

# Blast in Karabakh Kills Dozens, Injures More Than 200

## Thousands Flee to Armenia

YEREVAN (AP/Panorama.am) — At least 20, and possibly up to 100, people are dead in the aftermath of an Artsakh fuel depot blast on Monday, September 25, Artsakh’s former Ombudsman and State Minister Artak Beglaryan said.

The Artsakh Ministry of Health said 13 unidentified bodies were found at the scene and seven more died in hospital.



Thousands of Armenians have streamed out of Nagorno-Karabakh (Stepan Poghosyan, Photolure photo/AP © Provided by The Irish News)



An explosion in Artsakh (AP photo)

“Many have gone missing, with witnesses estimating that over 100 people were fully burned in the fire,”

ate the injured,” he added. The explosion at fuel storage facility near the regional capital of Stepa-

Beglaryan said in a social media post on Tuesday.

“A medical helicopter arrived from Armenia to evacu-

nakert wounded more than 200 people, Nagorno-Karabakh human rights ombudsman Gegham Stepanyan said on X, formerly known as Twitter. It was not immediately clear what caused the blast, which happened as residents were lining up to get fuel for their cars in order to leave the region.

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## ‘People Want to Leave’: Artsakh Armenians Fear Living in Their Own Homes After Azerbaijan Offensive

By Sona Hovsepyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN — The 120,000 ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh claim they have little trust in a reintegration effort. People are reluctant to live in conditions lacking proper food, medicine, and are terrified to remain in their own homes.

“People want to leave. Azerbaijan offers humanitarian aid and promises that life will be better than it has been so far, but the locals have no trust in these promises,” Alyona Hayrapetyan, a Nagorno-Karabakh-based journalist, said.

Following Azerbaijan’s 24 hours of large-scale bombardment, the latest data [as of September 25] reports 200 deaths, and more than 400 wounded. After the “anti-terrorist” operation of September 19, more than 8,000 people were evacuated to the Russian peacekeepers’ base or the Karabakh capital of Stepanakert. Following the ceasefire, Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh’s main city, became a refuge  
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## US Announces Aid for Karabakh Refugees as Power Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) — The United States indicated its readiness to provide aid to Nagorno-Karabakh’s residents taking refuge in Armenia as the head of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Samantha Power, visited the country on Monday, September 25.

Power, who was accompanied by US Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs Yuri Kim, arrived in Yerevan amid an intensifying exodus of Karabakh’s ethnic Armenian population that followed last week’s military offensive launched by  
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Samantha Power (left), head of USAID, meets Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Yerevan, September 25, 2023



Perfect Body vs. Mutilation of Female (photo Anna Minaeva)

## ‘The Other Side’

Fashion Event in Milan Inspires Global Solidarity in Artsakh Crisis

MILAN, Italy — After a compelling and impactful showcase of art, fashion, and human resilience, “The Other Side” event in Milan has come to a close. Held on September 22, at the historical Palazzo Visconti, the event exceeded all expectations and accomplished its mission of raising immediate awareness about the deepening humanitarian crisis in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) and Azerbaijan crimes against the Artsakh population.

The concept of “The Other Side” evolved to address the rapidly unfolding catastrophe in Artsakh. Fashion installations, initially intended for creative expression, became vital canvases that conveyed the urgency of the situation. One side featured poignant art installations, starkly illustrating the grim reality of the crisis, while the other displayed fashion items as symbols of hope, resilience, and the enduring human spirit.

“The Other Side” featured a distinguished lineup of brands and guest of honor Krikor Jabotian. Brands and artists such as Ananyan, Antikyan Gallery, A.KAR by Adrine Karapetyan, Artuyt, David Ghahramanyan, Gayane Avetisyan, Hrayr Badlayan,  
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### New Khatchkar Unveiled in London



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**BERLIN**

### Germans, Armenians To Olaf Scholz: Stop Genocide!



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**ALFRED, NY**

### Alfred Museum Exhibit Dedicated to Works by Sculptor Reuben Nakian



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ARMENIA

## NEWS from ARMENIA

### Holy Echmiadzin to Lead Prayers on October 1

ECHMIDAZIN — The Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin has announced that the Blessing of the Holy Muron ceremony, planned to take place on October 1, has been postponed. Instead, on that date, the Mother See will lead worldwide Armenian churches in a pan-national Prayer for Artsakh.

Diocesan Primate Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, who announced the decision on September 22, added that despite the postponement of the Muron Blessing service, the Episcopal Ordination services on October 8, where Fr. Mesrop will be consecrated as a bishop of the church—will go forward as planned. The service in New York welcoming the newly ordained Bishop Mesrop back to the Eastern Diocese will also proceed as planned on October 14.

### State Dept. Concerned About Karabakh Armenians' Safety

YEREVAN (Armenpress)—The United States is concerned about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh after the latest Azeri attack and believes that the rights of the Armenians who chose to either stay or leave must be protected.

"We are concerned about the situation," US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said at a press briefing when asked on Nagorno-Karabakh on September 25. "I will say that in terms of what we think is important, it's, number one, that the ceasefire that exists now be maintained, that there is no further military action; number two, that the humanitarian needs of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh are addressed; and number three, that Azerbaijan and Armenia reach a lasting peace agreement. With regard to the humanitarian situation from the ground, the population of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh should be able to remain in their homes in peace and dignity, with respect for their rights and security if they choose to do so. Those who want to leave and return should be allowed safe passage overseen by a neutral, independent third party. And Azerbaijan has a responsibility to protect civilians and ensure the humane treatment of all, including those it suspects of being combatants."

### 8 More Bodies Found in Artsakh after Offensive

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — Ten people were found alive during the search and rescue operations in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) on September 25 following last week's Azerbaijani military offensive.

Eight victims' bodies were found during the search efforts, Artsakh's State Service of Emergency Situations said on Tuesday, September 26.

Five of the 10 people were handed over to Artsakh by Azerbaijan. 5 of the 8 bodies were also handed over to Artsakh by the Azeri side.

Artsakh's authorities said earlier 105 bodies of soldiers and civilians had been found during the search operations on September 21-24.



Thousands of Armenians have streamed out of Nagorno-Karabakh (Stepan Poghosyan, Photolure photo/AP© provided by The Irish News)

## Blast in Nagorno-Karabakh Injures More Than 200 as Thousands Flee to Armenia

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The majority of the victims were in "severe or extremely severe" condition, Stepanyan said, adding that the victims would need to be airlifted out of the region for medical treatment to save their lives. It was not immediately clear if there were any deaths.

The precise cause of the blast remained unknown. An official in Stepanakert, Davit Babayan, told RFE/RL's Armenian Service that the authorities there believe it was most likely an accident caused by "negligence." He said they are hardly in a position to conduct an investigation given the ongoing exodus of Karabakh's population to Armenia and Azerbaijan's takeover of the region.

The Azerbaijani military routed Armenian forces in a 24-hour blitz last week, forcing the separatist authorities to agree to lay down weapons and start talks on Nagorno-Karabakh's "reintegration" into Azerbaijan after three decades of separatist rule.

While Azerbaijan has pledged to respect the rights of ethnic Armenians in the region and restore supplies after a 10-month block-

ade, many local residents feared reprisals and decided to leave for Armenia.

The Armenian government said that more 6,500 Nagorno-Karabakh residents had fled to Armenia as of Monday evening. Moscow said that Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh were assisting the evacuation. Some 700 people remained in the peacekeepers' camp there by Monday night.

Dozens of people were lining up at the fuel facility where the blast occurred because they had been promised fuel — a scarcity during the blockade — for their cars in order to move to Armenia, according to Nagorno-Karabakh's separatist authorities.

The explosion took place hours after the second round of talks between Azerbaijani officials and separatist representatives was held Monday in the town of Khojaly, just north of the Nagorno-Karabakh capital. The first round was held last week. Azerbaijan's presidential office said in a statement that the talks were held "in a constructive atmosphere" and that discussion focused on humanitarian aid to the region and medical services.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo-

gan, in the meantime, visited Azerbaijan on Monday in a show of support to its ally.

Russia has been the main ally and sponsor of Armenia and has a military base there, but it also has sought to maintain friendly ties with Azerbaijan. But Moscow's clout in the region has waned quickly amid the Russian war in Ukraine while the influence of Azerbaijan's top ally Turkey has increased.

Erdogan arrived in Azerbaijan's Nakhichevan exclave on Monday for talks with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to discuss Turkey-Azerbaijan ties and regional and global issues. Nakhichevan is cut off from the rest of Azerbaijan by Armenian territory but forms a slim border with Turkey.

Erdogan and Aliyev signed a deal for a gas pipeline and the Turkish leader said "I'm very pleased to be with all of you as we connect Nakhichevan with the Turkish world."

Aliyev, at a news conference with Erdogan, said "It is crystal clear that, independent of their ethnicity, the people living in the Karabakh region are Azerbaijani people so their safety and security is ensured by the Azerbaijani state."

## US Weighs in on Russian-Armenian Tensions

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) —The US State Department has called for the dispatch of an international monitoring mission to Nagorno-Karabakh and effectively backed Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's claims that Russia cannot guarantee Armenia's security.

"I do think that Russia has shown that it is not a security partner that can be relied on," Matthew Miller, the department spokesman, told a news briefing in Washington on Monday, September 25, commenting on the ongoing war of words between Yerevan and Moscow.

Tensions between the two long-time allies deepened earlier this month after Pashinyan stated that Armenia's reliance on Russia for defense and security has proved a "strategic mistake" because the latter is "unable or unwilling" to defend the South Caucasus nation.

The Armenian premier doubled down on his criticism following Azerbaijan's September 19 offensive in Karabakh launched

despite the presence of Russian peacekeepers there. He said on Sunday that the military alliance with Russia is not enough to ensure Armenia's national security.

The Russian Foreign Ministry responded by accusing Pashinyan of seeking to ruin bilateral ties and reorient Armenia towards the West. Russian officials have repeatedly charged that the United States and the European Union are eager to drive Russia out of the South Caucasus.

Pashinyan and his political allies have so far not signaled plans to get Armenia out of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) or other Russian-led blocs. Nor have they indicated any alternative geopolitical arrangements which they believe can protect Armenia's borders.

Miller reaffirmed US support for Armenia's territorial integrity but declined to clarify what Washington could do if it is jeopardized by Azerbaijan. "What we think is important is that Armenia and Azerbaijan reach a lasting peace agreement," he said in

this regard.

Miller also reiterated US concerns about the fate of Karabakh's ethnic Armenian population severely affected by last week's Azerbaijani assault.

"The population of ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh should be able to remain in their homes in peace and dignity, with respect for their rights and security if they choose to do so," he said. "Those who want to leave and return should be allowed safe passage overseen by a neutral, independent third party."

"We do believe there should be an international mission to provide transparency, reassurance, and confidence to the residents of Nagorno-Karabakh and the international community, that ... their rights and security will be protected consistent with the public statements that Azerbaijan has made," added the US official.

Yerevan advanced the idea of such a mission even before the latest escalation. Baku strongly opposed it.



## ARMENIA

# Scores of Detentions Reported in Yerevan as Protesters Aim to Oust Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Dozens of people have been detained as anti-government protests continued in the Armenian capital on September 22.

Armenian police said after noon local time that 84 people had been detained and charged with disobeying police orders. Armenian opposition groups later claimed some 350 supporters had been detained.

The developments came after opposition leaders called for street blockades and other protest actions to be held on September 22 in an effort to force Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan from power.

Protesters have vowed to continue their action until Pashinyan is removed and have said they plan to disrupt a meeting of his cabinet expected later in the day.

Police, who have used stun grenades during clashes with demonstrators since protests began in Yerevan on September 20, had warned that they would implement “special measures” if the clashes continued.

Police reportedly detained one of the protest organizers, Andranik Tevanyan, during the demonstrations on September 22. The former parliamentarian was released after being questioned by the Investigative Committee.

Tevanyan said during demonstrations on September 21 that “with disciplined and united efforts” Pashinyan’s ouster as prime minister “will happen in a very short time, even within days.”

A son of Armenia’s former President Robert Kocharyan, Levon Kocharyan, was among the detained protesters. His lawyer said law enforcement officers “severely beat” his client during his apprehension.

Pashinyan has come under criticism for the government’s response to Azerbaijan’s lightning offensive earlier this week against Nagorno-Karabakh, an Azerbaijani territory that has a large ethnic Armenian population. Azerbaijan has claimed that the offensive, which it describes as an “anti-terrorist operation,” has brought the breakaway region back under its control.

Pashinyan told his government on Sep-

tember 22 that Yerevan would accept an influx of ethnic Armenians if they chose to leave Nagorno-Karabakh, but that such a massive resettlement would only occur if it became impossible for them to remain there.

Demonstrators have decried what they call inadequate government support for the ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, while opposition leaders have announced plans to initiate impeachment proceedings against Pashinyan.

As anti-government demonstrators blocked roads and assembled in Yerevan’s central Republic Square on the morning of September 22, Pashinyan expressed hope that ethnic Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh can remain there.



An arrest in Yerevan during a protest.

## Rep. Pallone Legislation Seeks Protection for Armenia, Karabakh

WASHINGTON — This week, Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr (D-NJ) introduced bipartisan [legislation](#) with fellow Representatives David Valadao (R-CA) and Adam Schiff (D-CA) to protect Armenians and provide humanitarian assistance to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in response to the brutal and unjust actions taken by the Government of Azerbaijan, reported the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly).

The Bill, “Supporting Armenians Against Azerbaijani Aggression Act of 2023,” covers a spectrum of pertinent and swift actions that can be taken by the Administration in the aftermath of Azerbaijan’s illegal and unprovoked attacks on the Armenian people of Nagorno-Karabakh, from calling on Azerbaijan to open the Lachin Corridor to providing humanitarian assistance to imposing sanctions to ceasing waivers of Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act, as well as appropriating funding for future partnerships between the U.S. and Armenia.

“President Aliyev’s genocidal campaign against the Armenian people of Artsakh has gone on too long, and it is past time the United States takes meaningful action to halt it. This legislation takes a major first step in addressing the atrocities commit-

ted by his regime and holding him and his cronies accountable for the death and destruction they have wrought. It would also provide the Armenian people impacted by the conflict with the assistance and security they need to live safely in their ancient homelands without fear of reprisal from the Azerbaijani government,” stated Congressman Pallone.

The Assembly’s Congressional Relations Director Mariam Khaloyan stated: “Since he has taken a page out of Putin’s playbook in Ukraine, Aliyev too must be held accountable for his ongoing targeting of civilians in Artsakh. We urge the Administration to sanction Azerbaijan for its genocidal actions.”

The Bill further calls for \$30 million to “provide humanitarian assistance to groups in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh impacted by the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, Azerbaijan’s September 2022 attack on Armenia, and Azerbaijan’s blockade of the Lachin Corridor.”

The Bill also contains language to provide \$10 million in Foreign Military Financing assistance to Armenia to “support Armenia’s independence, joint training and exercises with the U.S., and train Armenian

forces for future international peacekeeping operations.”

Imposing sanctions on Azerbaijan regarding the Aliyev regime’s clear attempts at ethnic cleansing in Nagorno-Karabakh is also specified, as well as the government’s “operations that instigated the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War; attacks on Armenia in September 2022; the blockade of the Lachin Corridor beginning in December 2022; attacks on Nagorno-Karabakh in September 2023.”

Finally, the Bill highlights the importance of protecting the rights of the Armenian people in Nagorno-Karabakh and requests that the Secretary of State “shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed strategy to ensure the durable security for the people of Nagorno-Karabakh” that incorporates the “rights and security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh” as well as the “establishment of accountability measures to ensure the rights and security of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh in the event that the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan reach a peace agreement” as well as “support for the protection of Armenian cultural heritage sites in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

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Azerbaijan. She said at the start of her trip that she will “speak directly with those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh.”

The crisis was high on the agenda of the US officials’ talks with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan held later in the day. In her opening remarks at the talks, Power said the USAID is ready to help Armenian authorities provide the arriving refugees with accommodation and other assistance. She said Washington will also “encourage other countries to do the same.”

Power handed Pashinyan a letter from US President Joe Biden in which the latter pledged to work with the Armenian government in addressing “humanitarian needs stemming from the recent violence in Nagorno-Karabakh.” The USAID chief will discuss details of that assistance during her visit, Biden wrote.

He added in his letter, “The United States is committed to work with your government and addressing humanitarian needs emerging from the latest violence, which Administrator Power will discuss with you

in depth. We will also continue to strengthen our cooperation on energy diversification, resilience, and security, as demonstrated by our recent military exercises.

“Armenia’s rich history has inspired nations and people everywhere to strive for liberty and justice. And the Armenian-American community continues to be a source of strength in my own country. In the year ahead, I hope to continue to further deepen and strengthen the bonds between our nations – and our people”.

“The United States is deeply concerned about reports on the humanitarian conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh and calls for unimpeded access for international humanitarian organizations and commercial traffic,” the US Embassy in Yerevan said in a statement on the trip.

The United States government is allocating \$11.5 million in humanitarian aid to meet the needs of the forcibly displaced people from Nagorno-Karabakh, Power announced on September 26 during a visit to the Armenian village of Kornidzor.

“It is very difficult to hear and see what these families are going through. Many left

their towns and villages under shelling,” she said.

The USAID chief met with medics who told her that many of the forcibly displaced persons have malnutrition.

Power also met with people whose loved ones are missing.

Power said it is necessary for international monitors and humanitarian organizations to have access to Nagorno-Karabakh to provide assistance to those in need on the ground.

### International Aid

The European Union (EU) also announced aid in the form of 5 million euros in response to the increasing needs resulting from the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis, the European Commission’s press service said in a statement.

“The conflict escalation and subsequent ceasefire is expected to trigger a mass exodus of people from Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, with approximately 13 500 refugees having crossed the border already. At the same time, there is a major food shortage and lack of access to electricity

and water within the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave,” the European Commission said.

The funding will assist people displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. This aid will be delivered by various EU humanitarian partners operating in Armenia to reach around 25 000 people. The priority is to provide cash assistance, shelter, food security and livelihoods assistance.

This aid will be channeled through the International Committee of Red Cross and aims to support around 60,000 people with food, healthcare, shelter and logistics.

In addition, Japan announced it is ready to make effort and provide support for overcoming the social issues of the forcibly displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh, Japan’s Ambassador to Armenia Masanori Fukushima said during a meeting with Armenia’s Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Narek Mkrtchyan.

Sweden has allocated over \$1.3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to meet the urgent needs of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, Ambassador of Sweden to Armenia Patrik Svensson said on X, formerly Twitter.

# 'People Want to Leave': Artsakh Armenians Fear Living In Their Own Homes after Azerbaijan Offensive

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for displaced citizens. They slept in basements, schools, and every available space, including the ground.

After these events, on Sunday, September 24, the Nagorno-Karabakh Information Center announced that with the help of Russian peacekeepers, people could evacuate to Armenia. In response, residents hastily packed their bags and tried to find fuel to leave.

Hayrapetyan, like others, wants to leave and adds that she doesn't know anyone who wants to stay. She also described the situation following the breaking of the ceasefire by the Azerbaijani side, despite its denial.

"Rumors spread that Azerbaijanis were

coming down to Stepanakert. I panicked too and took my things to leave. It's still not clear whether it happened or not, but shots were definitely heard for about an hour," claimed Hayrapetyan.

As she mentioned, people went to Stepanakert Airport, where the Russian peacekeepers' base is located, not only in hopes of getting to Armenia but also for their safety, as Azerbaijan hadn't targeted the Russian peacekeepers.

On the first day of Azerbaijan's so-called 'anti-terrorist' operation, Hayrapetyan, like many others, lost contact with her parents. She eventually managed to reach them, but many people are still searching for their family members.

Ararat Mirzoyan, the Armenian minister

of foreign affairs, announced during his speech at the UN Security Council emergency meeting that it's hard to believe that all this is happening not a hundred years ago but today in front of the eyes of the international community in the 21st century.

He stated that the Azerbaijani social media segment is full of calls to find missing children and women, to rape them, dismember them, and feed them to dogs. Azerbaijani users are sharing the profiles of Armenian women from Nagorno-Karabakh on social media and making bids on who will get those women to rape when they are taken into Azerbaijani custody.

Mirzoyan also added "The images coming from Nagorno-Karabakh are truly shocking: women, children, elderly people

left without shelter and food, moms desperately trying to find their lost children, wives crying from fear that Azerbaijan may imprison their husbands."

The residents of Nagorno-Karabakh have already given up in frustration on the international community. The only thing they want is to move to Armenia and live peacefully. Ashot Harutyunyan's family, residents of Martuni town (the name has been changed for their safety), including his pregnant wife and two young children, live in constant fear and anxiety. During the blockade Harutyunyan's pregnant wife didn't have the necessary vitamins, food and medicine. All this became a reason for a delay in childbirth. If possible the family also wants to evacuate to Armenia.

"We already have two kids, and we're expecting our third. Our children cannot continue living in these conditions. The future here is unpromising," said Harutyunyan.

As Harutyunyan told the *Mirror-Spectator*, humanitarian aid and reintegration won't change their attitude and it is not possible to live in Azerbaijan. Even if it were, it would be a deception of the international community, he said.

Baku announced that residents of Nagorno-Karabakh would have a much better life, not only after Azerbaijan's large-scale offensive on September 19, but even before that.

"I am sure that the life of Armenians who live in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan will be much better than during the times of occupation," President Ilham Aliyev announced during his speech at the opening of the 10th Global Baku Forum on March 9 this year.

Aliyev stated that minority rights in Azerbaijan are protected by the constitution and that Azerbaijan is a country with a high level of religious and ethnic tolerance. However, research from international organizations, such as the European Parliament and Minority Rights Group, shows that Azerbaijan's minority populations face discrimination and restrictions. According to the European Parliament analysis, Azerbaijan has more than fifteen ethnic groups, constituting 8.4% of the population, with Lezgins, Armenians, Russians and Talysh being the main minorities.

As a result of the 1991-1994 Nagorno-Karabakh war, the entire Armenian population was forced to leave Azerbaijan, including the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

Despite Azerbaijan's president stating that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh will live peacefully in Azerbaijan, the reality is quite different. As reported by the European Parliament, the tiny Armenian community is in a difficult situation.

Azerbaijani presidential advisor Hikmat Hajiyev held a press briefing following the ceasefire in which he outlined what he said would be the integration process of Nagorno-Karabakh and its residents. "Azerbaijan once again declares that it is ready for a smooth reintegration process. We are ready to respond to the humanitarian demands of the population. We are ready to provide stability and security in a short period," Hajiyev announced.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan declared that Armenia is ready to host 40,000 families in case of a mass evacuation. Meanwhile, Pashinyan said that 120,000 ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh should have the right to live in their homes with dignity and safety.

## Refugees from Artsakh Pouring into Goris

YEREVAN (Armenpress/Panorama) — So far, 19,000 forcibly displaced persons have entered Armenia from Nagorno-Karabakh as of September 26, Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Khachatryan said at a press conference.

Of those, 2,500 who have applied to the government for accommodation, have received accommodations. The accommodation process of another 1,200 is in process.

The remaining refused accommodation from the government and said that they have a place to stay.

Artsakh's officials have said they plan to evacuate thousands of displaced people from there into Armenia.

The evacuees are accompanied across the border into Armenia by Russian peacekeepers.

More than 200 people were killed and 400 wounded in the two-day Azerbaijani offensive, which forced Artsakh to agree to disband its armed forces and discuss its "reintegration" into Azerbaijan as part of a Russian-brokered ceasefire announced on Wednesday.



ALEXANDER PATRIN / TASS



ALAIN JOCARD / AFP



ALAIN JOCARD / AFP



ARMENPRESS



ANATOLY ZHDANOV / KOMMERSANT



## INTERNATIONAL

# Russia Warns Armenia After Premier Pashinyan's 'Unacceptable Attacks'

By Aza Babayan and Astghik Bedevian

YEREVAN (Azatutyun) — Russia accused Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of seeking to ruin Russian-Armenian relations and reorient his country towards the West on Monday as it rejected his claims that Moscow has failed to protect Nagorno-Karabakh's population against ethnic cleansing and guarantee Armenia's security.

"We are convinced that the Yerevan leadership is making a huge mistake by deliberately trying to destroy the multifaceted and centuries-old ties between Armenia and Russia and making the country a hostage to geopolitical games of the West," the Russian Foreign Ministry said on September 25.

In a weekend address to the nation, Pashinyan held the Russians responsible for the exodus of Karabakh's ethnic Armenian population resulting from last week's Azerbaijani military offensive. He also declared that the military alliance with Russia and membership in the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are not enough to ensure Armenia's national security. Moscow is now also intent on ending the South Caucasus country's independence, he charged.

The Russian Foreign Ministry hit back at the Armenian premier in equally strong terms. It dismissed his "unacceptable attacks" as an attempt to "relieve himself of responsibility for failures in domestic

and foreign policy by shifting the blame to Moscow."

"Russia has always been faithful to its allied obligations, respected Armenian statehood and never confronted the republic with a choice. with us or against us," he said in a statement.

The statement blamed the Azerbaijani offensive on Pashinyan's controversial decision to recognize Azerbaijani sovereignty over Karabakh during October 2022 and May 2023 talks with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev organized by the European Union. "This fundamentally changed ... the position of the Russian peacekeeping contingent [in Karabakh,]" it said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov "categorically" disagreed with Pashinyan's criticism of Russian peacekeepers in Karabakh. "The Russian peacekeepers show real heroism in performing their duties according to their mandate," he said.

Peskov also said that Moscow still regards Yerevan as an ally and will continue its "dialogue" with Pashinyan.

The Armenian premier on Sunday stopped short of announcing his country's impending exit from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) or other Russian-led blocs. He said Yerevan will continue to reform the Armenian army and seek to formalize Armenian-Azerbaijani understandings brokered by the European Union.

Sargis Khandanyan, the chairman of the Armenian parliamentary committee on for-

ign relations, was also vague on this score when he spoke to RFE/RL's Armenian Service on Monday. He said only that the Armenian government will "think and figure out how to reinforce our security mechanisms."

"We cannot talk about a specific [alternative] security system at this point because it's a complex and long process," Khandanyan said when asked about geopolitical alternatives considered by Yerevan.

The pro-government lawmaker also echoed Pashinyan's implicit allegations that Moscow is fomenting ongoing protests in Yerevan organized by Armenian opposition groups in a bid to topple him. He said anti-Pashinyan statements by Russian politicians and commentators constitute "interference in Armenia's internal affairs."

The Russian Foreign Ministry statement insisted that Moscow is not behind the daily anti-government protests. It said they were sparked by Armenians' "understandable discontent" with Pashinyan's "irresponsible" policies.

Russian-Armenian relations have already worsened significantly in the run-up to the Azerbaijani offensive in Karabakh launched on September 19. Pashinyan declared that Armenia's long-standing reliance on Russia has proven a "strategic mistake." The Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Armenia's ambassador on September 8 to protest against this and other "unfriendly steps" taken by Yerevan.

## INTERNATIONAL

## France Sending Aid to Help With Injured

PARIS (Public Radio of Armenia) — France is sending emergency equipment to Armenia to help treat the injured in the fuel depot blast near Stepanakert.

The equipment will leave for Yerevan, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

"All my thoughts are with the victims of the fuel depot explosion this evening. France stands ready to send emergency resources. Azerbaijan must allow immediate access for humanitarian aid," the Minister said earlier on September 25.

## Putin, Raisi Discuss Karabakh

YEREVAN (ARKA) — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi had a thorough exchange of views on the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh and normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia during a telephone conversation initiated by the Iranian side on September 26, Russian news agencies reported.

Putin was said to inform the Iranian president on the Russian peacekeeping contingent's activities, including the provision of humanitarian aid to civilians, protection of rights and security of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The presidents of Russia and Iran expressed mutual interest in activating the work of the consultative regional platform "3+3" (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia plus Russia, Iran and Turkey), the Kremlin press service reported.

## Mkhitarian Urges World Leaders to Decry Ethnic Cleansing in Karabakh

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — Inter Milan midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan has called on world leaders to stand up against ethnic cleansing and prevent genocide in Karabakh (Artsakh). Below is his statement posted on Facebook on September 26.

"After a ten months long blockade, on September 19th Azerbaijan's military launched a brutal shelling of Nagorno Karabakh. My heart breaks as I learn about the stories of trauma, loss, and severe violations of human rights of thousands of Armenian families who are being forcibly displaced from Nagorno Karabakh and flee for Armenia in a mass exodus. The situation that people in Nagorno-Karabakh are suffering right now, brings memories from History's darkest hours. We often look back to those dark pages of indiscriminate killings, ethnic cleansing and concentration camps with remorse, and regret that no one did enough to stop it. We cannot bring back the victims from those past atrocities, but we are still in time to prevent genocide from unfolding in Nagorno-Karabakh. In the midst of this horror, we need immediate mobilization of emergency humanitarian aid through the Lachin Corridor and the deployment of international monitoring missions to put a stop to these crimes against humanity.

# New Khachkar Unveiled in London

LONDON — On September 23, a *Khachkar* symbolizing the eternal flame, was unveiled in Ealing Green. It is a masterpiece by a renowned artist from Armenia Varaztad Hampartsoumian. This marked the culmination of a sustained effort by the Armenian Community Council of GB and Armenian National Committee London, the Ealing Borough Council and the generosity of the benefactor Violet Tatevossian of London.

The inscription on the *Khachkar* reads: The Eternal Flame In memory of the One and Half Million Victims of the Armenian Genocide.

A strong crowd of about 300 people, including Homenetmen Scouts, gathered in the designated point on Ealing Green to unveil the monument. In attendance one could recognize the local member of Parliament James Murray Esq., Peter Mason the Leader of Ealing Borough Council the



The assembled in Ealing at the unveiling

Mayor of Ealing Hitesh Taylor, former MP Mr. Stephen Pound and other dignitaries. The Ambassador of Armenia Varuzhan Nersessyan who was in attendance, reflected upon the symbolic meaning of the *khachkar*.

The ceremony was opened by the ACC Chair Mr. Armand Abramian, followed by short addresses by Annette Moskofian, Mr. John Murray, Mr. Peter Mason and Mr. Stephen Pound. Following these speeches, the primate of UK and Ireland Bishop Hovakim Manukyan surrounded by Armenian Church clergy and clergy representing other denominations including Rt. Rev. Bishop Mike Royal blessed the *Khachkar*. The ceremony was finished by the rendering of the national anthem of the Republic of Armenia.

As result of the recent developments in

Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) the pain and heaviness of the ceremony was palpable. What should have been an august occasion, was marred by the presence of Turkish individuals waving the Turkish flag and making the Turkish sign of the Grey Wolves; a reminder of the existential threat Armenians face. Fortunately the Police presence kept them at bay.

The speakers all thanked the Ealing Borough Council under the leadership of Mr. Peter Mason. They all reflected on the recent challenges Armenians face, in particular the besieged people of Artsakh. The newly unveiled Khachkar however, symbolizing the eternal flame of life and endurance was the hope that galvanized and fueled the Armenian resolve to endure and survive.

(H.K. London 25 Sept. 2023)



The Ealing Khachkar

# Germans, Armenians to Olaf Scholz: Stop Genocide!

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN — The demonstration in Berlin on September 23 had been organized weeks earlier; the Diocese of the Armenian Church in Germany, the Central Council of Armenians in Germany, along with two leading human rights groups, the Society for Threatened Peoples (GfbV) and Against Genocide, for International Understanding (AGA), had joined forces to awaken German public opinion to the impending genocide against Artsakh Armenians under Azerbaijan's blockade. That was the original theme. But on September 19, when Azerbaijani armed forces launched their military aggression, the Armenian and German associations shifted their focus to address the dramatically altered situation.

Three hundred people gathered in front of the German Chancellery, office of Olaf Scholz, with posters, flags and a formal petition. Leaders of the sponsoring groups briefly spoke. Gerayer Koucharian (AGA), a second generation diasporan Armenian whose father's family came from Artsakh, and who grew up in Iran, said he had always "previously thought the Armenian genocide belonged to the past." But after having witnessed Azerbaijan's decades-long destruction of Armenian culture, he had to abandon that belief. Now, faced with the threatened genocide of Artsakh Armenians, he fears that the vision he once read about 40 years ago in an article by a Pan-Turkist could become reality. That piece envisioned a future in which Azerbaijan would conquer Armenia and leave to its people nothing but Echmiadzin, and a couple of villages



Vigil in front of Chancellor's Office, Berlin (Photo Nora Bergmann, GfbV photographer)



Children wave the flags of Artsakh and Armenia (Photo Nora Bergmann, GfbV photographer)

in the vicinity.

GfbV Director Roman Kühn urged Scholz to launch political actions against Azerbaijan. Greetings were read from Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT), which has been petitioning the German government and the Azerbaijan embassy. Tessa Hofmann (AGA), and ZAD director Jonathan Spangenberg addressed further aspects.

Hofmann quoted a plea she had recently received via Facebook from an Armenian woman, who wrote: "Children and elderly in Artsakh are in a concentration camp. There is no light, no warmth, no food. Genocide is occurring. My family cannot flee, they are being held by force here. Help us, so that people can leave this Hell!" Hofmann argued the urgent need for sanctions as the only means to force Baku to respond; for security troops and international guarantees; and for the right to self-determination.

Spangenberg chronicled the events leading up to the current aggression, again condemning the lack of effective political intervention. He singled out one positive statement made by Scholz, on March 2 of this year, during Prime Minister Pashinyan's state visit. Scholz's position was that the conflict could be resolved only based on respect for the

principles of territorial sovereignty of both countries, as well as the inalienable right of Nagorno-Karabakh citizens to self-determination.

The concrete measures for Scholz to take were listed in an appeal that delegates delivered to the Chancellor's office, together with a letter. They urged to him to demand the withdrawal of Azerbaijani troops from the autonomous Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, promote deployment of ceasefire observers, take a stand on Azerbaijan's crimes against the Karabakh people, promote an independent international investigation of the situation, sanction those responsible, namely, President Ilham Aliyev and Rovshan Najaf, President of state oil company SOCAR, and initiate deployment of international peacekeeping troops. Primary among their demands were sanctions against the Aliyev regime, and German support for the right to self-determination for the people of Artsakh.

At the conclusion of the rally, delegates presented the appeal and accompanying letter to Scholz's office. Significantly, in addition to the four organizers of the event, three further associations signed the petition to the Chancellor: the Central Council of Oriental Christians in Germany, International Society for Human Rights, and the Federal Association of Immigrant Associations (BAGIV).

## Turkey's Erdogan Meets Azerbaijan's Aliyev as Armenians Flee Nagorno-Karabakh

By Amberin Zaman

ISTANBUL (AI-Monitor) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on September 25 met with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev in Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijani exclave bordering Turkey, as thousands of ethnic Armenians continued to flee Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia proper in the wake of a fresh Azerbaijani assault on the majority Armenian enclave that has been the scene of bloody conflicts since the early 1990s.

In a 44-day-long war in 2020, Turkey's military support proved key in helping Azerbaijan wrest back all of its territories occupied by Armenia following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and it is backing the oil-rich Turkic nation's current drive to seize all of Nagorno-Karabakh. The mountainous region is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, but its population is 95% Armenian.

On September 20, the self-declared Republic of Artsakh, the Armenian name for the enclave, effectively capitulated after Azerbaijan launched a wave of attacks targeting what it called separatist "terrorists" — a reference to the local Armenian force defending some 120,000 ethnic Armenians who have inhabited the area

for millennia.

Erdogan said it was "a matter of pride" that Azerbaijan's latest "victory" was "successfully completed in a short period of time, with utmost sensitivity to the rights of civilians." Even as he uttered those words, fresh allegations of abuses continued to flow from Armenian sources on the ground, with searing images shared online of women and children said to be wounded by Azerbaijani shelling.

Azerbaijan said it launched the operation to uphold a 2020 trilateral peace agreement with Russia and Armenia. Russian peacekeepers deployed in keeping with the agreement put up little resistance, prompting Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan to accuse the Kremlin of failing to honor its commitments. Armenia is a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, a Russian-led bloc consisting of five other post-Soviet states under which members rise to the defense of others when under attack from outside forces.

The timing of Erdogan's visit to Nakhichevan, where the two leaders took part in a groundbreaking ceremony of a military logistics center and a natural gas pipeline running from Nakhichevan to Turkey's Igdir province, was provocative, observers say. This is because of Ba-

ku's demands that Armenia allow the establishment of the Zangezur transport corridor connecting Nakhichevan to the Azerbaijani mainland and providing unfettered access; in other words, there would be no border controls at either end. Armenia has rejected those terms, saying this would amount to an effective occupation of Armenian territory that would separate the country from its borders with Iran, its sole ally in the region. (The plan was not mentioned during the joint news conference.)

Iran has repeatedly declared any such effort a red line and has carried out military exercises along the border. Israel, alongside Turkey, provided weapons and military advisers to Azerbaijan in the 2020 war, and Iran believes that the Jewish state is using Azerbaijan as a staging post to destabilize the Islamic Republic.

Iran sees the retaking of Karabakh by Azerbaijan as the most serious step in the establishment of the Zangezur corridor, said Hamidreza Azizi, a visiting fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. "That corridor as perceived in Iran is going to deprive Iran of a very serious geopolitical advantage, which is direct land access to Armenia and also the leverage it had over Azerbaijan over its access to Nakhichevan," Azizi told AI-Monitor. "In that sense, there is a lot at stake."

# Community News

## US Senator Menendez and Wife Charged With Bribery Offenses

NEW YORK (*Guardian*) — The US Senator Robert Menendez, a Democrat from [New Jersey](#), and his wife, Nadine Arslanian, have been charged with bribery offenses in connection with accepting gold bars, cash and a Mercedes-Benz, among other gifts, in exchange for protecting three businessmen and influencing the government of Egypt.

FBI special agents discovered “a lot of gold” provided by Fred Daibes — a builder, and one of the three businessmen — during a search of the Menendez couple’s home in New Jersey, according to Damian Williams, US attorney for the southern district of New York.

In a press conference on Friday, September 22, he said agents discovered approximately \$500,000 of cash “stuffed into envelopes and closets,” some of which was “stuffed in the senator’s jacket pockets”.

“We are not done,” said Williams. “And I want to encourage anyone with information to come forward and to come forward quickly.”

Menendez, who has been in the Senate since 2006, and his wife face three criminal counts each, including: conspiracy to commit bribery, conspiracy to commit honest services fraud and conspiracy to commit extortion under color of official right. The senator’s office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Menendez, the chair of the [US Senate](#) committee on foreign relations, had previously been charged in New Jersey with accepting private flights, campaign contributions and other bribes from a wealthy patron in exchange for official favors, but a 2017 trial ended in a jury deadlock.

The federal government now seeks the forfeiture of assets including the Menendezes’ New Jersey home, a 2019 Mercedes-Benz vehicle, about \$566,000 in cash, gold bars and funds from a bank account.

The businessmen in the case — Wael Hana, Uribe and Daibes — were also charged in the scheme.

Prosecutors said Hana, who is originally from Egypt, arranged dinners and meetings between Menendez and Egyptian officials in 2018 at which the officials pressed Menendez on the status of US military aid. In exchange, Hana put Nadine Menendez on his company’s payroll, prosecutors said.

The New Jersey senator is also alleged to have “improperly pressured” a senior official at the Department of Agriculture to “protect a lucrative monopoly that the government of Egypt had awarded to [Wael] Hana” and that Hana used to “fund certain bribe payments,” Williams said.

The indictment also alleges that Menendez used his power and see BRIBERY, page 10



Rev. Antranig Baljian, left, with Rev. Arakel Aljalian at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (photo Ken Martin)

## Boston Community Gathers for Artsakh Program

By Ken Martin

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

WATERTOWN — In the wake of the surrender of the government of Artsakh to a massive military assault by Azerbaijan, greater Boston-area Armenians attended a community-wide prayer and gathering for Artsakh, organized by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), on Friday, September 22, at St. Stephen’s Armenian Apostolic Church and the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, both in Watertown.

Very Rev. Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, presided over the event and delivered the homily. Attending were the combined clergy of the Armenian Churches of Greater Boston.

Parishioners and friends filled the church to hear about the tragic events that took place in Artsakh after a nearly yearlong blockade of the 120,000 Armenian residents, and understand what the near future would hold.

After a solemn mass, Parsamyan delivered a heart-rending homily about the situation in Artsakh, but offered hope because Armenians had suffered and survived before and would do so once again, he said. He implored that people not fall into despair but face the upcoming challenges because the people of Artsakh will need support more than ever before. He said, “We are a small nation but are strong. We are fighting against empires and the world and must continue to fight for justice and independence for of Armenia and Artsakh.”

see RALLY, page 12



Some of those gathered at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (photo Ken Martin)

## Lemkin Institute Issues Alert on Artsakh

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention is issuing a second SOS alert for the Armenians of Artsakh, who are currently under the yoke of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and are in critical danger of genocide.

Following a series of airstrikes, drone attacks, and the mass shelling of civilian-inhabited areas by Azerbaijan on September 20th and 21st, the terrified residents of Artsakh are finding themselves hostages of the Azerbaijani military with no exit routes that would allow them to flee the enclave.

At this moment in time, conditions on the ground are unclear. Azerbaijan has cut all electricity, natural gas, and telecommunication services (telephone, internet) in Artsakh.

There are unconfirmed reports of atrocities and massacres. Azerbaijani social media channels have openly threatened civilians with abuse, ranging from bounties on missing children to images and reports of massacres of residents who refused to leave their homes, leading to frantic civilian efforts to evacuate ahead of the arrival of the Azerbaijani military.

A meeting of the United Nations Security Council on September 21st, 2023, reached no consensus. No action was taken by the Security Council to address the ongoing, constantly changing crisis.

The Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention urges the international community to act immediately to help ensure the safety of the people of Artsakh, including both civilians and disarmed members of the Artsakh Defense Army—who have committed no crime and must be given unhindered access to exit routes along with the civilian population in full accordance with Azerbaijan’s obligations under international humanitarian law.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has stated that he is “only” targeting what he calls the “criminal junta” of the democratic government of the Republic of Artsakh. The government of Artsakh is an elected body that has committed no crime. Azerbaijan likewise claims that soldiers in the Artsakh Defense Army and the noncombatant general population of Artsakh (often extending to the Armenian world population as a whole), are “terrorists” and “illegal separatists.” These claims are false and are belied by the history of the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

There is a high probability that any former members of the democratically-elected Artsakh government and the Artsakh Defense Army who fall into Azerbaijani hands will be brutally abused, tortured, and murdered. Azerbaijan has committed atrocities against almost all Armenian civilians and POWs it has captured in the wars of 2016, 2020 and 2022. There is no reason that its forces would behave differently in 2023. Imbued with genocidal Armenophobia, the see ALERT, page 10



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Armen Ra: Multidisciplinary Artist, Master of Theremin

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN / NEW YORK CITY – Armen Ra (Hovanesian, born 1969, in Tehran) has engaged in various professions throughout his life: jewelry designer, performance artist, theremin player, production designer, director, composer and performer. He has performed and recorded with various bands and on many projects. His debut solo CD “Plays the Theremin” (Bowl & Fork Records, 2010) showcases many classical Armenian laments and folk songs. In 2015, he released “Theremin Classique,” a collection of European arias. Armen plays on the debut album of Sharon Needles, for Aurelio Voltaire’s album “Raised by Bats” (2014); he was featured on Selena Gomez’s Revival on the track “Me and My Girls,” on Gwen Stefani’s album on the track “Naughty” (both in 2016), on track 11 “Supernatural” of BØRNS’ Blue Madonna. He has a cameo appearance in the film “Party Monster” and in “Tomorrow Always Comes” (2006). Armen’s recording of *Dle Yaman* was used for the video of designer Michael Schmidt’s 3-D gown in 2015.



He composed music for the films “Connect” (2010) and “Hara Kiri” (2016), was production designer for the film “Excision” (2012).

He made also promotional videos for electropop artist BØRNS, titled “The Search for the Lost Sounds” and “The Faded Heart Sessions,” Derek Sherinian’s Al-

bum “The Phoenix” (2020) and the “Vortex” (2022) to mention few.

He has performed all over the US and Europe at High end private events and concerts at MOMA NYC, Lincoln Center, Disney Concert Hall LA, Villa Petriolo Florence, Musée Rodin Paris for The Dior Haute Couture ball, the Broad Museum, and countless private events throughout the world.

Hailed as one of the best thereminists in the world, and the highest paid theremin artist in history, among his theremin CDs are: “Theremin Amerique, the American songbook,” “Theremin Christmas,” “Theremin Discmorphia,” “Sacred Meditation,” which consists of several Armenian divine liturgy pieces, and the single Cold Song by Purcell.

**Dear Armen, you are from an artistic family. Your grandmother Arax Makarian was the first makeup artist in Iran, whose book of memoirs I have read with pleasure. I am friends with your mother, pianist Ruzanna Makarian-Hovanesian and your aunt, soloist of Iranian opera Shake Makarian, as well as your sister Armineh Hovanesian, who is engaged in artistic photography. No wonder you**

**possess so many artistic skills. However, how do you characterize yourself?**

I would say I characterize myself as a multidisciplinary artist. I have always been involved in the creative arts. My family background and their support have created a stable foundation for me as an artist.

**Is your stage name Armen Ra connected to the Egyptian deity Amon Ra?**

Yes. However, it was given to me by my first metaphysical teacher.

**For the first time I have read about you as a performance artist with a long exotic name. How is that scene now and do you continue your performances?**

I was fortunate to be welcomed by the downtown off Broadway performance scene in New York City in the 1980s. During this time, I had the opportunity to be free and participate in various kinds of plays and shows at theaters such as “La Mama,” “etc...,” “PS 122,” “Dixon Place” and “Threadwaxing Space.” It gave me the opportunity to step out of my own character, have fun and learn the art of performance. During that time, I also worked as a model and in nightclubs. Being paid to be beautiful was quite the contrast to being bullied and harassed for it. It gave me confidence, yet was not fulfilling in the long run. I wanted to be a fine artist, and so I became one.

**It is great you also perform Armenian music on an unusual and rare instrument like the theremin! By the way, do you know that the theremin’s inventor Lev Termen’s relative Alfred Termen was the Russian governor of Van in 1915-1916 and was very close to Armenian people?**

Yes, I did know that! And it seems many roads lead back to Armenia... I know the Termen family and his grandchildren who also play the theremin have been very kind to me and have always supported my works. I have also played for them via the Internet and have done interviews for their website. I am the first theremin artist to play classical Armenian music on the instrument, and I am glad to have introduced our music to many people who otherwise would not have been exposed to it.

**And your roads led you to Armenia for the first time only this year.**

Yes, I went to Armenia this year for the first time. It was a great experience and I was thrilled to see the ancient monuments and churches. My favorite, however, was the Temple of Garni; it felt like a return, as though I had been there before.

**What would you like to see changed in Armenian society?**

I would like to see Armenia’s society evolve and free themselves from hatred and prejudice. It’s poison, and holds the country back from advancing.

**How do you succeed to maintain your young appearance after 50?**

I am a powerful sorcerer... that being said I have never had any treatments of any kind. I would say genetics and good fortune.

**I have watched the award-winning documentary titled “When My Sorrow Died: The Legend of Armen Ra and the Theremin.” Will you reveal that legend?**

The “legend” lives in the minds of others. That documentary did not even cover a third of my life experiences. I am constantly urged to write a book about my whole life story, and I might, however every time it is mentioned, I think of a quote by Orson Wells: “I am against posterity on principle, I think it’s almost as vulgar as ‘success.’”

**Yes, your life odyssey also will be interesting to read! Many thanks, Armen, for your answers!**



Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc.

Dr. Nubar Berberian 2023 Annual Awards



Dr. Nubar Berberian, intellectual, journalist, activist and editor of many ADL daily newspapers for more than 50 years passed away at the age of 94 in November 23, 2016. In his Will, Dr. Berberian directed his Trust Fund managers to appropriate awards every year to college students of Armenian descent worldwide who major in either International Law or Political Science.

## ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Eligible recipients are college students of Armenian descent who major in either International Law or Political Science.
- 2) Applicant must be enrolled in a full-time graduate program in a fully accredited college or university in the world.
- 3) Applicant must provide all of the information requested on the application form.
- 4) Applicant must submit a copy of his or her most recent college transcript.
- 5) Applicant is to include a small head and shoulders self-portrait.
- 6) Application could be received by requesting from [Tcadirector@Aol.com](mailto:Tcadirector@Aol.com).
- 7) Applicants should submit applications electronically (via email) to: [Tcadirector@Aol.com](mailto:Tcadirector@Aol.com).
- 8) The deadline of receiving the applications is **September 30, 2023**.
- 9) The administrators and managers of the fund will vote the qualified winners in **October, 2023** based on the merits of each applicant.
- 10) The winners will receive their awards in **November, 2023**
- 11) Winning applicants are not eligible to apply again.
- 12) This announcement is published in Armenian, English, French and Spanish.

Watertown, MA, August 10, 2023





## OBITUARY

## Dr. Ara DerMarderosian

### Retired Professor, Musician

GLOCESTER, R.I. — Dr. Ara DerMarderosian, 88, of Gloucester, RI, died on September 11, 2023 at Stillwater Nursing Home in Smithfield, RI with his family by his side. He was the husband of Evelyn A. (Messerlian) DerMarderosian. They had been married for 62 years.

He was a son of the late Karnig and Anahid (Goolkasian) DerMarderosian. Ara was a Professor of Pharmacognosy in the Department of Biology at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, in Philadelphia, for 56 years, before retiring.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son, Ron DerMarderosian and his wife, Maral of Gloucester, RI, his grandchildren: Hrani DerMarderosian, Alex and Adam Torcomian, his brothers, Tony DerMarderosian of Owls Head, Maine and Richard DerMarderosian of Westwood, Mass., and his son-in-law, John Torcomian of Newtown Square, PA. He was the father of the late Laura Torcomian and brother of the late Aaron DerMarderosian.

He was born in and grew up in Somerville, Mass. He graduated from Somerville High School in 1952, and attended the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, graduating with a BS in 1956. In 1957 he received a fellowship in the Department of Biological Sciences and, after completing graduate studies in 1958, received an

MS in pharmaceutical chemistry.

During his summers, he completed a six-month training program with the US Army National Guard, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, TX, where he earned the military occupational role of medical specialist. After spending another year of study at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy working under an industrial grant from Sterling-Winthrop Laboratories, he enrolled in Graduate school at the College of Pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island. There, he continued his studies and served as a graduate assistant in both Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Pharmacognosy. During this time he was awarded a summer fellowship award for teaching in chemistry at the National Science Foundation and was later appointed as a research assistant under a National Institutes of Health research grant.

He married Evelyn (Messerlian) in

1961. Ara then completed the requirements for his PhD in pharmaceutical chemistry at the University of Rhode Island in June 1964. From 1964 to 2020, he was a Professor of Pharmacognosy and Research Professor of Medicinal Chemistry in the Departments of Biology and Chemistry of the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. He received a joint appointment as research professor

in medicinal chemistry in the Department of Chemistry in 1979. He was also the scientific director of the University Complementary and Alternative Medicines Institute. From 1965 to 1995 he was also a lecturer in pharmacology in the Department of Physiological Sciences at the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine and Adjunct Associate Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

In addition, he was the Science Advisor to the Philadelphia District FDA Laboratories for a decade.

Dr. DerMarderosian's research interests included hallucinogenic botanicals, the

phytochemistry and pharmacology of medicinal and poisonous plants, marine pharmaceuticals, drug abuse and nutraceuticals. He had more than 100 publications, many chapters in books and two texts, and was the senior editor of the *Review of Natural Products* published by "Facts and Comparisons."

He was a true renaissance man. He enjoyed disseminating his knowledge and wisdom to everyone he met. His avocations included Armenian music, fine-art painting, calligraphy, ivory scrimshaw and jewelry making, as well as bicycling, gourmet cooking, pharmaceutical and botanical philately, and the collecting of books, tools and antiques. He formerly played the clarinet and oud with the Boston Orientales and the Hellenic String Band, and also performed his music regularly at many folk music affairs and demonstrations. He was listed in the Pennsylvania State Folk-life Program as a traditional Armenian music performer.

He spent his last year on the earth with his wife, Evelyn, his son, Ron, his daughter-in-law, Maral and his granddaughter, Hrani in Chepachet, RI.

Funeral services were held on September 15, at noon, at the Anderson-Winfield Funeral Home, 2 Church Street, in Greenville, RI. Burial followed at Acote's Hill Cemetery, 1043 Putnam Pike, Chepachet, RI. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Lansdowne Bible Chapel, 133 N Wycombe Ave, Lansdowne, PA, 19050.

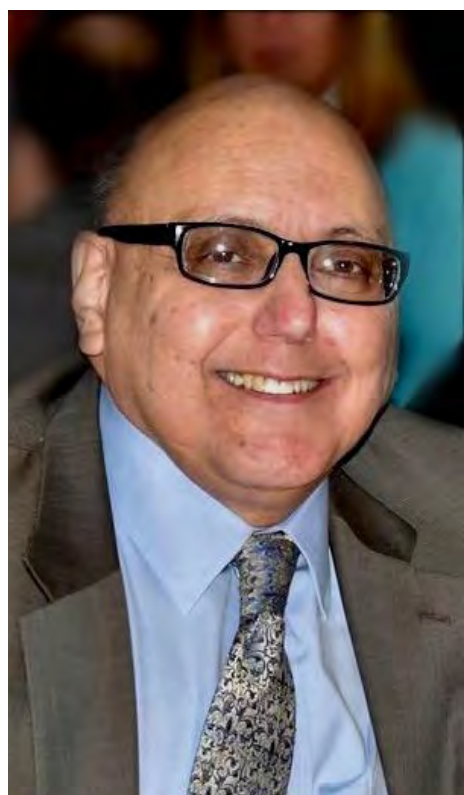


## Ara Garo Hollisian

### Active at Holy Trinity Armenian Church

WEYMOUTH, Mass. — Ara Garo Hollisian of Weymouth, died on September 16, 2023.

He was the husband of June (Samourian) Hollisian; father of Christopher and his wife Sixx, Stephen, and Ani Hollisian; grandfather of Lucia Hollisian. Uncle of Sharis Barkhordarian. He was the brother of the late Raffi Hollisian and the late Tamar (Hollisian) Barkhordarian and nephew to Hrach (Charlie), Levoun (Leo), and Ze-



bart (Zee) Hollisian, Marie Chichmanian, Eugene Hagopian, Ovssanna DerSimonian, and Katchik Batalian.

He also is survived by many loving cousins and friends.

He was born April 10, 1957, in Boston, to Herant (Harry) and Zarouhi (Batalian) Hollisian. He grew up in Watertown, surrounded by the Armenian community for which he had great pride. After graduating

from Watertown High School, he attended Northeastern University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice.

In his youth, Ara's passion for music translated into a profound talent for drumming. He played in many bands and could always be found tapping to a beat, no matter the surface.

He was also an avid sports fan and loved to watch any game from the comfort of his home.

After marrying his sweetheart, he entered the audio-visual industry first as an owner-operator of Movies & More in Braintree and from there he pursued his self-taught talent of videography through his second business, AJC Video Productions. From weddings to legal depositions, Ara worked tirelessly to support his family. Although he was a hard worker, he never missed a swimming lesson, a soccer practice, a piano recital, or a church event that his children participated in. He never missed a moment of their lives because being a father was more important than anything else.

Ara loved to share his hobbies and passions with his family. He enjoyed tinkering with model trains with his son, Christopher. He was a talented chess and backgammon player and loved to frequently play tournaments with his son, Stephen. His love of music created an emotional connection with his daughter, Ani. And with his wife, June, he simply shared his life, his heart, and his soul.

He lived a happy, devout life committed to his Christian faith and the Armenian church. He served on Holy Trinity's Parish Council for six years, serving as vice chairman from 2013-2014, and was co-chairman of the Bazaar for seven years. He had immense love for his Armenian ethnicity and vowed to raise his children in the church.

Ara felt honored to care for his Aunt Zee in the last years of her life, never missing a

single Saturday with her even while he was sick. He loved his family more than anything in this world and felt their continuous presence, both in life and death. He died feeling their love and hearing their voices. He will truly be missed by all who had the honor of knowing him.

Funeral service was at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, on September

23.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Multiple Myeloma Research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284-9168 [[dana-farber.org/give](http://dana-farber.org/give)] or Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

Interment followed at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Watertown.

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## US Senator Menendez and Wife Charged With Bribery

BRIBERY, from page 7  
influence to try to disrupt a criminal investigation and prosecution undertaken by the New Jersey attorney general's office related to "an associate and relative of [Jose] Uribe".

Egypt at the time was one of the largest recipients of US military aid, but the state department had withheld \$195 million in 2017 and canceled an additional \$65.7m until the country could demonstrate im-



The indictment alleges, among other things, that Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) and his wife, Nadine Arslanian, did favors for foreign interests and criminal defendants in exchange for gold bars, cash and even a Mercedes-Benz. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

provements on human rights and democracy.

Menendez at a meeting in 2018 told Hana non-public information about the status of the aid, prosecutors said. Hana then texted an Egyptian official: "The ban on small arms and ammunition to Egypt has been lifted," according to an indictment made public on Friday.

(Reuters and the Associated Press contributed reporting)

## Lemkin Institute Issues Alert on Artsakh

ALERT, from page 7  
Azerbaijani military has not prosecuted any members within its ranks who have committed atrocities motivated by this form of ethnic hatred. There are no indications that this will change in the future.

The international community should insist that all members of the Armenian population of Artsakh are protected and given unrestricted access to exit corridors. Given the vulnerability of men and older boys at the hands of the Azerbaijani military, there is no case in which they should be separated from women and children. We strongly urge Artsakh women and children to refuse to be separated from men and older boys.

The Lemkin Institute is horrified by what the world has allowed to happen to the Armenians of Artsakh, despite years of warnings from almost all genocide prevention experts and NGOs who foresaw the disaster taking place amid the willful blindness of the international community. We are committed to not only bearing witness to the mass atrocities currently taking place in Artsakh, in which many world leaders and powerful stakeholders are complicit, but also ensuring that Artsakh's population receives justice for the mass atrocities taking place in the South Caucasus.

## Vandalism Outside St. Stephen's Church in Watertown Treated As Hate Crime

WATERTOWN — On Sunday, September 24, parishioners of St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church found a disturbing note on the church's outside bulletin. The note read "Artsakh is Dead, Karabakh is Azerbaijan."

Watertown Police are investigating.

According to the church's social media, "The Watertown Police Department is treating this as a hate crime. They have taken the sign to process for evidence and will view footage from the church's security cameras. The police will also increase their presence in the area of the church and the school, especially during school hours. There will also be a cadre of volunteers surrounding the school during drop off and pick up. Hate towards Armenians is everywhere. Stay vigilant. We cannot let this deter our fight for survival and justice."



## RALLY FOR ARTSAKH

The Pan Armenian Council of New England along with the Armenian Churches, political parties, and charitable organizations in the Greater Boston Area, requests your presence this Saturday, September 30th, 2023 at 12:00 noon sharp at the Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway in support of our brothers and sisters in Artsakh.

**Please be there to ensure our voices are heard.**



# THE ARMENIAN **MIRROR** **SPECTATOR**

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*(Washington Post)*



**Ken Dilanian**  
*(NBC News)*



**Eric Hacopian**  
*(CivilNet)*



**Amberin Zaman**  
*(Al-Monitor)*

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Boston Burlington Marriott, Burlington, MA



**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER**

**Robert  
Avetisyan**  
*Representative of the  
Nagorno Karabakh  
Republic in the US*



**EMCEE**

**Sona  
Movsesian**  
*Author, podcast co-host  
and personal assistant to  
Conan O'Brien*

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*a cappella trio*



From left: Teni Apelian, Anais Tekerian, Yeraz Markarian



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Cocktail Reception | 6:30 pm  
Dinner and Program | 7:30 pm  
Seats are \$300 per person



COMMUNITY NEWS

# Boston Community Gathers For Artsakh Program

RALLY, from page 7

Later, at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, Chairman of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Sardarabad Gomideh, Dr. Ara Nazarian, led the presentations to a full auditorium. Dr. Nyree Derderian JD/PhD, international chair of the Armenian Relief Society (ARS) spoke about the organization's social service and health centers in Artsakh and the humanitarian work they have been doing throughout the years and what the loss of facilities and service would mean to the residents as Azerbaijan takes over Stepanakert and the rest of Artsakh.

Other speakers via Zoom included Aram Hamparian of the Armenian National Committee of America, Yeghia Tashjian a political Analyst from Lebanon, and Greg Demerchian, JD/PhD, of the Armenian Bar Association.



Very Rev. Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) (photo Ken Martin)



The assembled at St. Stephen's Armenian Church in Watertown (photo Ken Martin)

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By Natalie Jacobson

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# Arts & Culture

## Prof. Seta Dadoyan Publishes New Book: *Encounters and Convergences. A Book Of Ideas and Art*

An amalgam of philosophy and art, the book is an oeuvre in form and content, and as such, a statement about the author's scholarly, aesthetic, and intellectual endeavors in general. Opposed to conventional and "strictly academic" practices, the opus is also an illustrated argument in favor of critical vantage points and interdisciplinary approaches. Dadoyan strongly posits the basic commonality and unity of the humanities, the arts and the social sciences, including Armenian Studies in particular. Since artworks and texts are responses to circumstances, and their motives and objectives are understanding human "situatedness" and debating the social-historical conditions, then their social embeddedness is common ground. Similar to her over ten books and many studies in the history of the Armenian experience in the Near East, philosophy, and art history, this opus in turn is self-reflective in conception, cross-disciplinary in scope, dialectical in method, hermeneutical in approach, and in this case, artistic in expression. The accumulation of almost sixty "wartime" drawings, and half that number on "the spirit of matter,"



Prof. Seta B. Dadoyan

two phases separated by an interval of rigorous academic work over three decades, establishes the legitimacy of her criteria for the

"truth-content" as the meaning of both writings and artworks. Since both happened in phases and in response to specific circumstances, Part Two of the book is structured on a schematic autobiographical grid.

The book consists of 175 large pages. Its contents may be summarized as follows: the 'Prologue on Scholarship and the Arts' introduces the subject; Part One in five chapters, entitled 'My Aesthetic', provides the theoretical-critical context by brief discussions of aesthetic theories through art history and the contemporary situation of the arts and mass cultures; Part Two, 'The Quest and the Path' is in four chapters, 'The Prelude' (10 works in color illustrations), 'Encounters with Strife and Suffering' (7 works in full page illustrations), 'Wartime Art and Aesthetic' (44 works in full page illustrations), 'Of the Spirit of Matter' (28 works in full page illustrations). The 'Epilogue' concludes the book, culminating with an Appendix: 'Content with List of Illustrations.'

For more information, email [sdadoyan@yahoo.com/](mailto:sdadoyan@yahoo.com/)

Prof. Dr. Seta B. Dadoyan (née Satenik Barsoumian) is a prominent Armenian scholar. She is a Doctor of Philosophical Sciences in Philosophy. Her extensive research see DADOYAN, page 14



Reuben Nakian, *Dancer*, 1983, terracotta, white and pink paint, 11 1/2 x 7 3/4 x 4 inches. Collection of the Reuben Nakian estate, photo by Brian Oglesbee

## Alfred Museum Exhibit Dedicated to Works by Sculptor Reuben Nakian

ALFRED, N.Y. — The Alfred Ceramic Art Museum at Alfred University will be host to an exhibit dedicated to sculptor Reuben Nakian through December 30.

Nakian (1897-1986) was born in Queens, NY, to Armenian immigrant parents. As a young man, Nakian could draw. His parents encouraged him. At the age of 12 he discovered New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Around that same time, he acquired a copy of Bulfinch's *Mythology*, originally published in 1867. Greek myth became a touch stone. At 15, Nakian graduated from high school. He took a job in New York determined to find his way to being a professional artist. When he died at the age of 89, the *New York Times* acclaimed him as "one of the most distinguished American sculptors of the 20th Century" (*New York Times* obituary, 12/5/86).

Reuben Nakian is best known for his large-scale bronze sculptures. However, Nakian left for posterity a large, highly significant body work in the ceramic medium. It is this less recognized, but unquestionably important work the Alfred Ceramic Art Museum is celebrating with this current exhibition "Reuben Nakian: The Impassioned Gesture." In a 1981 interview for the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art speaking of ceramics Nakian remarked: "You don't have to cast it. When you cast, things are lost. You put it in the kiln, and it has got the thumbprints. They are still there. It is a great medium." Early in his career Nakian apprenticed with legendary sculptor Paul Manship, perhaps best known for his sculpture, "Prometheus," at Rockefeller Center, New York City, who modeled with plasteline, a non-drying clay not suitable for firing. Nakian said: "Clay has got life. Plasteline is alright, but it is not life. Clay is the real thing."

Nakian was a guest of honor at the "Famous Artists' Evening" at the White House (1966), and the Smithsonian Institution produced a documentary on his life and work titled "Reuben Nakian: Apprentice to the Gods," (1985). He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1931 and a Ford Foundation Fellowship in 1958, and he represented the United States as the major sculptor in the VI Biennale in Sao Paulo, Brazil (1961) and the 1968 Biennale in Venice, Italy. Nakian was known best for his monumental sculpture in bronze which are now part of the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Modern Art; the Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution; the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. The list goes on and on to include 65 leading art museums in the US and internationally.

A word about myth from well-known authority on comparative religion Karen Armstrong. She writes in her 2005 book, *A Short History of Myth*: "Mythology is not an early attempt at history and does not claim that its tales are objective fact.

see NAKIAN, page 16

## 'Amerikatsi' Film Now Showing In Major US Cities

LOS ANGELES — Excitement has been building steam since the unanimous decision by Armenia to select "Amerikatsi" – written, directed, and starring Michael A. Goorjian – as its official submission to the 96th Academy Awards for Best International Feature Film. The film has been selling out in theaters since its premiere in Los Angeles on September 6. Now in its third week, it continues to roll out daily into new cities.

"Amerikatsi" is a story of a man named Charlie (Goorjian), who returns to his homeland of Armenia in 1948, decades after fleeing to the U.S. as a child, due to persecution by the Ottoman Empire. What he finds instead is a country crushed under Soviet rule. After being unjustly imprisoned, Charlie falls into despair until he discovers that he can see inside the home of a prison guard from his cell window and his life unexpectedly becomes intertwined. He begins to see that the true spirit of his homeland is alive. Filled with warmth and humor,



Michael Goorjian as Charlie in "Amerikatsi"

the film celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the bonds that unite us all.

Goorjian, whose own grandparents fled the Ottoman Empire, is an Emmy Award-winning actor best known for his roles in "Party of Five" and "SLC Punk." He also wrote and directed the film "Illusion," in 2004, starring alongside Kirk Douglas.

"Nothing could make me more proud than to represent Armenian Cinema this year and to help shine a light on the massive talent within our small nation," said Goorjian.

"Amerikatsi" also stars Hovik Keuchkerian ("Money Heist"), Nelli Uvarova, Mikhail Trukhin, Narine Girgoryan, and Jean-Pierre Nshanian, and is produced by Goorjian, R. Patrick Malkassian, Arman Nshanian and Sol Tryon, with executive producers Vartan Barsoumian and Serj Tankian.

The film has won awards at the following international film festivals: Golden Apricot Film Festival - Yerevan, Armenia; Woodstock Film Festival - Woodstock, New York; Hamburg Film Festival - Hamburg, Germany; Mystic Film Festival - Mystic, Connecticut; Pomegranate Film Festival - Toronto, Canada; Big Apple Film Festival - New York, New York; Salerno Film Festival - Salerno, Italy; Beloit International Film Festival - Beloit, Wisconsin; Glasgow International Film Festival - Glasgow, Scotland; Fargo Film Festival - Fargo, North Dakota; One Country One Film International Film Competition - Issouire, France; and FIFOG International Oriental Film Festival Geneva - Geneva, Switzerland.

## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

# Mojalet Dance Presents Kirazian's Expanded 'Book Of Ruth' at Poway Performing Arts Center

SAN DIEGO — Composer George Kirazian's new and expanded ballet based on *The Book of Ruth* will premiere as a full-scale dance production by Mojalet Dance Collective on September 30-October 1, at the Poway Performing Arts Center, along with three additional contemporary dance pieces.

"The Book of Ruth: A Ballet," was composed by author, professor and composer George Kirazian, and will be directed by Faith Jensen-Ismay, Mojalet's founder and artistic director. Based on the *Old Testament* story of the Hebrew woman Ruth and her family, the new work will combine traditional and modern dance components, choreographed by Jensen-Ismay to Kirazian's music, recorded by the Parnassus Ensemble of San Diego.

Mojalet did a workshop production at the Vine Arts Village in April 2023, and the strong audience response prompted Jensen-Ismay and the company to expand the production to an extended version with additional music composed by Kirazian, which will premiere on the Poway stage.

"I am again excited to bring the classic story of the *Book of Ruth* to life through the lens of dance. A story of dedication, perseverance, loyalty, acceptance and redemption gives us hope in humanity and for a more positive future," says director Faith Jensen-Ismay.

## The Story

When the elder Jewish woman Naomi loses her husband and both her sons, she implores both her widowed daughters-in-law to go back to their native land of Moab. One of them, Orpah, leaves. The other, Ruth, insists on staying with her mother-in-law Naomi, to embrace her people and her God. They go to Judah, where after a period of poverty, they meet a generous landowner named Boaz, who changes their lives.

*The Book of Ruth in the Old Testament*



A shot from "Book of Ruth"

might well be the world's first short story. The story also teaches its audience that love and devotion can heal after great losses and enable us to rise above our harmful prejudices against others.

Mojalet Dance Collective has been entertaining and inspiring San Diego audiences for more than 30 years with traditional, modern and contemporary dance produc-

tions, including many world premieres, as they are dedicated to developing new and groundbreaking work. Jensen-Ismay has an extensive history as a dancer, teacher, and choreographer, working throughout the entire county of San Diego and beyond.

## About the Composer

A longtime member of the Armenian community who helped establish the first Armenian Church in San Diego, Kirazian is a retired college instructor of Humanities, English Literature and Composition, and Opera Appreciation. Born and raised in New Jersey, he completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at

New York University and taught English Literature and Composition at Grossmont College for nearly 40 years and served as Chairman of the English Department. He also taught Opera and Music Appreciation at San Diego State University. He is a longtime resident of San Diego with his wife Dikranouhi. They have three daughters: Yvette (husband John Harpootian), Andrea (husband Steven Urrutia) and Lisa (husband Steve Kradjian), and six grandchildren: Mark, Eric, Zari, Dante, Ani and Mari.

Kirazian's musical compositions include "The Book of Ruth: A Ballet," various art songs, hymns, and a new version of *The Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Apostolic Church*, which has been performed and recorded by Pacific Camerata of San Diego, the Paros Chamber Choir of Armenia, and also performed by members of the Armenian Church of San Diego. He has also published fiction and non-fiction: *Easy Writing: A Practical Guide for Practically Everybody*; *A Time for Fathers* (short novel), and five young reader books: *The Sleeping Violet*, *Perry the Peacock*, *Beyond the Koala Kingdom*, *Leo and the Mulberry Flute*, and *The Princess of December*. His website is [georgekirazian.com](http://georgekirazian.com).

The two performances of *The Book of Ruth: A Ballet* will be September 30 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, October 1, 2 p.m. at the Poway Performing Arts Center. The performances will be combined with three other original dance pieces performed by Mojalet: *The Requiem* (Excerpts composed by W.A. Mozart); *Bubbles* (Featuring music of Johann Strauss II); *Liquid Gold* (Music mix by Jensen-Ismay), all directed by Jensen-Ismay.

Resident dancers performing in the production include: Amylin Canaria, Alyssa Combs, Avery Goudswaard, Jasmyn Hamblin, Alia Ismay, Robby Johnson, Alyssa Kinnear, Kathryn McLean, Nef Valle, Nicole Wooding, and Christina Wutz.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://pcpa.na.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/15809>.

## Prof. Seta Dadoyan Publishes New Book: *Encounters and Convergences. A Book of Ideas and Art*

DADOYAN, from page 13

and many publications focus on the medieval and modern Armenian political, cultural and intellectual experiences in their interactive aspects within the Near Eastern, and the Islamic world. She is considered a trailblazer and leading specialist in a novel discipline of Islamic-Armenian interactive history, initiated by her and to which she has dedicated six of her twelve volumes and many groundbreaking studies. She was professor of cultural studies, philosophy and art history at the American University of Beirut. After moving to the US in 2005, she was visiting professor of Armenian and Near Eastern Studies at Columbia University, St. Nersess Seminary, the University of Chicago, and the State University of Yerevan. For her exceptional scholarly contributions to Armenian studies and intellectual culture, in September 2021 the Society of Armenian Studies honored her by the "Lifetime Achievement Award." Earlier on, in September of 2015, she was granted the "St. Mesrop Mashtots" Medal, and on Jan. 1999, the highest "Medal and Diploma of David Invictus/Anghaght" of the Philosophical Academy of the National

Academy of Sciences of Armenia.

Her books include *Islam in Armenian Literary Culture. Texts, Contexts, Dynamics*. Louvain: Peeters, 2021 ; 2015. *The Armenian Condition in Hindsight and Foresight*. Canada: 2015 (bilingual); *The Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia - History, Mission, Treasures* (Editor, Co-author). Antelias: 2015; A Trilogy: *The Armenians in the Medieval Islamic World - Paradigms of Interaction Seventh to Fourteenth Centuries*. U.S.A. & UK: 2011, 2012, 2013; *The Armenian Catholicosate from Cilicia to Antelias: An Introduction to the Political History*. Antelias: 2003; *The Contribution of the Armenian Church to the Christian Witness in the Middle East* (Editor, Co-Author). Antelias: 2001; *The Fātimid Armenians - Cultural and Political Interactions in the Near East*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1997; *Yovhannēs Erznkats'i, 'Views from the Writings of Islamic Philosophers' and Philosophical Treatises in the Light of their Islamic Sources*. Beirut: 1991. (in Armenian); *Pages of West Armenian Philosophical Thought*. Beirut: 1987 (in Armenian); *Armenian Painting in Lebanon in the Light of the Crisis of Identity*. Antelias: 1984 (in Armenian).

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## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

# Recipe Corner



by Christine  
Vartanian



## Inspired Taste's Chimichurri Cauliflower Steaks

“At Inspired Taste, we love roasted cauliflower as shown by our cheesy roasted cauliflower, the buffalo version, our favorite soup, and this roasted cauliflower with chili and lime. As much as we love all three of those recipes, these cauliflower steaks are still the winner. The combination of toasty golden brown cauliflower and our zesty, fresh chimichurri sauce is outrageously good. Chimichurri is a simple combination of parsley, garlic, olive oil and red wine vinegar, and is often found spooned on top of grilled meats, but we're just as happy when adding it to our cauliflower steaks. It really is that good.”

Inspired Taste is a very creative food blog completely devoted to home cooking,

easy recipes and informative recipe videos. Find hundreds of recipes with step-by-step photography and videos. Adam and Joanne Gallagher started InspiredTaste.net in 2009 and have been the primary creators ever since. A few years later, they created their Inspired Taste YouTube channel where there are over 50 recipe videos. They have been recognized by media outlets for their work including Glamour Magazine, Cosmopolitan Magazine, The Kitchn, Bon Appetit Magazine, BuzzFeed, and more.

How to cut cauliflower into steaks

The trick to cauliflower steaks that don't fall apart is to make sure that each steak has some of the stalk attached. You can get two thick steaks out of one medium cauliflower.

Simply slice the head of cauliflower in half through the stalk, and then trim the rounded edge of each half, leaving about 1 1/2-inch thick slices that still have the stem attached.

Cooking the steaks

For the best cauliflower steaks, start them in an oven-safe skillet. This means that we can get the perfect golden brown sear on both sides before finishing the steaks in the oven where they become tender.

If you don't have an oven-safe skillet, don't worry. Simply start them in a regular skillet and then transfer them to a baking sheet to finish in the oven.

How to serve them

These are hearty and can stand alone as a main meal. We like serving them next to a salad, with <https://www.inspiredtaste.net/38095/how-to-cook-quinoa/> quinoa or with rice (like [<https://www.inspiredtaste.net/42876/cilantro-lime-rice/> cilantro lime rice\). You also serve these as a side dish - consider splitting each steak into two to make four side portions. Serve them alongside our chopped tomato, onion and cucumber salad, black bean burgers, or a hearty salad like black bean and quinoa salad. They are also excellent alongside shrimp or meat dishes.](https://www.in-</a></p>
</div>
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### INGREDIENTS:

#### Cauliflower Steaks:

- 1 medium head of cauliflower
- 2 to 3 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt, to taste
- 4 tablespoons chimichurri sauce or more to taste, recipe below
- Chimichurri Sauce (Makes about 1 cup):
- 2 cups (50 grams) packed parsley leaves and tender stems
- 3 to 4 garlic cloves (1 tablespoon minced)
- 1 medium shallot
- 1/2 to 3/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes or 1 jalapeño or Fresno chili pepper, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup (120 ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/3 cup (80 ml) red wine vinegar

### PREPARATION:

Heat the oven to 400 °F.

Remove the large outer leaves of the cauliflower and trim a small amount of the stem to create a flat base. Cut the cauliflower in half, from rounded top to stem.

To make each cauliflower steak, trim the rounded edge of each cauliflower half, leaving about 1 1/2-inch thick slices that still have the stem attached (see our video for a tutorial).

Save the trimmed cauliflower for another recipe like <https://www.inspiredtaste.net/40958/herb-cauliflower-rice/> cauliflower rice, <https://www.inspiredtaste.net/19731/simple-creamy-mashed-cauliflower-recipe> mashed cauliflower or for snacking during another meal.

Heat the olive oil in a wide oven-safe saucepan over medium heat. Place the cauliflower steaks into the hot oil and cook until deep golden brown, about 5 minutes. It helps to occasionally move the steaks so that the oil gets underneath. Carefully flip the steaks, and then cook another 3 to 5 minutes or until the second side is well browned. As the second side browns, season the steaks with salt as needed.

(If you do not have an oven-safe skillet, you can brown the steaks in a regular skillet, and then carefully transfer them to a baking sheet lined with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat.)

Slide the oven-safe pan into the oven and roast the steaks until the stems are tender and can be pierced with a fork, 8 to 10 minutes. Serve cauliflower steaks with a generous spoonful of chimichurri sauce on top. For side portions, slice each steak in half and then serve.

Make the sauce by hand: Mince the garlic and shallot, and then add to a medium bowl. Finely chop the parsley then add to the bowl along with the salt, red pepper flakes, olive oil and the red wine vinegar. Stir then taste and season with more salt or red pepper flakes as needed.

Make the sauce in a food processor (or blender): Add garlic and shallots to the bowl of a food processor (or blender), and then pulse until minced. Add the parsley, salt and red pepper flakes. Pulse until the parsley is chopped small. Scrape the sides, and then pour in the olive oil and red wine vinegar. Pulse a few more times until the sauce comes together. Taste and season with more salt or red pepper flakes as needed.

Storing: The sauce is excellent the day you make it, but it will last a few days in your refrigerator (you might notice the parsley's green dulls slightly).

Makes 2 servings or 4 side portions.

For this recipe, go to: <https://www.inspiredtaste.net/48013/chimichurri-cauliflower-steaks/>

For this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QbKz-cCDol>

For all videos:

<https://www.inspiredtaste.net/category/recipes/recipe-videos/>

Tip: For the chimichurri, Once you have the base recipe, you can play around with it depending on what ingredients you have on hand. Try switching parsley for cilantro, or use a combination of both herbs. A little fresh mint or oregano is also a nice addition.

Nutrition Facts: The nutrition facts provided below are estimates. We have used the USDA database to calculate approximate values.

NUTRITION PER SERVING: Calories 325 / Total Fat 28.8g / Saturated Fat 4.4g / Cholesterol 0mg / Sodium 678.9mg / Carbohydrate 16.6g / Dietary Fiber 6.9g / Total Sugars 5.6g / Protein 6.6g

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Cooking the cauliflower steaks



## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

# CALENDAR

## OF EVENTS & PROGRAMS

### CALIFORNIA

**OCTOBER 14** — The Orange County Trex Fraternity presents Kef Time So-Cal at Bagramian Hall Mezza 900 W. Lincoln Avenue, Montebello. Featuring Hagopian Kef Time Legacy Band. Saturday, 6 p.m. to 1a.m. **ORDER TICKETS ONLINE:** orange-county-trex-fraternity.ticketleap.com Adults \$85. Students, College Age & Younger \$65. Table Sponsor \$800. For More Information Contact: Ralph Dergazarian 714.681.3013 • Brian Melkesian 626.827.8434 Chuck Simonian 559.799.3949 • Ari Gulugian 949.701.8006

### MASSACHUSETTS

**ARMENIAN HERITAGE PARK WEEKLY THROUGH OCTOBER 24 AT 12:15PM MIDDAY LABYRINTH WALKS AT THE PARK.** Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston Tuesdays for all who work and live in the city and beyond, an opportunity for connection and wellbeing. Offered in collaboration with Boston Public Health Commission and The Greenway Conservancy. Weekly through October 25 at 4pm

**OCTOBER 7** — **MOMENTUM GREENWAY DANCE PROGRAM** presented by Amazon, Four dance companies perform on The Greenway including at Armenian Heritage Park. 11:00am ConWnuum Dance Project at AunWe Kay & Uncle Frank Chin Park. 12:30pm Vimoksha Dance Company at Rowes Wharf Plaza, 1:30pm Jean Appolon Expressions at Armenian Heritage Park, 2:30pm Public Displays of MoWon at Carolyn Lynch Garden

**NOVEMBER 12** — Sunday at 2pm **GIVING THANKS! TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION** Meet & Greet. Walk the Labyrinth. Tie a Ribbon on the Wishing Tree. Share the Warmth: ABCD Winter Drive

Sunday, December 10 at 4:30pm

**DECEMBER 10** — **CANDLELIT LABYRINTH WALK: IN PEACE & HARMONY** "Boston's Newest Holiday TradiWon" Walk the Candlelit Labyrinth. Meet & Greet. Hot Chocolate & Luscious Cookies. Share the Warmth: ABCD Winter Drive

**SEPTEMBER 29** — Save the date! City of Smile-USA will host "A Tribute to Coco Chanel Who Loved Pearls" Friday, 11:30 a.m., Oakley Country Club, Watertown. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the City of Smile-USA, the world's largest collection of pearls. Designs at incredible direct-from-producer savings. City of Smile-USA is dedicated to treating the children of Armenia who have cancer.

**SEPTEMBER 30** — The Pan-Armenian Council of New England, along with the Armenian churches, political parties and charitable organizations in the Greater Boston area, will host a protest at 12 noon, Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, in support of Artsakh Armenians. **OCTOBER 2** — Ian Nagoski Presents "The Voice of Zabelle Panosian." 7 p.m. Listening event about soprano Zabelle Panosian with author, musician, and musicologist Ian Nagoski. Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472. Register at <https://www.armenianmuseum.org/events>.

**OCTOBER 2** — Saint James Men's club and Holy Trinity T.M.U. joint gathering, Guest Speaker; Legendary Boston News Anchor Natalie Jacobson, speaking about her new book, *Every Life A Story*. Losh Kebab- Kheyima dinner. \$20. per person. Book Sale and Signing will be available..6:00 pm Reception, 6:45 Dinner . Speaker 7:15 est. All our Welcome. St. James Armenian Church 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown. Contact Church office for more details 617 923-8860.

**OCTOBER 13** — Arev Short Film Festival, Capitol Theater in Arlington, 6-8 p.m. Sponsored by Amaras Art Alliance, the festival will showcase short films by filmmakers from all over the Armenian Diaspora, including "Kef Time" by Avo Kambourian – a documentary about the Armenian band by the same name. Also scheduled to be shown is the third episode of the Amazon Prime series "One Plus One Is Two", written and directed by festival director Sharisse Zeroonian, and various short films made by students at the TUMO Center – including a short called "Your Life As A Film." Tickets are being sold in advance only, and can be purchased at AmarasOnline.com

or by calling 617-331-0426. Those who wish to submit short films for consideration should contact Sharisse Zeroonian at [szeroonian@gmail.com](mailto:szeroonian@gmail.com).

**OCTOBER 13-14** — Friday and Saturday, St. James Armenian Church will hold its 76th Annual Bazaar – Friday 12-8 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Delicious Armenian Food, Mezze, Pastries, and Baked Goods. Silent Auction, Raffle, Children's Activities, Booths and Vendors. St. James Armenian Church – 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For more information contact 617.923.8860 or [info@stthagop.com](mailto:info@stthagop.com) or visit [www.stjameswatertown.org/bazaar](http://www.stjameswatertown.org/bazaar).

**OCTOBER 14** — The Armenian Friends of America, Inc., presents Hye Kef 5, a five-hour dance featuring Harry Bedrossian, John Berberian, Leon Janikian, Bob Raphaelian and Jason Naroian. Saturday, 6.30 p.m. to midnight, The Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, 1280 Boston Road, Haverhill. AFA rooms available at Double Tree by Hildong, Andover. Ask for AFA room rates. Ticket prices \$50 for the dance and mezza platters. Coffee and dessert to follow. Cash bar. Tables of 8, \$385. Advance tickets only. No tickets will be sold at the door. Ticket sales final. Online at [armenianfriendsofamerica.org](http://armenianfriendsofamerica.org) or call Lu Sirmaian 978-314-1956 or Mary Ann Janjigian 603-770-3375. Proceeds to benefit The Armenian Churches of Merrimack Valley.

**OCTOBER 21** — Saturday from Noon to 7 pm FAC FallFest 2023. Join us @ First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Avenue, Belmont. Delicious Kebab Dinners: Lamb, Beef, Chicken and Losh. Combo Platters and Vegetarian Dinners Available. All dinners served with Salad, Pilaf and Pita Bread. Armenian Desserts, Cookies and Choreg. Pre-order and Take-out on-line at <https://www.facbelmont.org/fallfest>. For more information contact (617) 484-4779 or [office@facbelmont.org](mailto:office@facbelmont.org)

**OCTOBER 22** — Competing Cultures in the Education of Ottoman Armenian Daughters: French Mission Schools in the Homeland (1840-1915), presentation by Dr. Paulette Houbouyan-Coutant, from Paris. Sponsored by the Armenian International Women's Association. 2:30 p.m. Armenian Cultural Foundation, Arlington. The public is cordially invited to attend. (Info: 781-237-6858; 617-926-0171; or [info@aiwainternational.org](mailto:info@aiwainternational.org).)

**OCTOBER 27-28** — Mark your calendars. Celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator with two spectacular events. First, a panel discussion on Friday, October 27, with renowned journalists including David Ignatius from the Washington Post, Ken Dilanian from NBC News, and Eric Hacopian from CivilNet, at Tufts University. Second, a spectacular gala benefit on Saturday, October 28. The gala, at the Burlington Marriott, will be MC-ed by the irrepressible Sona Movsesian, who calls herself the Worst Assistant in the World, in her capacity as assistant to the one and only Conan O'Brien, and feature as keynote Speaker Artsakh's Representative to the US Robert Avetisyan.

**NOVEMBER 9** — Couple's Night Out, "Marriage Stress or Blessing" organized by the New England Armenian Clergy for Parish Families. Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Vahan and Yn. Maggie Tekeyan Kouyoumdjian, lecturers on Christian, spiritual and psychological issues. \$100 per couple, including catered buffet. RSVP by October 31. St. Stephen's Armenian Church Hall, 38 Elton Ave., Watertown. Call or text Arpi Boynerian, 617-229-9254 or email [avedisb1@gmail.com](mailto:avedisb1@gmail.com).

**NOVEMBER 21** — **SAVE THE DATE.** Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphony Hall, Boston, 8:00 PM. Details to follow

### NEW JERSEY

**NOVEMBER 4** — 12 Vocations: The Ongoing Promise of St. Nersess seminary. Help us celebrate the vocations of the next 12 alumni clergy and lay ministers at a gala banquet to be held at Macaluso's, Hawthorne, NJ. Starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$175 per person. Details, invitations, and booklet donations can be found on [www.stnersess.edu](http://www.stnersess.edu).

Send Calendar Items to the Mirror-Spectator: To send calendar items to the Mirror-Spectator, email [alin@mirrorspectator.com](mailto:alin@mirrorspectator.com) or [alin.gregorian@gmail.com](mailto:alin.gregorian@gmail.com). You can also visit our website, [www.mirrorspectator.com](http://www.mirrorspectator.com), and find the "calendar" section under the heading "More." You can also mail them to the Armenian Mirror-Spectator, 755 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472. All calendar entries must be received by noon on Monday before publication. There is no fee for calendar entries.

## Alfred Museum Exhibit Dedicated to Works by Sculptor Reuben Nakian

NAKIAN, from page 13

Like a novel, an opera or a ballet, myth is make believe; it is a game that transfigures our fragmented, tragic world." In another passage she writes: "Our modern alienation from myth is unprecedented. In the pre-modern world mythology was indispensable. It not only helped people to make sense of their lives but also revealed regions of the human mind that would otherwise have remained in accessible."

Throughout art history artists have turned to mythology for its fundamental human themes, which serve as a means of philosophical inquiry. The stories of ancient Greek mythological figures have inspired Renaissance masters, modern-

ist painters and sculptors and conceptual artists alike. Imagine Reuben Nakian as a young want-to-be artist avidly reading his copy of *Bulfinch's Mythology* one day and visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art the next to see these myths come to life in paintings by legendary artists. For Nakian an indelible impression gave birth to a lifetime of creativity.

Wayne Higby, director and principal curator at Alfred Ceramic Art Museum, said, "The vigorous and eloquent gesture so remarkably manifest in Reuben Nakian's ceramic work begins with drawing, the matrix of his emergence as a world-class artist. Gesture became Nakian's signature transferred to the immediacy of the ink

brush and to the tool and the clay. His understanding of the clay is perceptive. Timing is the essence of working in clay. Clay is often too wet, too soft, too dry, too hard. Knowing exactly when to make a move is a twofold gift of empathy and experience. Reuben Nakian's art resonates with enlightened intuition arising from a merging of his vitality and the material at hand. This is most constant, personal, and substantially evident in his ceramic work."

Curator Anne Currier added, "The ceramic and bronze sculptures selected for the exhibition, "Reuben Nakian: The Impassioned Gesture," conjure parallel links to 18<sup>th</sup>-century porcelain figurines. The similarity of their dimensions and small scale insinuates

their presence within a domestic space, conducive to discovering the lyricism and diversity of their figural compositions and narrative allusions. Nakian's ceramic sculptures reveal the agility of his hands working in wet clay. Using only his fingers and a few tools, primarily a knife, Nakian reconciles representation and abstraction. Transitions of incised lines, pinched surfaces, rolled coils, masses and voids, pokes and punches reveal the audacity and fluency of his touch to capture the essence of a fleeting moment. The choreographic dynamism of Reuben Nakian's small sculptures and ink drawings transcend generations and styles, affirming the rhythmic grammar of gesture and its power to delight."





## COMMENTARY

# Time Immemorial: From and For

By John Harker

The tragic conflict between two countries of the Southern Caucasus region, Armenia and Azerbaijan, has caused increased tensions not only in the two states directly involved but also in others with strong interests in their region. It should concern us all, right now, especially as the United Nations gather world leaders together in New York.

When I think of the UN, I often think back to 1982, when that body first instituted a World's Indigenous Peoples Day. In essence, this was to recognize and celebrate those who had lived on their lands "from Time Immemorial."

I do not know in totality the history of the lands now known as Nagorno Karabakh, but I do know, and the world should recognize, that "Armenians" first built Christian churches there in the fifth century AD, a very long time before the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

The year of 1982 was also significant for another event, the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands, or Las Malvinas, in the South Atlantic.

The Southern Caucasus is a great distance from the South Atlantic, but there is an interesting connection between both regions.

In April, 1983, I made known my thinking on what needed to be done to remove the Falkland Islands from the active register of global conflict zones.

In November 1982, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly for the resumption of talks between Britain and Argentina on sovereignty over the islands. And the prestigious Economist magazine cautioned Britain's Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, against turning the Falklands into a military fortress. Instead, it called on her to float options for "internationalizing" the islands.

Writing in the magazine *Commonwealth*, I proposed that a condominium form of shared sovereignty be put in place. This, as a concept, was not new.

France and Britain, for centuries bitter opponents, fashioned in 1906 such an arrangement for the governance of the New Hebrides in the South Pacific, and this maintained for many years, until the islands gained independence, as Vanuatu, now a valued member state of the United Nations.

Perhaps when conflict and its wounds are fresh in the memories and tempers of people, that is when something different from the status quo needs to be envisaged, and attempted. We need not fully embrace Danton's exhortation, "Boldness, More Boldness, Always Boldness," but withdrawal from comprehensive analysis and novel engagement, can that really serve anyone?

The Azerbaijanis and Armenians should be good neighbors; their region deserves this, and obviously needs it. If the contested area of Nagorno Karabakh was a place where residents could choose and enjoy either nationality, or, indeed, dual nationality, and enjoy freedom of Religious observation, while governed by a Condominium built and overseen by the UN and the OSCE Minsk Group, might this enable the emergence of a calmer, partnership-oriented, Southern Caucasus region, one situated, let us not forget, where Europe and Asia meet?

There is no better time for such a region to come into being and figure in the shaping of a new, collaborative, international system. Boldness could go a long way. Armenians, heirs to and survivors of a genocide, have shown, at home and wherever their diaspora has fashioned impactful lives, that they surely have Boldness in their genes. Perhaps the Azerbaijanis do too.

Armenia and Azerbaijan could help themselves and all of humanity by reaching now for peace and a condominium, rather than violence, recriminations, and ethnic cleansing.

(John Harker is chair of the Harker Associates Consulting in Canada.)

## THE ARMENIAN MIRROR SPECTATOR

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## Open Letter to Christians in America that *Christianity Today* Never Published

The following letter was submitted on August 25 and again on September 12 to *Christianity Today*, the most important Evangelical Christian publication in America.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With a sense of urgency, love, and a profound plea, we address you today. As Armenians and Believers, united by our Christian faith, our love for God's Chosen People, and our care for the State of Israel, we appeal to you to shine as beacons of light for the world.

We implore you to turn your attention to Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh — a name etched in the hearts of Christian Armenians for generations. As the cradle of history's first Christian Kingdom, Artsakh and its over 120,000 Christians in the Caucasus region now find themselves under siege. Azerbaijani forces have cut off their access to food, electricity, and medical supplies, putting the lives of men, women, and children in grave danger. In a region larger than the state of Rhode Island, the very essence of Christian civilization hangs in the balance.

Imagine if Providence, Warwick, and Cranston were besieged, their churches emptied and turned into mosques, army barracks, and cowsheds. Azerbaijan's soldiers, akin to vultures poised to descend, threaten the ancient Christian communities of Stepanakert, Vank, Martuni, and beyond.

In this painful moment, we implore you to recall the Scriptures that illuminate our paths:

Galatians 6:2 - "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Matthew 25:40 - "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

As Christians, rooted in unshakable faith and profound love for God's Chosen People, we know that Israel is a vessel of divine providence. And thus, we beg you, our brethren in America, to stand at our side.

Please urge the leaders of 'Christians United for Israel,' the organization mobilizing American Christians to support Israel, to employ their contacts and credit to shield us. The advanced weapons supplied by Israeli arms dealers to Azerbaijan's dictator, Ilham Aliyev, are an existential threat to our Christian culture and way of life. It is imperative that Israeli-made weapons cease to threaten our churches, our schools, and our children.

Should the ancient Christian communities of Artsakh succumb to hunger, starvation, and ethnic cleansing, the very tapestry of Christianity in the region risks unraveling. As we remember the once-flourishing cities of Ephesus, Galatia, and Antioch, where the echoes of Christian faith have faded into silence, and where the crescent has replaced the cross, we fear that history may repeat itself, if you and Israel turn a blind eye to our plight.

To rescue persecuted Christians and persecuted Jews is to serve our Lord. To champion the values of life, justice, and righteousness mandated by the Bible for America and Israel is a matter of life and death for us. By joining your voices with those of the leaders of Jerusalem, you can save lives in Artsakh, bringing America, Armenia, and Israel closer to their ultimate salvation in Jesus Christ.

On behalf of our children's future, thank you in advance for your efforts to save us, and consider supporting the petition of Christian Zionists for Armenia.

With hearts brimming with hope and spirits unwavering in prayer,

Baroness Caroline Cox, Seda Martirosyan, Hayk Melkumyan, Hasmik Shatiryan, Ruben Danielyan,  
Marine Abelyan, Heghine Aslanyan, Margarita Khazarchyan, Knarik Margaryan, Tereza Burnazyan,  
Irina Abramyan, Agapi Yeritsyan, and hundreds of devout Christians.



## COMMENTARY

# What Next in Nagorno Karabakh

By **Benjamin Poghosyan**

Special to the *Mirror-Spectator*

On September 19, Azerbaijan launched a large-scale offensive against the self-declared Nagorno Karabakh Republic with only one goal: to finish with that republic. The Azerbaijani attack was not a surprise to anyone. At least since the beginning of 2023, Azerbaijan has stated clearly and loudly that Baku will not tolerate the status quo that emerged after the 2020 Nagorno Karabakh war and will do everything possible to destroy the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. Azerbaijan was also clear that it would reach its goal quickly. Since the beginning of September 2023, as Azerbaijan started to concentrate troops along the line of contact, it was clear the military offensive would take place very soon. Armenia knew that Russia knew that, the EU and the US knew that, and Nagorno Karabakh authorities knew that. What were the positions of the sides regarding the upcoming offensive of Azerbaijan?

Armenia thought that it could not do anything and should not do anything. It could not because the military balance was hugely in favor of Azerbaijan, as during the three years after the 2020 war, Armenia failed to undertake any meaningful military reforms. Armenia should not have done anything because Nagorno-Karabakh is not part of Armenia but part of Azerbaijan. Thus, it is the responsibility of Russia, which had peacekeepers, and the West, which was speaking about the unacceptability of violations of international humanitarian law and the killing of civilians, to prevent the Azerbaijani offensive.

Russia thought that if Armenia did not care about the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh, who hold Armenian passports, then Russia should not ruin its relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey by entering into a military confrontation with Baku. What Russia can and should do is to seek to protect civilians as much as possible and secure the deployment of Russian peacekeepers at least until November 2025.

The EU was against human rights violations but said it had no presence on the ground. Thus, it could not do much to prevent a new Azerbaijani attack. It was ready to support Armenia in dealing with the new wave of refugees from Nagorno Karabakh and send humanitarian assistance to Nagorno Karabakh if Azerbaijan allowed it. The US publicly warned about the unacceptability of a new attack against Nagorno Karabakh. However, as the US primary interest in the region is the decrease of Russian presence and influence, the “soft/voluntary” exodus of Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh, which may result in the withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers from the region, was not against US strategic interests. Meanwhile, the Azerbaijani takeover of Nagorno Karabakh could trigger more anti-Russian sentiments in Armenia, which was entirely in line with US regional interests.

Thus, for different reasons, all external actors, including Armenia, were not ready to

take tangible steps to prevent a new Azerbaijani attack. The Nagorno Karabakh authorities decided to change their leadership, probably hoping that the moderate ideas of the new president, who spoke about the “status of Nagorno Karabakh,” avoiding the use of the term independence, might create a base for any sort of meaningful discussion with Azerbaijan. However, Azerbaijan used the September 9 presidential elections as a “casus belli” for its well-prepared offensive.

As Nagorno Karabakh was completely alone against Azerbaijan, having only a 120,000 population starving due to the blockade, the result of the Azerbaijani attack was clear to everyone. The only question was the duration of how long Nagorno Karabakh might resist. It appeared that after 24 hours of hostilities, Nagorno Karabakh was forced to accept Azerbaijani demands, including the dissolution and disarmament of the defense army. Within 24 hours, the Azerbaijani army penetrated the territory of Nagorno Karabakh, surrounding Martakert and Martuni regions, and was very close to entering Stepanakert.

After reaching the ceasefire agreement on September 20 and the meeting between Nagorno Karabakh Armenians and Azerbaijan representatives in Yevlakh on September 21, the critical question is what next? What can and should be done now?

The immediate task is to restore the supplies of humanitarian cargo and electricity to Nagorno Karabakh, as many people may die from hunger in the upcoming days. Another urgent task is to end the blockade of Nagorno Karabakh villages and cities by the Azerbaijani army to find out the fate of the population as well as deliver aid. Hundreds, if not thousands, are missing; steps should be taken to clarify their fate. On September 22, Russian peacekeepers delivered 50 tons of humanitarian cargo to Stepanakert, and this process should continue.

Meanwhile, decisions should be made regarding the future of the Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh. Very soon, probably by the end of 2023, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic state institutions will be dissolved, and the “integration of the region” into Azerbaijan will start. It may entail disseminating Azerbaijani passports, using Azerbaijani currency, and establishing Azerbaijani state institutions – such as police, tax services, and others.

However, few, if any, Armenians would like to live under Azerbaijani jurisdiction without any international presence and guarantees, and would opt to leave Nagorno Karabakh. For these people, access to international organizations, notably the relevant UN agencies, should be secured in Nagorno Karabakh, both for the organization of evacuation and to provide at least basic guarantees for those Armenians who, for whatever reasons, would like to stay. Armenia, Russia, the EU, and the US should force Azerbaijan to provide secure passage through the Lachin corridor for all those Armenians who would like to leave, including the male population, as against many of them, criminal cases are opened in Azerbaijan. The international community should provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Armenia to deal with this new wave of refugees, which may enter Armenia in the upcoming months.

These tasks – access to Nagorno Karabakh for UN agencies, the provision of safe evacuation to Armenia for all Armenians who will not agree to live under Azerbaijani jurisdiction, and urgent humanitarian assistance to Armenia to deal with new waves of refugees – should be realized very quickly, to avoid even greater human tragedy.

(Benjamin Poghosyan is chairman of the Center for Political and Economic Strategic Studies in Yerevan, and Senior Research Fellow at the Applied Policy Research Institute (APRI) of Armenia.)

## *Azerbaijan Waited for Its Opening on Nagorno-Karabakh. This Week It Found It.*

By **David Ignatius**

It was Mao Zedong who said that “political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.” That harsh lesson certainly applies to the long-running battle between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the contested territory known as Nagorno-Karabakh — where Azerbaijan this week imposed its sovereignty by force of arms.

For Armenians, who live in the long shadow of the 1915 Ottoman genocide, the plight of an estimated 120,000 ethnic Armenians in Karabakh has been haunting. Lacking the military power to rival Azerbaijan — and without protection from Russia, the United States or even Armenia itself — the Karabakh Armenians were forced to surrender in two days.

Representatives of the Armenian government that had been running Karabakh met Thursday with Azerbaijani representatives for what officials in Baku said were “constructive” talks. The meeting was evidence that Azerbaijan was reestablishing authority over territory it had controlled legally, but not in fact, and that Karabakh Armenians were submitting to the new political reality they had long hoped to avoid.

At least 200 Karabakh Armenians died in the fighting that began Tuesday, according to local reports, as Azerbaijani artillery pounded Karabakh’s small military force and Baku’s commandos seized strategic high ground. Armenian social media carried wrenching stories about families searching for missing children and thousands gathered at the airport in Stepanakert, the region’s de facto capital, hoping to flee.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev made a televised address Wednesday night that seemed intended to stem a flight of Armenian residents who fear that Baku plans to “ethnically cleanse” the territory. He said that Armenian residents would be treated as “citizens” and that Baku would pursue only “criminal” separatists.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s decision to stay out of the conflict has brought intense criticism inside Armenia from those who feel Pashinyan abandoned his ethnic brethren. Even some of those critics conceded in interviews Thursday that Yerevan lacked the firepower to combat Aliyev’s takeover. Armenia was badly outgunned in the 2020 war that reversed nearly three decades of Armenian control of the region, and this mismatch has only grown worse.

Global power politics overlay this week’s dramatic events. The Karabakh turmoil results in part from the vacuum in the region caused by Russia’s preoccupation with Ukraine. Moscow had a small, 2,000-member peacekeeping force in Karabakh that was supposed to prevent conflict. The Russians proved powerless, and Russia said some of its soldiers were killed by Azerbaijani fire this week.

Armenia, which has relied for a century on Russian protection, had begun doubting Moscow and started pivoting to the West this year, hoping for more reliable allies. The Biden administration offered diplomatic help in trying to broker a settlement between Baku and Yerevan, but without effect. The Pentagon this month sent roughly 100 U.S. soldiers to Armenia to train its

military, nominally for peacekeeping operations, but they departed on schedule as the assault on Karabakh was underway.

Armenia’s pivot West was probably badly timed. It alienated the Russians without bringing reliable Western help. The Armenians, especially in Karabakh, were isolated and vulnerable — waiting for foreign deliverance that never came. In that respect, it was a cruel recapitulation of modern Armenian history.

The Biden administration has tried for the past two years to prevent a violent resolution of the Karabakh problem by seeking a durable peace deal between Baku and Yerevan. That effort seemed to be progressing, but in the end, Baku decided to gain sovereignty by force rather than negotiation. After the assault began, Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Aliyev and urged a ceasefire, which followed soon after.

The armed takeover of Karabakh has been coming in slow motion since Azerbaijan won a 2020 war for control, reversing the breakaway status Armenian troops had won in battle in 1994. Armenians in the enclave had hoped for some form of independence rather than a compromise deal with Baku, which retained authority under international law. It never came. Azerbaijan, flush with oil wealth, grew stronger year by year. Eventually, the hammer fell.

Azerbaijan began a slow strangulation of Karabakh in December, when a government-backed organization closed the road to Armenia, known as the “Lachin Corridor.” Karabakh was gradually starved of food and fuel — and by this month, basic

supplies of flour and other essentials were said to be exhausted. That’s when Aliyev struck militarily.

The Biden administration’s policy now is to prevent the ethnic cleansing that Armenians fear. Blinken is said to have urged Aliyev to grant what amounts to amnesty to the Karabakh Armenians and provide reliable guarantees for their security. The United States also hopes that a lasting accord between Armenia and Azerbaijan will be possible now that the Karabakh issue has been resolved at gunpoint. But that overlooks the deep mistrust and anxiety felt by Armenians, which will only increase after this week’s armed takeover.

Karabakh lies at one of the world’s most dangerous intersections, where the ghosts of the past stalk every living resident. An example of this bloodknot is the 1937 novel *Ali and Nino*, set partly in the mountain forests of Nagorno-Karabakh. It opens with a professor in Baku asking his students whether the surrounding region “should belong to progressive Europe or reactionary Asia.” A charming Azerbaijani prince who is one of the heroes of the story opts for Asia and forms a love match with a Georgian princess. It’s a love story, but it’s animated by the conflict between East and West. The darkest passages of the book take place in the “black garden” of Karabakh.

(This article first appeared in the *Washington Post* on September 22, 2023. David Ignatius will be one of the speakers at the Armenian Mirror-Spectator’s 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary journalists’ panel on October 27.)



## COMMENTARY

## MY TURN



by Harut Sassounian

## Artsakh is Lost After Being Abandoned By Armenia, Russia and the West

Last week, Armenians worldwide experienced one of the biggest tragedies of their lives after Azerbaijan occupied Artsakh.

One hundred and twenty thousand Artsakh Armenians — men, women and children — were attacked in their historic homeland by advanced weapons imported by oil-rich Azerbaijan from Israel, Russia, Pakistan and Eastern Europe.

The main evil-doers are Azerbaijan and its partner Turkey which are guilty of committing mass crimes against the people of Artsakh.

However, there is plenty of blame to go around. I want to start with the shameful role that Armenia's Prime Minister has played in this disaster. Starting from 2001, while Pashinyan was an unknown journalist, he wrote in his Haykakan Jamanak newspaper that "through diplomacy, it is not possible not to return these [Artsakh] territories to Azerbaijan.... Having abandoned our own lands, we are trying to be the owners of someone else's land." After becoming Prime Minister, Pashinyan made numerous contradictory statements regarding Artsakh, first stating emphatically that "Artsakh is Armenia, that's it," and then, "Artsakh is part of Azerbaijan." While the words of a journalist may not matter, his statements as Prime Minister cannot be dismissed. Game over! Artsakh is lost and nothing is expected to change that reality for a long time. As always, Pashinyan blames everyone else for his misdeeds, including the former leaders, the domestic opposition, and Russia.

To make matters worse, Pashinyan washed his hands from Artsakh and urged its leaders to sort out their differences with Azerbaijan. Pashinyan basically threw 120,000 poorly-armed Artsakh Armenians to the big bad Azeri wolf. How can tiny Artsakh negotiate with powerful Azerbaijan? Pashinyan ignored the fact that since Artsakh Armenians are citizens of Armenia, it was his constitutional duty to protect them. For months, he made the laughable promise that the rights and security of Artsakh Armenians will be protected after they become citizens of Azerbaijan. Ridiculously, Pashinyan announced last week, a couple of hours before the UN Security Council meeting, that the lives of Armenian civilians in Artsakh were secure after Azerbaijan's attack. Shortly thereafter Armenia's Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan told the Security Council that Azerbaijan is engaged in ethnic cleansing of Artsakh Armenians. Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister immediately pointed out to the UN the contradictory statements by the two Armenian leaders, thus undermining Armenia's credibility in front of the whole world. In the meantime, hundreds of Artsakh Armenians were killed and wounded, and thousands are missing as a result of Azerbaijan's attack.

Last week, when Azerbaijan's strong military invaded what remained of Artsakh, Pashinyan announced that Armenia will not get involved in the conflict, thus giving the green light to Azerbaijan to commit all sorts of horrible

crimes on the people of Artsakh. Pashinyan has held the mistaken notion that once Artsakh is returned to Azerbaijan, citizens of Armenia will live in peace. Regrettably, this is the farthest thing from the truth. Azerbaijan's President, seeing in front of him a militarily weak Armenia and a leader who has no idea what he is doing, will not stop after his conquest of Artsakh. Aliyev will keep on demanding concessions from the weakling Pashinyan and occupy more and more territories of the Republic of Armenia. Aliyev has repeatedly and falsely claimed that all of Armenia is "Western Azerbaijan." Since the 2020 war, Azerbaijan's troops occupied portions of Armenia's territory and have no intention of leaving. My fear is that Aliyev will continue making incursions into Armenia, until he takes over the whole country. Therefore, Pashinyan's premise that Armenians in Armenia will leave in peace after abandoning Artsakh is absurd.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev quickly capitalized on Pashinyan's capitulation and repeatedly told the world that since Armenia's Prime Minister admitted that Artsakh is part of Azerbaijan, that region is his country's internal issue and no one has the right to intervene. Shortly thereafter, Russia's leaders, including President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, repeatedly stated that Pashinyan is the one who relinquished Artsakh.

Nevertheless, Russia has its own share of guilt for what has been taking place in the last three years, and what happened in Artsakh last week. The Russian peacekeepers, who were mandated by the 2020 agreement to safeguard the population of Artsakh and keep the Lachin Corridor open until 2025, failed miserably to carry out their responsibilities. Russia did not even try to protect the borders of the Republic of Armenia, as required by the CSTO agreement signed between Armenia, Russia and several other former Soviet Republics. Russia's inaction and Pashinyan's relinquishment of Artsakh resulted in the massive human tragedy suffered by 120,000 Artsakh Armenians.

The international community is also guilty of ignoring the suffering of Artsakh Armenians who lost their historic homeland after being starved for nine months due to the blockade of the Lachin Corridor by Azerbaijan. Other than saying a lot of useless words, no one in the world lifted a finger to rescue these people and defend their rights. All international laws, human rights, and notions of justice were a lot of hot air. Equally useless were the UN Security Council, the International Court of Justice, European Court of Human Rights, European Union, European Council, and statements by officials of many countries, including the United States. As we all know, might makes right. Nothing else matters.

The top priority of Armenians worldwide now is seeking the immediate ouster of Pashinyan, since he is refusing to resign and digging a deeper hole for Armenia with every passing day. Unless Pashinyan is replaced soon by a competent and nationalistic Armenian who protects Armenia's interests, Armenians may end up losing their homeland, this time for good!

After Pashinyan is replaced, Armenia's new leader has to put all other issues aside and immediately acquire a massive amount of advanced weapons to defend the country's borders from further incursions.

After vainly hoping and waiting for thousands of years for a foreign power to come and save Armenia, it is high time that Armenians finally realize that no one will ever come to rescue them. They need to save themselves.

# Pan-Armenian Council of Western USA Condemns Artsakh Occupation, Will Send Fact-finding Mission

LOS ANGELES — It is with heavy hearts that we address the recent occupation of Artsakh. Azerbaijan through an unprovoked military attack successfully realized its intentions to gain control of Artsakh, a region that holds deep historical and cultural significance as the cradle of the Armenian people. The indigenous population of Artsakh now faces a challenging and uncertain future.

In light of these new realities on the ground, the Pan-Armenian Council of Western United States (PAC-WUSA) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to stand in solidari-

mediate necessity of establishing a humanitarian corridor for those individuals who may choose to depart Artsakh, always safeguarding their fundamental rights to self-determination.

In the days ahead, PAC-WUSA will dispatch a fact-finding mission to work in close collaboration with respected local and international humanitarian entities operating on the ground in Artsakh and Armenia. This mission will be dedicated to addressing the critical humanitarian needs of our Armenian compatriots.

house (D-RI), and Gary Peters (D-MI).

Lastly, we implore our community to confront the challenges that lie ahead with the spirit of Armenianness, unity, and unwavering commitment. We call upon all Armenians to actively engage with and support the initiatives put forth by PAC-WUSA and its member organizations. At this pivotal juncture, the nation's interests and the well-being of Artsakh depend on the unequivocal support, investment, and wholehearted participation of each and every Armenian.

### Pan-Armenian Council of Western United States

The Pan-Armenian Council of the Western United States of America was founded in Burbank, California in 2019 and is comprised of 25 of the largest religious, political, cultural and professional organizations leading the Armenian community. Through the Council, these entities strive to fulfill the organization's mission statement, which is to implement and realize projects of a pan-community nature; to encourage and assist projects which advance the collective interests and the rights of Armenian communities across the Western United States; to undertake steps to resist actions and efforts which are contrary to the collective interests and rights of Armenians; to gather and apply the Armenian community's resources for the benefit of the community's interests as well as the welfare of the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh; to always be mindful of the collective health and protection of the Armenian community.

(September 22, 2023)

“WE STRONGLY URGE THE ARMENIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND OUR ALLIES TO STEADFASTLY SUPPORT BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION AIMED AT SANCTIONING THE OPPRESSIVE ALIYEV REGIME.”

ty with its compatriots in Artsakh. The Council extends its full support to the people of Artsakh during this dangerous time, expressing deep sympathy for the challenges they now face.

In the name of its member organizations, the PAC-WUSA asserts an urgent demand for an unwavering commitment to the full implementation of all measures, previously declared and promised by official and governmental circles within the United States. These measures are to ensure the peaceful and secure existence of Artsakh Armenians on their ancestral lands. We emphasize the im-

Furthermore, PAC-WUSA calls upon US authorities to take swift and assertive action to effectively restrain the Azerbaijani dictatorship from its murderous acts, by among other measures, imposing significant sanctions. In this regard, we strongly urge the Armenian-American community and our allies to steadfastly support bipartisan legislation aimed at sanctioning the oppressive Aliyev Regime. This legislation has been introduced by Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. Senators Rob Menendez (D-NJ), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Sheldon White-



# 'The Other Side' Fashion Event Inspires Solidarity in Artsakh Crisis

MILAN, from page 1

Jhangrian, Just Black, Liana Ghukasyan, Noemi Mirata, Perfect Population by KL Allen, Saba Najafi, and The Muse showcased their contributions to the event.

The event highlighted the dire humanitarian situation in Artsakh, with economic hardships leading to food shortages, forcing residents to walk long distances to access basic necessities like bread. Alarmingly, there has been a 30% increase in miscarriages due to insufficient food and the closure of hospitals.

The devastating impact of the blockade was evident in the tragic death of K. Hovhannisyian, a resident of Stepanakert, due to malnutrition and protein deficiency. Azerbaijan's prolonged blockade has inflicted suffering on innocent civilians and claimed lives.

### Love Triumphs Over Blockades: A Wedding Amidst Crisis

Amidst the crisis, a heartwarming story emerged of a young couple, Arman and Mariam, who celebrated their love with an intimate wedding despite the adversities they faced at the 7th century Hakobavank Monastery. Their story serves as a testament to the unyielding human spirit that was highlighted by an amazing bridal gown signed by one of the most talented high fashion designers, Krikor Jabotian.

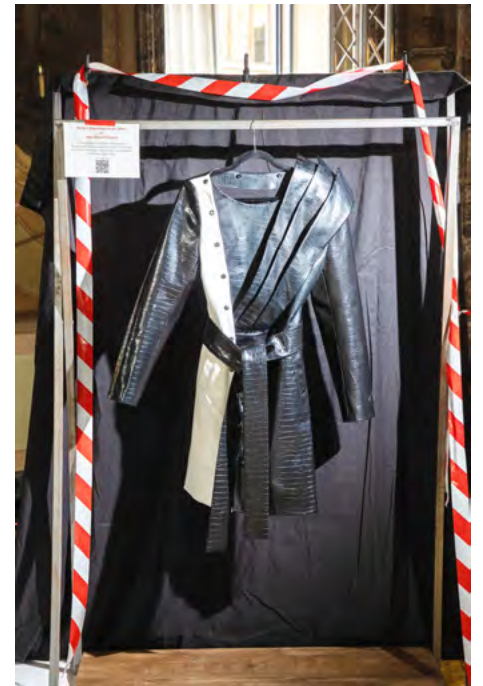
"The Other Side" was put together by Art Director and Producer Taniel Bisharyan, Head Fashion Stylist Lucine Ayanian, Beauty Director Valeria Orlando (using VOR Makeup), and Set Designers Ania Khodabakhshian and Vedi Megerdici.



Perfect Body vs. Mutilation of Female (photo Anna Minaeva)



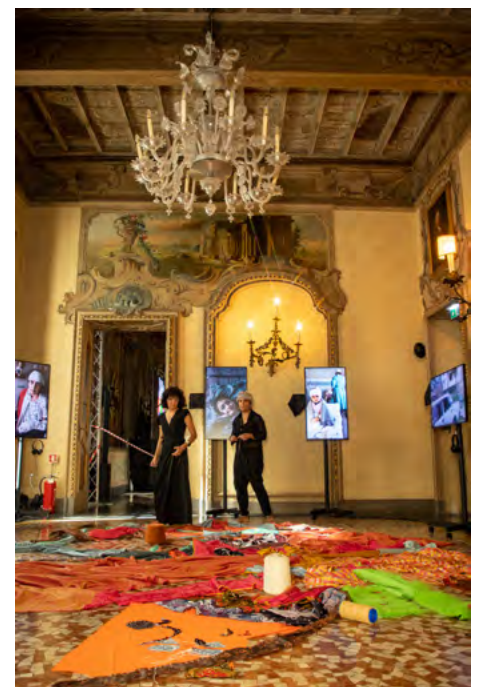
Perfect Population by KL Allen: Man Died of Famine (photo Anna Minaeva)



Noemi Mirata in solidarity with Helen Dadayan (photo Anna Minaeva)



Ananyan: A Cry for Humanitarian Aid (photo Anna Minaeva)



Shirin Tun [Sweet Home] Performance by Liana Ghukasyan and Saba Najafi (photo Anna Minaeva)

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Multiple Items! Artwork, jewelry, services, experiences, and more.

Items will be on display at the Bazaar. Bidding will be online-only.

Online bidding begins at 9 am on Thurs, Oct. 12 and ends at 9 pm on Sun, Oct. 15.

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Drawing will take place Saturday, October 14th.

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