

















# massis Weekly

Volume 44, No. 13

Saturday, April 6, 2024

## French Foreign Minister Slams Azerbaijani Claims on Armenian Territory



PARIS — French Foreign Minister Stéphane Séjourné has expressed concern over Azerbaijani claims on Armenian territory, the fake news coming from Baku.

"We have reaffirmed our commitment to the territorial integrity of Armenia, which is now being questioned by Azerbaijan, and let me say how worried we are about that, given that Azerbaijan's rhetoric is getting out of hand," Séjourné said at a joint press conference with visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"We are very worried given that the rhetoric of Azerbaijan is getting out of hand, and we also see an increased number of fake news coming from Baku, and they try to blame Armenia

for an escalation even though Armenia is probably the only one willing and trying to avoid it in this part of the world.

The French foreign minister said that they see many similarities with what Russia is applying to Ukraine, calling for attention to this issue six months before COP29 in Baku.

On April 1, the CSTO responded to Yerevan's demand to clarify its zone of responsibility in Armenia by saying that "the CSTO's zone of responsibility ends where the state border passes, which is settled bilaterally between Armenia and its neighbors."

Referring specifically to Azerbaijan and its refusal to recognize territorial integrity of Armenia.

## Massis Publishing Presents: U.S. Premiere of "RED" Documentary

PASADENA - Massis Publishing is thrilled to present the U.S. premiere of "RED," an English-subtitled documentary film produced and directed by Kadir Akin. The screening will take place on Thursday, April 18, 2024, starting at 8:00 PM at the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Cultural Center located at 2495 E Mountain St, Pasadena, CA 91104.

"RED" is based on the groundbreaking book "Armenian Revolutionary Paramaz - Armenian Socialists and Genocide from Abdulhamid to Ittihad Terakki," authored by Kadir Akin. The film delves into the profound themes of justice and loyalty, exploring the intricate history and struggles of Armenian revolutionaries amidst the backdrop of the Armenian Genocide.

The screening will be followed



by a Q&A session featuring the esteemed director, Kadir Akin, and special guest Garo Paylan, former Deputy of the Turkish Parliament. This discussion promises unique insights into the film's production, the evolution of regional ideology, and current geopolitical affairs.

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## Their Can Be No Other Government in Armenia Apart From the Armenian Government. PM Pashinyan



YEREVAN — Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan lambasted Nagorno-Karabakh's exiled leaders taking refuge in Armenia, for continuing to present themselves as a government in exile and threatened to crack down on them on Thursday.

Opening a weekly session of his cabinet, Pashinyan stressed for three times that "there can be no government in Armenia apart from the government of Armenia."

"I cannot but note that certain circles of people displaced from

Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) are voluntarily or involuntarily taking steps that pose a threat to Armenia's national security. They proclaim some governments in exile and so on. I want to say clearly that there is one government in Armenia, and this government is sitting in this hall," Pashinyan said at a government session on Thursday.

"If somebody in Armenia identifies themselves as a government [in exile,] then it's a national security

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## Armenian Authorities Not Going to Even Discuss Surrender of Any Territories – Parliament Speaker



YEREVAN (Arka) — Armenian authorities are not going to even discuss the surrender of any territories (to Azerbaijan), Parliament Speaker Alen Simonyan said in an interview with the Public Television of Armenia, commenting on the situation with villages in Tavush region of the country.

"First, in Armenia, it is forbidden by law to surrender anything to anyone. Second, Armenian authorities are not going to even discuss such a thing about any territory of the country," he said.

He described talk about surren-

dering villages in Tavush, particularly Voskepar village, to Azerbaijan "despicable speculations" and noted that these are the territories where the Armenian side is ready for starting the border delimitation process with Azerbaijan.

"What is ours will remain ours, what is theirs will remain theirs," he said, adding that the Armenian side is waiting for Baku's response.

According to Simonyan, there is no gas pipeline branch in this border area, but there is a section of the road

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## Armenia Blocks Russian TV Programs for Offensive Contents

YEREVAN — Armenia has blocked pro-Kremlin Russian TV host Vladimir Solovyov's shows on its territory over continuous violations of a 2020 Russian-Armenian agreement that allowed the Russia-1 channel to retain its slot in Armenia's national digital package accessible to viewers across the country.

The Television and Radio Broadcasting Network agency cited provisions of the agreement banning "offensive content against peoples and national values" and "interference in domestic political life."

The Armenian government earlier sent a protest note to Moscow over comments made by Solovyov and another Russian media figure, Margarita Simonyan, during a February 25 talk show. They said that Armenian leaders should be mindful of what they called disastrous consequences of Western intervention in other ex-Soviet states.

Solovyov continued to attack Yerevan's increasingly pro-Western foreign policy after that complaint. He warned that Armenians risk losing their statehood because of it.

Minister of High-Technology Industry Mkhitar Hayrapetyan announced



on March 18 that Armenian and Russian officials will meet in Moscow soon to discuss Armenian proposals regarding the content of retransmitted Russian programs. Hayrapetyan's press office declined to clarify on Friday whether the talks took place and, if so, resulted in any agreements.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry already summoned the Russian ambassador in Yerevan last October to condemn Channel One, the other Russian broadcaster accessible in Armenia, for disparaging PM Nikol Pashinyan during an hour-long program.

## Varsen Aghabekian Appointed Foreign Minister in New Palestinian Government

RAMALLAH — Palestinian Authority Prime Minister-designate Mohammad Mustafa has presented his government's action plan and proposed formation list to President Mahmoud Abbas for confidence under the Basic Law for its approval, WAFA reports.

Palestinian Armenian Varsen Aghabekian has been appointed Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in the new cabinet.

Aghabekian was born in Jordan in 1958. She is a member of the Higher Presidential Committee for Church Affairs in Palestine. In 1983, she received a master's degree at Purdue University, Indiana, USA, and a doctorate in political affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1988-2008, Aghabekian worked at the University of Jerusalem as an associate professor, and then—as a dean.

The new government's program emphasizes that its political reference is based on that of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its international commitments, and the assignment letter



directed from President Mahmoud Abbas to the government.

The government program prioritizes humanitarian issues, encompassing a comprehensive plan for humanitarian aid and immediate relief for the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, as well as recovery and reconstruction efforts in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. It also focuses on efforts to stabilize the financial situation and its economic impact.

## Armenian, UK Defense Representatives Hold Bilateral Talks in London



LONDON -- Within the framework of defense cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and the United Kingdom, discussions on combating corruption were held in London from March 28 to 29, the Armenian Defense Ministry said.

The Armenian delegation was headed by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia, Hamlet Batikyan.

During the event, a meeting with the delegation of the UK Ministry of Defense led by the Director General of Security Policy, Paul Wyatt, and the Director of Defence Assurance, Guy Lester, took place.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Varuzhan

Nersesyan, also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, issues related to Armenia-UK cooperation in the fight against corruption were discussed.

Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense Hamlet Batikyan presented the current anti-corruption programs of the Ministry of Defence. The British delegation shared their expertise and methodologies in this field, expressing readiness to provide necessary assistance to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia.

During the discussions, a number of agreements were reached in the direction of implementing joint projects, providing expert and methodical support.

against Ukraine, occupation of Georgia's sovereign territory and destabilizing actions in the region and around the world. Therefore, we cannot regard Russia as a reliable ally or partner in the South Caucasus or elsewhere," added the department.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has pledged to "diversify" Armenia's foreign and security policy in response to what he sees as Russia's failure to

defend his country against Azerbaijani attacks. Amid mounting tensions with Moscow, he has frozen Armenia's membership in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and threatened to leave the Russian-led military alliance altogether. Pashinyan and his allies say that closer security ties with the West will help the country

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## US State Department Responds to RAND Corporation Report on Prospects of Yerevan-Washington Relations

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**The U.S. Can't Guarantee Armenia's Security, Despite Azerbaijan's Threats, but It Can Help**

COMMENTARY — Mar 14, 2024

The U.S. Can't Guarantee Armenia's Security, Despite Azerbaijan's Threats, but It Can Help

"Yerevan is going to maintain complex economic, social, and strategic relations with its neighbors, including both Russia and Iran, and it would be folly to pressure them to make an all-or-nothing binary choice between a Western alignment or nothing. The West should recognize and accept Armenia's multi-alignment and focus on areas where it is comparatively able and willing to deepen ties and foster stability," concluded the RAND analysts.

Commenting on these policy recommendations to the Voice of America on Tuesday, the State Department said the U.S. is expanding its relations with Armenia to support the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and "democratic development." Washington, it said, also welcomes "any bona fide engagement that brings peace and stability to the South Caucasus nations."

"We have witnessed Russia's continuing devastating aggression

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. State Department has pointed to Russia's "destabilizing actions" in the South Caucasus, responding to analysts from an influential U.S. think-tank who warned Armenia against severing ties with Moscow and fully aligning with the West.

In an article published on March 14, Joe Haberman and Paul Cormarie of the RAND Corporation argued that the United States "cannot play the role of security guarantor" for Armenia even if it decides to supply the latter with some defensive weapons.

"It is thus hardly feasible to fully pivot away from Moscow, which despite its current preoccupation with Ukraine could still impose disastrous costs to Armenia," they wrote. "Armenia's national interests would be best served by hedging its security relationship with Russia without unduly alienating Moscow by abandoning it altogether."



## “Armenian Memory, Writing Across Borders: A Reading and Talk” with Pulitzer prize-winning Poet Peter Balakian

FRESNO — Pulitzer prize-winning poet Peter Balakian will speak on “Armenian Memory, Writing Across Borders: A Reading and Talk” at 7:00PM on Monday, April 22, 2024, in the University Business Center (UBC), Alice Peters Auditorium, on the Fresno State campus. A reception will precede the presentation from 6:00-7:00PM in the UBC Gallery. The event is supported by the Florence Elaine Hamparson Armenian Memorial Fund.

Balakian will read and discuss his poetry and prose with a focus on Armenian historical and cultural memory and diasporan imagination. In his many books of poems and his memoir *Black Dog of Fate*, Balakian has explored – in his distinct poetic form and elliptical language – traumatic intergenerational memory of the Armenian Genocide, as well as the power and beauty of Armenian culture: visual art, architecture, music, and Armenia’s dramatic, natural landscapes.

Peter Balakian is the author of 8 books of poems and 4 books of prose and 3 collaborative translations and several edited books. *Ozone Journal* won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for poetry, *Black Dog of Fate*, a memoir won the 1998 PEN/Martha Albrand Prize for the Art of the Memoir, and was a best book of the year for the New York Times, the LA Times, and Publisher’s Weekly; *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response* won the 2005 Raphael Lemkin Prize and was a New York Times Notable Book and a New York Times Best Seller. His collaborative translation of Grigoris Balakian’s Armenian *Golgotha: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide* was a Washington Post book of the year. *Vice and Shadow: Essays on the Lyric Imagination, Poetry, Art, and Culture* was published in 2016.

Balakian is the recipient of many awards and prizes and civic citations: the Pulitzer Prize, The Presidential Medal and the Movses



Khorenatsi Medal from the Republic of Armenia, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, The Spendlove Prize for Social Justice, Tolerance, and Diplomacy (recipients include President Carter); and The Emily Clark Balch Prize for poetry from the Virginia Quarterly Review. He has appeared widely on national television and radio programs such as 60 Minutes, PBS News Hour, ABC World News Tonight, Charlie Rose, CNN, C-SPAN, NPR, and Fresh Air, and his work has been translated into a dozen languages and foreign editions including Armenian, Arabic, Bulgarian, French, Dutch, Greek, German, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Tamil, Turkish.

Balakian is Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities, Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at Colgate University.

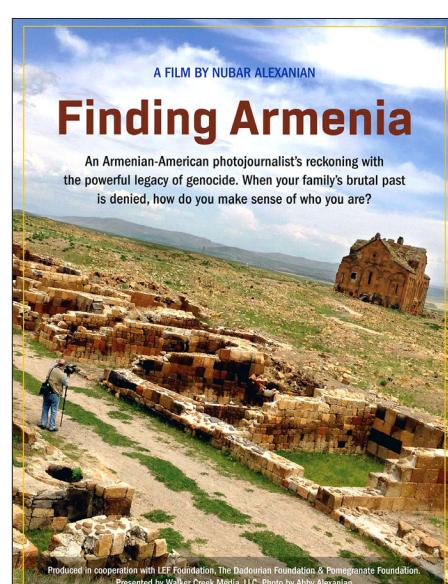
A selection of Balakian’s books will be on sale at the event. The lecture is free and open to the public. Free parking is available, with a parking code provided at the lecture, in Fresno State Lot P6, near the University Business Center, 5245 N. Backer Ave., Fresno State.

The presentation will also be live-streamed on YouTube at: <https://bit.ly/armenianstudiesyoutube>.

## NAASR to Host First Public Screening of Nubar Alexanian’s Film “Finding Armenia”

BELMONT, MA — The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will host the first-ever public screening of *Finding Armenia*, a documentary by Nubar Alexanian, on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. at its Vartan Gregorian Building, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA. This movie screening is free and open to the general public.

This special program in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide is jointly sponsored by NAASR with Amaras Art Alliance, the Armenian Cultural Foundation, the Armenian Museum of America, Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, Project SAVE



Armenian Photograph Archives, and

## Armenian Sacred Music Project Announces Fall 2024 Scholarship Winners



LOS ANGELES – The Armenian Sacred Music Project takes great pride in recognizing and supporting the exceptional achievements of six university students. Through the Kinarik Altinyuzuk Scholarship Fund, the non-profit is embarking on a historic journey to sponsor and safeguard the rich heritage of Armenian sacred music, and continue fostering its growth among students across the United States, Europe, and Armenia. The Kinarik Altinyuzuk Scholarship Fund is proud to disperse \$4,500 USD in total financial aid to this fall semester’s scholarship recipients.

“I am proud to honor the legacy and life of my beloved grandmother by ensuring that her passion and love for the Armenian Apostolic Church and sacred music continues to survive and thrive for deserving students.” – Sevag Derderian, Founder and President

Alina Adamyan: Karlsruhe University of Music Karlsruhe, Germany  
Major: Music; Violin  
Tigran Mardanyan: Boston Conservatory Boston, MA  
Major: Music; Piano

Robert Melkumyan: The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance, London, England

Major: Creative Music

Samvel Davtyan: Yerevan State Conservatory Yerevan, Armenia  
Major: Music; Trombone  
Lilia Medea Yaralian: University of Maryland Maryland, Washington D.C.  
Major: Ethnomusicology

Alexandra Yaralian: University of Maryland Maryland, Washington D.C.  
Major: Ethnomusicology  
The Armenian Sacred Music Project invites all faithful and community members to champion these students as they continue their musical education and promote Armenian sacred and secular music within their communities and parishes.

To support the Armenian Sacred Music Project in their initiatives, please email [hello@sacred-music.org](mailto:hello@sacred-music.org) or visit [www.sacred-music.org](http://www.sacred-music.org)

Tekeyan Cultural Association.

The program will be introduced by esteemed filmmaker and producer Theodore Bogosian and will include remarks by and discussion with director Nubar Alexanian and editor Sabrina Zanella-Foresi following the screening.

An intimate portrayal of one man’s search for the essence of an Armenian identity, Massachusetts native Nubar Alexanian’s *Finding Armenia* not only provides a vital history lesson for those unfamiliar with the Armenian Genocide, but also challenges its viewers to grapple with the profound questions that influence all of our identities. What does the healing of intergenerational trauma look like? What does it mean to regain control of our ancestral narratives? How can these narratives be reconciled with a hostile world? And what responsibility do we have to painful histories, even when they are not our own?

Nubar Alexanian is a documentary photographer whose work has been featured in major magazines in the United States and Europe, including *The New York Times Magazine*, *Life*, *Fortune*, *Geo*, *The New Yorker*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and others. For the past 40 years, he has travelled to more than 30 countries focusing on long-term personal projects that describe the human condition. He is a Fulbright Scholar with six books in print and one-person exhibitions at the Walker Art Center, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Caren Golden Fine Art Gallery (NYC), Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, LOOK3 Festival of the Photograph, Clark University, and The Burden Gallery, New York.

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

1915  
GENOCIDE  
CONTINUES  
2024

APRIL 24  
4:30 PM

AGC  
COMMUNITY WIDE  
PUBLIC EVENT

PARCHER PLAZA  
GLENDALE CITY HALL  
613 E. BROADWAY, GLENDALE, CA

## Armenian Genocide Commemoration Events



WATCH ON  
APRIL 24  
7:00 PM



AGC's ONE HOUR  
ONLINE SPECIAL  
PROGRAM

[WWW.AGC1915.ORG](http://WWW.AGC1915.ORG)

APRIL 21  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
**GNAZ**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**WITH AMERICAN**  
**RED CROSS**  
ARMENIAN CHURCH  
OF THE NAZARENE  
411 E ACACIA AVE.  
GLENDALE, CA

APRIL 21  
4:30PM  
**CITY OF GLENDALE**  
COMMEMORATION  
ALEX THEATRE  
216 N BRAND BLVD,  
GLENDALE, CA

APRIL 24  
10:00 AM  
**UACLA**  
**RELIGIOUS**  
**CEREMONY &**  
**PLACEMENT OF**  
**FLOWERS**  
MONTEBELLO  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE  
MONUMENT

APRIL 24  
12:00 PM  
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Massis Publishing Presents  
the US Premiere of

# RED

*"Where there is no justice,  
every loyalty is false."*



English Subtitled, Documentary Film  
Produced and Directed by

**KADİR AKIN**

*Based on the book "Armenian Revolutionary  
Paramaz-Armenian Socialists and Genocide from  
Abdulhamid to Ittihat Terakki" written by Kadir Akin*

Q&A Following Screening with  
film producer and director Kadir Akin and

*Special Guest*

**GARO PAYLAN**

*Former Deputy Turkish Parliament*

**THURSDAY APRIL 18, 2024**

starting 8:00pm

AGBU VATCHE & TAMAR MANOUKIAN CULTURAL CENTER  
2495 E Mountain St, Pasadena, CA 91104

**Free Admission, Reservation Required**

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