollywood Reporter* and iHeartRadio. She has consulted for Omni Media and the Houston Chronicle. Prior to joining publishing, she worked in the media man-aging brands such as Ketel One, Crystal Cruises, Tourism New Zealand and Singapore Airlines.

### Los Angeles Times Coverage of Azerbaijani Attacks on Artsakh

Complaints in the Armenian community about the newspaper’s coverage of the current attacks on Artsakh and Armenia by Azerbaijan culminated in a demonstration in front of its offices in El Segundo on October 6, with protestors chanting “Shame on the *L.A. Times*.” They were upset not only by initial coverage indicating equivalence in the positions of both sides in the fighting, and lower figures of Armenians at Los Angeles rallies than others estimated, but also specifically by the publication of a quotation on October 5 from Nasimi Aghayev, consul general of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles, who said, that Armenia and its allies were promoting “racist and white supremacist propaganda.”

Magzanyan made it clear that she doesn’t have a say in editorial coverage. While this was not the opinion of the *Los Angeles Times* reporter, and there were several other quotes from Armenian leaders in the article, she agreed that the Aghayev quote left many Armenian readers in shock and upset. Armenians are a very inclusive people, she said, noting that “Armenians do not promote white supremacy because we are all immigrants and the children of immigrants. Our history was denied by this quote once again.”

Following the protest, she observed that the *Los Angeles Times* reported on all the reasons why the Armenians were protesting in front of the newspaper’s building. As for reporting the number of people present at a protest, she said that it is always difficult to estimate.

The *Times*, she said, escalated its coverage of what is happening in Artsakh, and as more information came out about Turkey’s involvement and Azerbaijani aggression, it was able to put more stories forward. She said that it is day 13 now (this interview was conducted on October 9), and there have been 13 days of photos and information published (15 articles in all). There are more stories about the history of the region and explanations of what led to the current fighting. Without, in other words, putting a formal correction in the paper, these additional stories have provided the originally missing explanations or context, she said. Additionally, to provide more accurate reporting, the *Los Angeles Times* has sent a journalist to Artsakh to provide eyewitness reports on the current war.

The *Times* primarily covers local news and uses various news services to supplement this, but it also has international reporters. “What happens in Artsakh is extremely important to the local Armenian community here. Los Angeles happens to have a large Armenian community, and I am excited that *Los Angeles Times* is taking their interests into consideration. While staying relevant to its readers, it is essential that the newspaper provides them with coverage that is reliable,” Magzanyan said.

### The Power of the Press

It’s a very difficult time for Armenians around the world, declared Magzanyan. “I am a descendant of survivors of the Genocide and seeing Azerbaijan’s aggression with Turkey’s support is very concerning and scary. We need America to get involved and stop the war immediately. Armenia wants peace. We are only 3 million people in Armenia fighting against 10 million Azerbaijanis with the help of Syrian mercenaries and Turkey. We have lost so many soldiers and it breaks my heart daily,” she said.

Magzanyan believes that journalism is necessary to bring awareness to situations and has the power to create change. She said, “I really believe in the power of investigative reporting. It has the ability to get the attention of those in power to initiate change. After all, journalism is important to democracy as it allows the citizens of a country to have information about anything they want to know. Journalists are the most visible proponent of the First Amendment right.”





## COMMENTARY

# Recognition Is the Only Solution for Karabakh



**By Philippe Raffi Kalfayan**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

The current coverage of recent events focuses on the war, namely its human and material losses. War is raging between the Armenian armed forces, on one side, and the Azerbaijani army, on the other, supported by Turkey as well as its hired mercenaries.

This war was announced days before it broke out. Turkey and its leader, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, clearly incited Azerbaijan to enter the war. Some unfortunate statements and attitudes on both sides provided provocation as well. This war was predictable and predicted (see <https://www.aravot-en.am/2020/09/01/263436/>) and human lives could have been saved. There will be time to analyze it later.

Today, however, the focal point must be the cessation of hostilities and the achievement of a final political settlement of the dispute.

The military resistance on the ground is, of course, important, but a diplomatic victory is no less so. Without legality, sovereignty is merely de facto power, the effectiveness of which only depends on the balance of power. The intervention of Turkey has changed the balance and increased dramatically the threat to the status of Karabakh Armenians or their potential forced displacement; those two offenses constitute the crime of genocide.

The political status of Karabakh and the right of its people's to self-determination are one-century-old issues. Nothing has changed: same causes and same effects.

This commentary aims to elucidate, with legal arguments, that Karabakh's independence is the proper, immediate, well-reasoned and legally grounded remedy to put an end to this historical bloody dispute.

Armenian diplomacy for years has favored the status quo rather than new initiatives; they have maintained an obedient attitude toward the Minsk Process of the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mediating countries (Russia, France and the US) instead of advocating solutions based on reality. Now Armenia is facing a bigger challenge, one which may be out of our control.

All states and intergovernmental organizations call for the cessation of hostilities and a return to the negotiation table. If the priority is indeed to stop the bloodshed and save lives on both sides, the cease-fire would be short-lived if nothing changes in the principles of the negotiation. Those were already deadlocked before the war. They are now totally irrelevant, since even the first condition of the agreements has been violated, i.e. the peaceful process.

The existence of the United Nations' four Security Council resolutions from 1992 to 1994 demanding the restitution of some of the occupied territories to Azerbaijan does not confer the right for that nation to use force, nor to commit flagrant violations of international humanitarian law.

## Minsk Group Principles

In 1996, the OSCE member states laid out three principles as a legal basis for the peaceful settlement process: 1) territorial integrity of Armenia and Azerbaijan; 2) legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh to be based on self-determination, which confers on Nagorno-Karabakh the highest degree of self-rule within Azerbaijan; 3) guaranteed security for Nagorno-Karabakh and its population.

In November 1998, the Minsk Group proposed that the use of the Lachin Corridor by Karabakh for unimpeded communication between Karabakh and Armenia be the subject of a separate agreement. The Lachin district must remain a permanently and fully demilitarized zone.

The basis of the negotiated settlement plan is based on the principles introduced by OSCE Minsk Group in Madrid (November 2007): 1) the return of territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijani control; 2) an interim status for Nagorno-Karabakh providing guarantees for security and self-governance; 3) a corridor linking Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh; 4) the future determination of the final legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh through a legally binding expression of will; 5) the right of all internally displaced persons and refugees to return to their former places of residence; 6) international security guarantees that would include a peacekeeping operation.

These principles are supported by other intergovernmental organizations, which have accepted the exclusive role of the OSCE. Neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan rejected them but they interpret them differently. Indeed the reconciliation of self-determination and territorial integrity principles is quite a challenge, especially in the present dispute. I had argued in March 2019 (see <https://mirrorspectator.com/2019/03/07/the-minsk-process-behind-the-words-and-principles/>) that the content of the agreed plan is no longer applicable. Today, the primary condition, which is the non-use of force, is blatantly violated and hence it annihilates any chance of a compromise between the two parties and thus the whole settlement plan must be reconsidered.

## Self-Determination and Secession

In terms of international law, the self-determination of peoples is conceived, outside the context of decolonization, as a process purely internal to states and respecting their territorial integrity. However, secession is a fact in the light of international law even if the sovereign state does not consent to it. Pakistan is a good example of a successful secession: it became independent against the will of India, the state to which it was attached.

Secession is also called external self-determination. International law does not provide a right to secession, except when there are violations of peremptory norms (jus cogens), but it does not prohibit it either. Even if the will of the people is determined by a popular referendum (this was the case of Quebec-Canada or Catalonia-Spain), there is only one possible scenario where "remedial secession" could be accepted as an ultimate solution: to demonstrate that the physical integrity of the people is imperiled.

Three conditions were defined by the Supreme Court of Canada (Secession of Quebec) to assess the appropriateness and applicability of this "last resort" concept: (i) failure to respect the principles of representativeness of "the people in their entirety"; (ii) flagrant violations of fundamental human rights, in particular threats against the physical integrity of persons; (iii) no possibility of a peaceful solution within the existing State structure. The remedial secession doctrine is still very much debated; some States, like Germany pleaded in favor of it in

the Kosovo independence case before the International Court of Justice (ICJ 2010). The Court considered that it had not to make a decision on this issue.

Are conditions for Secession of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan Met?

Any categorical and immediate answer to this question would be subjective. Moreover, the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has been living independently and has had all the attributes of a state for 26 years. The three criteria are therefore at odds with the current political reality. Meanwhile it is necessary for political reasons to confront the three criteria for remedial secession in the Karabakh case. It is submitted that:

The internal self-determination process has failed so far

The degree of official hatred and criminal acts has reached a no return point

The current war, that includes Turkey, is a concrete example of Azerbaijan's real intentions toward the Armenians

## Internal Self-Determination Process Doomed to Failure

One should not forget that it has not been established that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan. Indeed, the Constitution Act of Independent Azerbaijan (October 18, 1991) leads to an opposing conclusion. Article 2 reads: "the Republic of Azerbaijan is the heir of the Republic of Azerbaijan that existed from 28 May 1918 till 28 April 1920." Until July 1921, the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh was claimed by both Armenia and Azerbaijan and subject already to a fierce dispute, including armed conflict and mass massacres (against Shushi Armenians in 1920). The disputed territory was attached to Azerbaijan on July 5, 1921 night after an arbitrary decision by Stalin, since the plenary session of the Caucasian Bureau of Russian Communist Party-Bolsheviks failed to get a majority vote on it.

The night before the same body had decided to "include Nagorno-Karabakh in the Armenian SSR, and to conduct a plebiscite in Nagorno-Karabakh only." In other words, from 1918 to 1920 Nagorno-Karabakh was not considered as a territory of Azerbaijan. Hence, the independence act of 1991 does not include Nagorno-Karabakh.

It is also worth reminding that Stalin's decision pointed to the "necessity of establishing peace between Muslims and Armenians" (...) granting it "wide regional autonomy with an administrative center of Shushi, included in the autonomous region." It is strange to note that the Madrid Principles are using almost the same approach of "highest degree of autonomy."

In 1923, the "Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast" (NKAO) was established. In 1977, the proceedings of the USSR Council of Ministers session (23 November 1977) includes the following: "as a result of a number of historic circumstances, Nagorno-Karabakh was artificially annexed to Azerbaijan several decades ago. In this process, the historic past of the Oblast [region], its ethnic composition, the will of its people and economic interests were not taken into consideration. Decades passed, and the Karabakh problem continues to raise concern and cause moments of animosity between the two peoples, who are connected with ages-old friendship. Nagorno-Karabakh should be made part of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic" (See Shahen Avakian, Nagorno-Karabakh Legal Aspects, 5th edition).

Nothing had changed in 1988, when Karabakh Armenians, after 68 years of "colonialism" (the same word is used by the Azerbaijan Independence Act to define its subordinate relationship with USSR) requested peacefully to be attached to Armenia. They finally went through a referendum, a process enshrined in the constitutional provisions of the Soviet Union. We all know the rest of the history and the consequences.

In other words, the dispute has existed since the early 20th century with the same causes and the same effects. Any internal self-determination process is doomed to fail. In addition the hatred has accrued considerably.

Hatred and Enmity Have Reached Point of No Return

The Republic of Azerbaijan has developed and deployed such a systematic level of hate speech against Armenians over the past 30 years that it is hard to imagine how, despite the promise of "a high degree of autonomy" for the landlocked territory, the proclaimed security guarantee for the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh would be effective. European and UN institutions and treaty members regularly denounce this hate speech. The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in its report on Azerbaijan (March 2016) observes that: "Almost all of the 196 hate speeches dealing with ethnic conflicts were directed at Armenians. Politicians and civil servants were the main disseminators of hate speech, followed by journalists." The European Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities noted, for example, "a persistent public discourse around the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict invariably identifying Armenia or the Armenians as 'the enemy' and openly disseminating hate messages." (cf. <https://mirrorspectator.com/2018/01/18/make-hate-speech-asset-inherent-evil/>)

This hate speech leads to heinous crimes. During the April 2016 war (April 2-6), three Armenian soldiers were beheaded and photos of Azerbaijani soldiers posing with the head of one of them were shared on social media. The bodies of 18 other Armenian soldiers, reported missing, returned under the auspices of the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) showed signs of torture and mutilation. A petition is pending in Strasbourg. The practice of torture to death on Armenian captives is systematic and has already been sanctioned by the European Court of Human Rights (case Saribekyan and Balyan v. Azerbaijan Judgment January 30, 2020).

## From Discrimination to Ethnic Cleansing

There is a de facto incitement to murder Armenians. Gurban Margaryan, a lieutenant in the Armenian armed forces, was beheaded with an axe in his sleep by Azerbaijani Lieutenant Ramil Safarov in Budapest in February 2004. The two men were attending a NATO-sponsored English training course as part of the "Partnership for Peace" program.

Sentenced to life imprisonment by the Hungarian courts, Safarov was extradited to Azerbaijan in 2012 at the request of the Azerbaijani government, which also offered assurances that Safarov would serve the rest of his sentence in his homeland. Instead of serving his sentence, he was greeted as a hero. He was released, pardoned, and received a promotion at a public ceremony, and was awarded his salary for his time in prison as well an apartment in Baku. The European Court of Human Rights rendered a judgment on May 26, 2020 (Makuchyan and Minasyan v. Azerbaijan and Hungary), which concluded that the measures taken by the Azerbaijani authorities vis-à-vis Safarov resulted in his impunity, which, combined with the glorification of an extremely cruel hate crime, were causally linked to the Armenian ethnicity of the victim and were therefore racially motivated. The Azerbaijani government denied its direct state responsibility, but did not refute the applicants' allegation of discrimination.

Finally, threats of total annihilation are regularly formulated by politicians. Elman Mammadov, a member of parliament, said: "It is not clear why Turkey tolerates the Armenian people on their lands [...] If Turkey and Azerbaijan coalesce, they could wipe Armenia off the world map. Armenians should beware of it [...]."

Hafiz Hajiyev, a leader of the new Musavat party, said: "Our sons are going to blow up the nuclear power plant in Armenia so that no Armenians are left in this territory."

This threat was reiterated on July 17, 2020 by the spokesman for the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry. Echoing the calls for cleansing Armenians from the Caucasus, Turkish politicians are just adding their long-rooted hatred and racial and religious vilification. The Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli said on October 4 that Armenia should "drown see RECOGNITION, page 20



## COMMENTARY

## Recognition Is the Only Solution for Karabakh

RECOGNITION, from page 19  
in the blood it spills." The ongoing war, with disastrous human losses, will only extend a mutual hatred for another century.

Very objectively, what remain of the chances of implementing the principle of internal self-determination under these conditions? It is obvious due to the late developments that the "highest degree of autonomy" option is not viable. In addition, the three belligerent parties (this includes Turkey) will now oppose a return to the previous status quo.

The Minsk mediating countries must recognize the remedial secession of Nagorno-Karabakh as the ultimate solution.

The negotiated principles, as their implementation is foreseen, are not applicable. A final and one-step settlement is necessary. Other examples (Palestine and Jerusalem's Final Status) show that the final status is the core issue and the weaker state will never be favored.

The Minsk Group must discuss Karabakh's independence. This solution is inevitable and the Minsk Group must act it and lead the remaining negotiation on the delineation of territories in order to open up Nagorno-Karabakh, otherwise the threat to the physical integrity of the Armenian population of this region would persist. On 6 May 2016, former President Levon Ter Petrossian wrote: "sooner or later the international community will recognize Karabakh's independence" (<http://www.ilur.am/news/view/84803.html>). At the 1996 OSCE Lisbon Summit, he had declared: "it seems to us that Azerbaijan is trying to break the logic accepted by everyone in the negotiation process. We strongly believe that if the Karabakh conflict is resolved on the basis of the principles proposed by Azerbaijan, a constant threat of genocide or forced deportation will remain to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh." We are there 24 years later!

After all, the formation of nation states is a continuous process, evolving and adapting to political changes in the international arena. Thirty states have been created since the dis-

integration of the Eastern European bloc in 1990, 129 in total since 1941, thanks to the decolonization process, democratic processes and remedial secessions. The legacy of Stalin must be erased in the Caucasus.

The City Council of Geneva adopted an unprecedented resolution on October 7: it "recognizes the right of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to self-determination as the only way to ensure their safety." As regards the supra developments, the City Council, by recognizing that the existence of people of Karabakh is threatened, retains only one international principle, the self-determination. Eliminating the territorial integrity principle from the resolution means recognizing the remedial secession. A special status of autonomy could not ensure security of Karabakh people. Hence it amounts to recognizing their remedial secession. It is urgent other initiatives of that kind follow.

#### Therefore, I suggest:

The Republic of Armenia must call for the international recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh independence by other Nations

The National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia must call for the international recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh independence by national parliaments

United Nations' members must consider that the prevention and repression of genocide is a jus cogens (peremptory) and erga omnes (universal) obligation, whether their country ratified the Convention or not

All diaspora individuals and organizations must advocate their respective governments and parliaments for recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh independence

[Philippe Raffi Kalfayan, based in Paris, is a Lawyer, Lecturer in International Law and a former Secretary General of FIDH (International Federation of Human Rights). He is a regular columnist for the *Mirror-Spectator*.]

*St. James 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual*  
**TAKE-OUT BAZAAR**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020**  
**NOON—6 PM**

**DELICIOUS ARMENIAN FOOD**  
Meals, delicacies and pastries will be available for pre-order curbside pick-up only. Orders may be placed beginning October 1st at the link below, or by calling the church office.

**\$100 RAFFLE**  
**\$5,000, \$1,000, \$750 and three \$500 prizes!**  
Drawing will take place Saturday, October 17th.  
To purchase tickets, please contact the church office.

**NEW! ONLINE SILENT AUCTION**  
Visit [charityauction.bid/stjames](http://charityauction.bid/stjames) to register.  
Multiple Items! Artwork, jewelry, services, experiences, and more.  
Online bidding begins at midnight on October 10, 2020 and ends at 9 pm on October 18, 2020.

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**  
The Annual Bazaar is our largest fundraiser of the year. Please consider making a donation of any amount to support this major effort, and our St. James parish.  
Online donations may be made at the link below.

**OUTDOOR ST. JAMES ARTISAN BOOTH**  
Purchase handmade items and gifts lovingly made by our St. James Artisans!

**WWW.STJAMESWATERTOWN.ORG/BAZAAR**

**ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
465 MOUNT AUBURN ST. WATERTOWN, MA | (617) 923-8860 | [INFO@STHAGOP.COM](mailto:INFO@STHAGOP.COM)

**f LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**



# HELP US Rebuild

## 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.