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## Sochi Meeting Calls for Recognition of Sovereignty, Territorial Integrity and Inviolability of Borders



SOCHI — A trilateral meeting between the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev took place in Sochi on Monday.

The Russian President thanked the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan for coming to Sochi and holding talks and added that the Russian side will continue to make every effort to achieve peace and stability. He said the meeting was "very useful" because it created a "very good atmosphere for possible future agreements on some key issues."

"Today we agreed on a joint statement," he said after the meeting held in

the Russian city of Sochi. "I must say frankly that not everything was agreed."

"Some things had to be taken out of the text worked out beforehand at the level of experts," he added without elaborating.

In a joint statement after the meeting, Aliyev and Pashinyan said they "agreed to refrain from the use of force or the threat of its use and discuss and resolve all problematic issues solely on the basis of mutual recognition of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders."

"On the basis of existing proposals, it was agreed to continue the search

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## ACA-PAC Endorses Karen Bass for Los Angeles City Mayor



endorse the candidates in these three local elections, and believes that if elected these candidates are better suited to foster the needs of Southern California Armenian Americans:

Karen Bass for Los Angeles City Mayor

Chief Robert Luna for Los Angeles County Sheriff

Mitch O'Farrell for LA City Council District 13

The ACA-PAC encourages all eligible Armenian-American voters to register and vote in the primary elections.

Los Angeles has been home to hundreds of thousands of citizens of Armenian descent for many decades and Armenian Americans have been an integral force in the fabric and makeup of this racially, ethnically, religiously, socioeconomically, and culturally diverse city. As such, there are three crucial elections, that will shape and impact Armenian Americans living in Los Angeles. ACA-PAC is proud to

## Artsakh Will Never Be Part of Azerbaijan: NKR Parliament Adopts Statement



STEPANAKERT — Karabakh residents gathered for a massive rally Sunday, as members of the local parliament unanimously adopted a lengthy statement rejecting any peace deal that would see Azerbaijan take control of the region.

Artsakh has never been and will never be part of independent Azerbaijan. This very idea should be the basis for the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict, the National Assembly of Artsakh said in a statement adopted unanimously by all factions.

The MPs said "any attempt to forcibly annex Artsakh to Azerbaijan would be a gross violation of international law and an official license to commit another genocide against the Armenian people, therefore any document with such a content is unacceptable for the Republic of Artsakh."

"Any attempt to forcibly annex Artsakh to Azerbaijan Reaffirming that the Armenia-Artsakh-Diaspora trinity is among the key foundations of all our successes and achievements. No authority in the Republic of Armenia has the right to refuse of the mission to ensure the security of the people of Artsakh or to accept any document questioning the existence of the sovereign Republic of Artsakh". The National Assembly said in its statement.

## Iran and Armenia to Expend Economic Ties



TEHRAN — Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan visited Tehran and met with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday one day after his latest talks with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev held in Russia.

Pashinyan said he briefed Raisi on his trilateral meeting with Aliyev and Russian President Vladimir Putin during their discussion of "issues on the regional agenda."

"We consider it important that our Iranian partners are informed about what is happening in the context of Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, Armenia-Turkey relations and the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict," he told a joint news briefing with Raisi.

"The Caucasus region is a part of Iran's history, civilization and culture, and we are sensitive to the Caucasus region," Raisi said for his part. "Security and peace in the Caucasus region is very important for Iran."

In that regard, he reiterated Iran's opposition to "the presence of outside forces" in the region, saying that it can only aggravate regional problems.

It was not clear whether the Iranian leader referred to Western powers that have been trying hard to broker a peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Russia has denounced those peace efforts as disingenuous.

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## EU Monitors Start Patrolling Armenia-Azerbaijan Border



YEREVAN—Civilian monitors deployed to Armenia by the European Union began patrolling on Thursday the country's volatile border with Azerbaijan which saw large-scale fighting last month.

"EU monitors in Armenia set off on their first patrol," the EU's European External Action Service (EEAS) announced on Twitter.

"For the next two months, the EU Monitoring Capacity will monitor the situation on the Armenian side of the Armenia-Azerbaijan border to build confidence and to contribute to the [Armenian-Azerbaijani] border commissions," it said.

The leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and France as well as the EU's top official, Charles Michel, reached an agreement on the mission at an October 6 meeting in Prague. It came three weeks after unusually large-scale border clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani troops left at least 280 soldiers dead.

The Armenian government hopes that the 40 or so EU monitors deployed on the Armenian side of the border will help to prevent further hostilities there.

The civilian mission was officially launched on October 20 after an advance team of EU experts met senior Armenian officials in Yerevan and toured border areas that were directly affected by the September clashes.

"The EU Monitoring Capacity in Armenia will report on military posture and ceasefire related developments in the border regions between Armenia and Azerbaijan," read an EEAS explanatory note released on October 20.

"The EU monitors will also provide observations of events taking place along the bilateral border, including human rights related developments," it said. "They will not have an investigative role."

Nor will the monitors "draw conclusions of a political nature on the basis of their findings," added the statement.

## FM Ararat Mirzoyan Briefs Pope Francis on Situation in the Region



THE Vatican — On October 26, His Holiness Pope Francis received Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan on the margins of his official visit to the Vatican.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity to meet, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan conveyed the warm greetings of the Armenian people and Government to His Holiness. The Minister noted that his visit to the Vatican takes place in the year marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Armenia and the Holy See, and it is a good

opportunity to discuss bilateral relations based on centuries-old historical ties and similar spiritual values.

Foreign Minister of Armenia expressed his gratitude for numerous messages and calls for peace delivered by the Pope during the 44-day war and the subsequent period.

Minister Mirzoyan briefed His Holiness on the situation unfolded in the region, highlighting the importance of addressing humanitarian issues, and in this regard conveyed the message of the Prime Minister of Armenia to the Pope.

## French Armed Forces Ministry Delegation Discuss Cooperation with Defense Minister and Secretary of the Security Council



YEREVAN—Armenian Defense Minister Suren Papikyan received the delegation headed by Guillaume Ollagnier, Director for European, North American and Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry for the Armed Forces, France.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Armenia Anne Louyot also participated in the meeting.

The implementation of the agreements reached during the working visit of the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Armenia to France and the opportunities for the development of the Armenian-French cooperation in the field of defense were discussed.

Previously, the delegation held working discussions with the 1st Deputy Minister of Defense, General

Staff of the Armenian Armed Forces, Major General Eduard Asryan and the Head of the Defense Policy and International Cooperation Department of the Defense Ministry, Levon Ayvazyan.

Earlier the French delegation met with Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan.

Grigoryan and Guillaume Ollagnier praised the bilateral practical steps aimed at both deepening and expanding the Armenian-French relations.

During the meeting Armen Grigoryan presented also the process of the Armenian Army reforms and the efforts aimed at achieving regional peace.

They discussed the prospects of developing the cooperation in the field of defense.

## Armenia's Budget for 2023 to Increase to \$6.4 Billion Largest in the History of the Country

YEREVAN—Armenian government plans to increase State Revenue Committee's budget to more than \$6.4 billion. According to the Minister of Finance Tigran Khachatryan, this is the largest budget in the history of the country.

Most of the costs are planned for the social sphere at more than 25%, with defense in second place. Nagorno-Karabakh will receive the same assistance as this year at 144 billion drams [almost \$370 million at the current exchange rate].

A draft law on the state budget was discussed at a joint meeting of the standing committees of the parliament.

During discussion of the project, the Minister of Finance noted that capital expenditures will reach 5.9% of GDP, which is 1.5% more than this year.

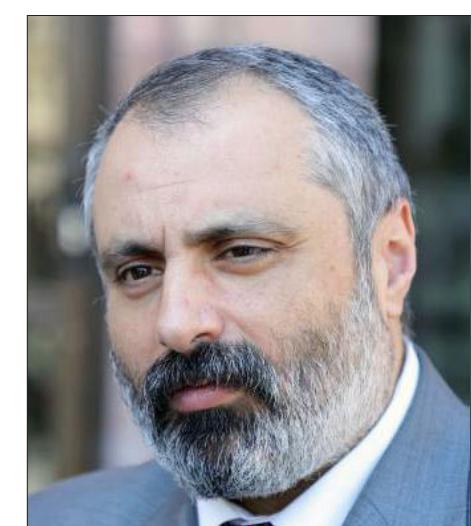
"Three-quarters of capital expenditures will be used to finance defense and security infrastructure," Tigran Khachatryan stated.

The minister said that the 2023 budget exceeds the planned spending for this year by about one billion dollars.

According to Khachatryan, more than \$1.6 billion will be spent on social spending in the form of pensions, benefits, etc.

Next year, defense spending will amount to 506 billion drams [nearly \$1.3 billion], which is 35% more than in 2022.

Funding in this area is in second



place. The first is the cost of social security of the population.

For 2023, the government projects \$5.6 billion in tax revenue. This is at least \$190 million more than expected in 2022.

During discussion of the bill, the Minister of Finance noted that next year it is planned to ensure a significant shift in the ratio of public debt to gross domestic product. He says: "We need to ensure that this indicator is not higher than 50% of GDP."

According to Khachatryan, although there are many uncertainties, public debt and its servicing should be in a "reliable environment":

"We must consider all possible developments in order to manage debt and not allow risks to arise for the implementation of government's objectives."

## US Supreme Court Rejects Turkey's Bid to Stop Washington Brawl Lawsuits



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected Turkey's bid to shut down lawsuits in U.S. courts stemming from a violent brawl outside the Turkish ambassador's residence in Washington more than five years ago that left anti-government protesters badly beaten.

The justices did not comment in turning away Turkey's arguments that American law shields foreign countries from most lawsuits. Lower courts ruled that those protections did not extend to the events of May 16, 2017, when during a visit by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, "Turkish security forces violently clashed with a crowd of protesters," as one judge described the situation.

The Supreme Court's action allows the lawsuits to proceed. In the lawsuits, protesters claim they were brutally punched and kicked, cursed at and greeted with slurs and throat-slashing gestures. One woman slipped in and out of consciousness and has suffered seizures, and others reported post-traumatic stress, depression, con-

ussions and nightmares, according to the complaints.

The high court had put off a decision about whether to intervene for months, asking for the Biden administration's views on the legal issues presented.

Turkey can be sued in these circumstances, the Justice Department said in its high court filing, concluding that lower courts were correct in finding that the U.S. ally does not have legal immunity.

Lawyers for the Turkish government had told the court that Erdogan's security detail had discretion to use physical force because it was protecting its head of state in a potentially dangerous situation.

They described some protesters as "supporters of a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization that poses a genuine national security threat to Turkey."

The altercation was caught on camera and led to criminal charges against some of Erdogan's security officers and civilian supporters, two of whom pleaded guilty. Most other charges were dropped.

## Iran and Armenia to Expend Economic Ties

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Tehran is also worried about Azerbaijani demands for the opening of a land corridor that would connect Azerbaijan to its Nakhichevan enclave through Syunik, the sole Armenian region bordering the Islamic Republic. It has repeatedly warned Baku against

Pashinyan praised "Iran's principled position on regional peace and security."

In their statements to the press, Raisi and Pashinyan spoke at greater length about their plans to deepen Armenian-Iranian commercial ties.

The Iranian president hailed a 43 percent rise in bilateral trade registered this year and said the two governments want to help increase it to \$3 billion per annum in the near future. "We will definitely achieve this goal," he said.

According to Armenian government data, Armenia's trade with Iran reached \$427 million in January-August 2022.

Pashinyan spoke of a "huge potential" for closer Armenian-Iranian cooperation in the energy, agriculture and road construction sectors.

Armenia's Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Minister Gnel

Sanosian, who accompanied the prime minister on the trip, met in Tehran with Iran's Road Construction and Urban Development Minister Rostam Ghasemi and Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian.

A statement by Sanosian's ministry cited him as calling for Iranian companies' participation in road construction projects in Armenia and Syunik in particular. It said he discussed with Ghasemi the planned construction of a 4-kilometer tunnel under a mountain pass in Syunik leading to the Iranian border.

The tortuous Kajaran pass situated over 2,500 meters above the sea level is frequently closed to traffic in winter months because of snowstorms and ice.

Iranian deputy oil minister Majid Chegeni stated that gas exports to Armenia will double in the future. He made the announcement after Iran and Armenia signed a memorandum of understanding on economic cooperation in the energy field earlier today. The two countries thus extend the "gas for electricity" deal until 2030.

"Now we export one million cubic meters of gas to Armenia on a daily basis, which will be doubled based on the new memorandum," Chegeni said.

## The List of ACA-PAC's Endorsements for U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives

### California

U.S. Senate  
Alex Padilla – CA

### U.S. House of Representatives

Jared Huffman (CA-2)  
Tom McClintock (CA-5)  
John Garamendi (CA-8)  
Josh Harder (CA-9)  
Nancy Pelosi (CA-11)  
Barbara Lee (CA-12)  
Eric Swalwell (CA-14)  
Kevin Mullin (CA-15)  
Anna Eshoo (CA-16)  
Ro Khanna (CA-17)  
Zoe Lofgren (CA-18)  
Jim Costa (CA-21)  
David Valadao (CA-22)  
Judy Chu (CA-28)  
Tony Cardenas (CA-29)  
Adam Schiff (CA-30)  
Grace Napolitano (CA-31)  
Brad Sherman (CA-32)  
Jimmy Gomez (CA-34)  
Ted Lieu (CA-36)  
Linda Sanchez (CA-38)  
Young Kim (CA-40)  
Nanette Barragan (CA-44)  
Michelle Steel (CA-45)  
Katie Porter (CA-47)

### Colorado

U.S. House of Representatives  
Diana DeGette (CO-1)  
Joe Neguse (CO-2)  
Jason Crow (CO-6)

### Connecticut

U.S. House of Representatives  
Jahn Larson (CT-1)  
Jim Himes (CT-4)  
Jahana Hayes (CT-5)

### Florida

U.S. Senate  
Marco Rubio – FL  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Gus Bilirakis (FL-12)

### Illinois

U.S. Senate  
Tammy Duckworth – IL

U.S. House of Representatives  
Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-8)  
Janice Schakowsky (IL-9)  
Brad Schneider (IL-10)

### Maryland

U.S. Senate  
Chris Van-Hollen – MD

U.S. House of Representatives  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (MD-2)  
John Sarbanes (MD-3)  
Steny Hoyer (MD-5)  
David Trone (MD-6)  
Jamie Raskin (MD-8)

### Massachusetts

U.S. House of Representatives  
James McGovern (MA-2)  
Lori Trahan (MA-3)  
Jake Auchincloss (MA-4)

### Michigan

U.S. House of Representatives  
Haley Stevens (MI-11)  
Rashida Tlaib (MI-13)

### Minnesota

U.S. House of Representatives  
Betty McCollum (MN-4)  
Ilhan Omar (MN-5)  
Tom Emmer (MN-6)

### Nevada

U.S. Senate  
Catherine Cortez-Masto – NV

U.S. House of Representatives  
Dina Titus (NV-1)  
Susie Lee (NV-3)  
Steven Horsford (NV-4)

### New Jersey

U.S. House of Representatives  
Donald Norcross (NJ-1)  
Andy Kim (NJ-3)  
Christopher Smith (NJ-4)  
Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5)  
Frank Pallone (NJ-6)  
Tom Malinowski (NJ-7)

### New York

U.S. Senate  
Charles Schumer – NY

U.S. House of Representatives  
Gregory Meeks (NY-5)  
Grace Meng (NY-6)  
Jerrold Nadler (NY-10)  
Nicole Malliotakis (NY-11)  
Adriano Espaillat (NY-13)  
Jamaal Bowman (NY-16)  
Paul Tonko (NY-20)  
Joseph Morelle (NY-25)

### Pennsylvania

Senate  
John Fetterman – PA

U.S. House of Representatives  
Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-1)  
Brendan Boyle (PA-2)  
Dwight Evans (PA-3)  
Madeleine Dean (PA-4)  
Mary Gay Scanlon (PA-5)  
Chrissy Houlahan (PA-6)  
Susan Wild (PA-7)

### Rhode Island

U.S. House of Representatives  
David Cicilline (RI-1)

### Texas

U.S. House of Representatives  
Joaquin Castro (TX-20)  
Lloyd Doggett (TX-35)

### Virginia

U.S. House of Representatives  
Elaine Luria (VA-2)  
Abigail Spanberger (VA-7)  
Don Beyer (VA-8)

## NAASR to Host Lecture on “The Armenians of Abkhazia”



BELMONT, MA — The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will host an in-person and online program, “The Armenians of Abkhazia: Identification and Self-Identification in the Early 21st Century,” presented by researcher Zadig Tisserand, on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., at the NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA. This program will be presented under the auspices of the NAASR / Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues.

This will be an in-person event and also presented online live via Zoom (Registration: <https://bit.ly/NAASRTisserand>) and YouTube ([www.youtube.com/c/ArmenianStudies](http://www.youtube.com/c/ArmenianStudies)). For those attending in person, NAASR recommends the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

Having arrived in successive waves on the shores of the Black Sea in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, the Armenians of Abkhazia today constitute over 20% of the population of the de facto Republic of Abkhazia. The Armenian community of Abkhazia, the members of which self-identify as “Hamshen,” emigrated from north-

east Turkey and have preserved their traditions and dialects, which they still use in the private sphere.

Thirty years after the war in Abkhazia (1992-1993), the Armenians of Abkhazia are embedded in the fragile process of Abkhazian national construction. Within this young ethnic democracy, they are thus regularly questioned on several aspects of their identity: Are they Abkhazians or Armenians? Are the Hamshen and Armenian identities contradictory? How do they identify themselves and how are they identified by the Abkhazian State? Finally, what might their relationship to the Republic of Armenia be?

Zadig Tisserand received a BA in Political Science (2018) and an MA in Political Theory (2020) from Sciences Po Paris. His master’s thesis, based on six months of field research in the de facto state of Abkhazia, examined the political mobilization of Abkhazian Armenians within that ethnic democracy. He continues to study the geopolitics of the South Caucasus. An article on the Persian Gulf-Black Sea Transit Corridor is forthcoming in the academic journal *Confluences Méditerranée*.

For more information about this program, contact NAASR at [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org).

## Sochi Meeting Calls for Recognition

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for mutually acceptable solutions,” said the statement. “The Russian Federation will render all possible assistance to this.”

The text of the statement follows:

“We, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N.V. Pashinyan, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan I.H. Aliyev and President of the Russian Federation V.V. Putin, met in Sochi on October 31, 2022 and discussed the implementation of the trilateral statements of November 9, 2020, January 11 and November 26, 2021.

We reaffirmed our commitment to strictly observe all the above-mentioned agreements based on the interests of the comprehensive settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations, ensuring peace, stability, security and sustainable economic development in the South Caucasus. We agreed to

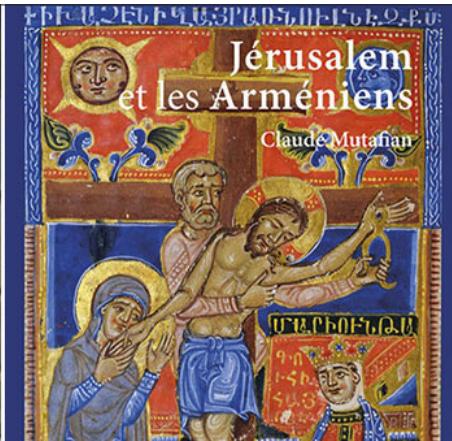
make additional efforts towards the urgent solution of the remaining issues, including those of humanitarian nature.

Noting the key contribution of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in ensuring security in the area of its deployment, we emphasized the importance of its efforts aimed at stabilizing the situation in the region.

We agreed to refrain from the use of force or the threat of its use, to discuss and resolve all problematic issues solely on the basis of mutual recognition of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, in accordance with the UN Charter and the 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration.

We emphasized the importance of active preparations for the signing of a peace treaty between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan with the aim of achieving sustainable and long-term peace in the region. Based on the available working

## Dr. Claude Mutafian to Speak on “Jerusalem and the Armenians until the Ottoman Conquest (1516)”



FRESNO -- Dr. Claude Mutafian will give a presentation on “Jerusalem and the Armenians until the Ottoman Conquest (1516)” at 7:00PM on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, on the Fresno State campus.

In the four-fold division of the Old City of Jerusalem, the Christian and the Armenian Quarters are contiguous but independent. This situation corresponds to the ancientness and the importance of the Armenian presence. Jerusalem has indeed remained a myth for Armenians since the 4th century, when Christianity was proclaimed a national religion.

The relations of the Armenians with the Holy City have never ceased, and they culminated at the time of the Crusades, which gave the opportunity to found in Cilicia, at the end of the 11th century, an Armenian State bordering Frankish Syria, which was to convert into a Kingdom one century later. Jerusalem was then home to the seat of an Armenian Patriarchate and the cultural activity was intense: inscriptions, sculptures, mosaics, pieces of goldsmithery, superb manuscripts decorated with miniatures which are among the masterpieces of Armenian art. Under the rule of the Mamluks, Armenian culture continued to flourish in Jerusalem, and the accounts of European travelers never omitted a section devoted to the Armenians.

Today, Jerusalem is the most important repository of Armenian culture outside Armenia.

The aim of Dr. Mutafian’s new book is to present the relations be-

options, an agreement was reached to continue the search for mutually acceptable solutions. The Russian Federation will provide every possible assistance to it.

We emphasized the importance of creating a positive atmosphere between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan for the continuation of the dialogue between the representatives of societies, expert communities and religious leaders with the assistance of Russia, as well as for the start of trilateral inter-parliamentary contacts aimed at strengthening

tween Armenia and Jerusalem in their historical and artistic context. The abundance of maps and genealogical charts makes it easy to read. The iconography plays a fundamental role, the text being essentially treated as captions for images, let them be reproductions of miniatures, monuments, works of art, or manuscript pages of historians and travelers.

In his talk, Dr. Mutafian will discuss the Armenians of Jerusalem and also his new book.

Claude Armen Mutafian is the son of parents who were survivors of the 1915 Genocide. His father is the well-known painter Zareh Mutafian. His studies lead him towards Mathematics, and he taught for more than 40 years in various Universities: Paris, Princeton, New Jersey, Havana, Mexico, and Yerevan. His passion has always been History and he has written about the Genocide and Karabagh, but his main field of interest remains the Medieval period, in particular Cilician Armenia and its relations with the Crusaders and the Mongols. Cilicia at the Crossroad of Empires was published in 1988, and the Historical Atlas of Armenia in 2001.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking is available in Fresno State Lots P6 and P5, near the University Business Center, Fresno State. A free parking code can be obtained by contacting the Armenian Studies Program.

For information about upcoming Armenian Studies Program presentations, please follow us on our Facebook page, [@ArmenianStudiesFresnoState](https://www.facebook.com/ArmenianStudiesFresnoState) or at the Program website, <https://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies>.

the trust between the peoples of the two countries.

The leaders of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan praised the readiness of the Russian Federation to continue contributing in every possible way to the normalization of relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, to ensuring stability and prosperity in the South Caucasus.”

Neither Aliyev nor Pashinyan made public statements right after the summit preceded by their separate talks with Putin.















