

massis Weekly

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Saturday, JUNE 25, 2022

U.S. Administration Emphasizes Expansion and Strengthening of Cooperation with Armenia



YEREVAN -- Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received on Saturday, US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Karen Donfried who was on a whirlwind trip to all three South Caucasus countries.

The Prime Minister highlighted the continuous development and expansion of the Armenian-American relations, noting that Mrs. Donfried's visit is another opportunity to discuss issues on the bilateral agenda. Nikol Pashinyan praised the US assistance in effectively advancing the Armenian government's democratic reforms, adding that the development of democracy is one of the key priorities of the Government.

During her meetings with PM Pashinyan, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, and Security Council Secretary Armen Grigoryan, Donfried again underscored Washington's commitment to expanding bilateral ties and support for "the common values of democracy, protection of human rights, and the rule of law."

Armenian officials briefed Donfried on three prongs of ongoing

diplomatic efforts with Azerbaijan: talks to normalize relations, efforts to unblock transport connections, and steps to delimit the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. They repeated Yerevan's position that the Minsk Group should mediate a comprehensive settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

The Prime Minister highlighted the strengthening of stability and peace in the region and stressed the need for an adequate response from the international community to provocative statements and actions undermining regional stability, peace and stability. At the same time, Nikol Pashinyan stressed the key role of the United States as a Co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, emphasizing the need for the process of the comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to take place within the framework of the Minsk Group Co-chairs' format.

In an interview with RFE/RL's Armenian Service Donfried said:

"The U.S. has continued to say

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Aliyev Threatens Armenia For Bringing up Karabakh Status Issue

BAKU — Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev last Thursday warned Armenia against bringing up the status of Nagorno-Karabakh in peace talks with Azerbaijan and again demanded a land corridor passing through Armenian territory.

"Armenia's leadership must give up attempts to rewrite history," Aliyev told an international conference in Baku. "History has already been written and there is oral agreement that nobody will talk about the status. Unfortunately, there is talk about that, which could lead to very serious consequences."

"If Armenia continues to call into question Azerbaijan's territorial integrity then Azerbaijan will have no choice but do the same [against Armenia]," he said.

In that context, Aliyev again de-



scribed Armenia's southeastern Syunik

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Any Comprehensive Peace Between Armenia and Azerbaijan Should Address Future Status of Nagorno Karabakh



YEREVAN — A comprehensive peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan should address the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh's future status, Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan insisted on Friday.

Mirzoyan discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejcinovic Buric during her visit to Yerevan.

"I particularly emphasized the fact that by attempting to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh conflict by the use of force in 2020, as well as by invading the sovereign territory of Armenia, Azerbaijan has grossly violated its commitments undertaken with the accession to the Council of Europe, and this must be properly

addressed by the Council of Europe and its member-states", the Armenian FM said during a joint press conference with the CoE Secretary General following their meeting.

"I reaffirmed the Armenian government's readiness to make efforts to establish peace and stability in the region," he said after their meeting. "In this context, it is fundamental to address the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which should include the key provisions of ensuring the security and all rights of the Artsakh people and determining Nagorno-Karabakh's status."

"The people of Artsakh have the same rights as everyone and the fact of being in the conflict zone cannot de-

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Global Startup Ecosystem Index Report 2022: Armenia highest ranking Country, Yerevan highest ranking city in Caucasus region



YEREVAN -- Armenia has moved 5 spots up to be ranked at 60th globally in StartupBlink's annual Global Startup Ecosystem Index Report 2022.

Armenia continues to be 1st in the Caucasus region, with more than double the total score of Georgia, the 2nd in the region, suggesting Armenia will continue to hold this position in the

near future.

With Yerevan as Armenia's only ranked city, the country's ranking depends greatly on its capital city. In 2022, Yerevan entered the top 250 city ranking globally. Yerevan has seen a major jump, improving by 38 spots to

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Armenia Is Not Only a Partner, It Is Also Our Strategic Ally- Putin



ST PETERSBURG -- Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted on Saturday, his Armenian counterpart Vahagn Khachaturyan on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

Meeting for the first time, Putin and Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan exchanged pleasantries and committed to deepening cooperation between their two countries.

"Armenia is not only our partner, it is our strategic ally, and we value this. We understand everything that is happening in and around Armenia today," Putin said. "We are interested in ensuring that the situation in the country is stable and guarantees sustained development."

The Armenian president thanked Putin for inviting him to the forum, noting that as an economist he's followed the annual event over the years.

"The Armenian people appreciate your efforts aimed at settling the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. I can say

that your efforts to end the war are appreciated not only by me, but I also know that the people of Armenia appreciate it. It was very important that the war was stopped. It is very important for us that the agreements reached are observed," Khachaturyan said.

The Armenian president said relations between the two countries are based on "historical friendship" and are of a "brotherly nature."

"There is no need to say that you are a good brother, or you are a bad brother. Brotherly relations are like that. The essence and philosophy is like that. It's everything. It's trust, it's sincerity. It's joint plans and actions that must continue to be implemented," Khachaturyan told Putin.

Khachaturyan notably revealed after the meeting that the Kremlin privately conceded it made an "oversight" in Parukh by allowing Azerbaijani troops to advance their position toward the village in March.

Human Rights Defender Briefs US Assistant Secretary on Azerbaijani Policy of Ethnic Hatred Towards Armenians of Artsakh



YEREVAN—Armenia's Human Rights Defender Kristinne Grigoryan held meeting with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs) Erika Olson.

Presenting the main directions of the work of the Office of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia, Kristinne Grigoryan shared with Erika Olson information on the situation of the rights of the persons living in Nagorno-Karabakh, registering the continuous manifestations of the Azerbaijani policy of ethnic hatred towards the Armenians of Artsakh.

"The rights to life, safe environment, education, healthcare, property and other rights are violated on a daily basis in Artsakh," said the Human Rights Defender. The Deputy Assistant Secretary Ms. Olsen also inquired about the Police reform process.

Among other issues related to human rights protection, Ms. Kristinne Grigoryan stressed the need for comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, as well as the need for an effective combat against hate speech. The parties outlined specific directions of cooperation.

Armenia's Anti-Corruption Committee and U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation Sign Memorandum of Cooperation



WASHINGTON, DC -- Armenia's Anti-Corruption Committee and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have signed a memorandum of cooperation.

On part of Armenia the memo was signed by Mushegh Babayan, the acting deputy chairman of the Anti-corruption Committee, who visited Washington, D.C. June 12-17, 2022.

Armenia's Anti-Corruption Committee said the purpose of the memorandum is to ensure direct communication and exchange of information between the two agencies that perform similar functions, cooperation in the fight against corruption crimes, organization of exchange programs, training courses and working discussions.

An agreement was reached with

the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Narcotics and Law Enforcement Agencies of the U.S. State Department that after the staff of the Anti-Corruption Committee is formed, retraining courses and study visits be organized for Armenian staff to help them develop professional knowledge and capacities through studying best international practices.

Babayan met with representatives of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of State's Office of Drug Enforcement, Law Enforcement Cooperation, the World Anti-Corruption Coordination Office, and other agencies.

Babayan and U.S. officials discussed the methodology of investigating corruption cases, including money laundering and illicit enrichment.

Georgia and Armenia Prime Ministers Meets in Dilijan



DILIJAN -- Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan hosted his Georgian counterpart, Irakli Gharibashvili, in the Armenian resort town of Dilijan on Saturday.

The two PMs said that the high-level intensive contacts show that the Armenian-Georgian relations are dynamically developing and the political

dialogue is at a high level.

They discussed issues and prospects of Armenia-Georgia cooperation and exchanged views on the regional situation and developments..

The sides reaffirmed the readiness to consistently deepen the friendly ties and agreed to continue the active dialogue.

U.S. Administration Emphasizes

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that we support the Minsk Group co-chair process. We continue to believe that it is a very important format, particularly on Nagorno-Karabakh, and it is essential that we keep various formats in play to try to advance peace.

And we will continue to do that going forward."

Asked whether Washington is ready for fresh contacts with Moscow for that purpose, Donfried said: "Yes. Russia is a Minsk Group co-chair. France, the U.S. and Russia would continue in that format."

Armenia is One of Ten Safest Countries of the World



YEREVAN (Arka) — Armenia is among the top ten countries with the lowest crime rate in the world, according to the independent international organization World Population Review.

In the 2022 ranking Armenia is ahead of other countries of the region and all former Soviet republics with the lowest crime rate of 22.79. Neighboring Georgia is ranked 14th (24.3 crime rate), Azerbaijan is 35th (32.25), Russia is 49th (39.62), Turkey is 50th (39.69) and Iran is 90th (49.11).

Qatar is the safest country in the ranking. In addition to Armenia, the

top 10 also include the UAE, Taiwan, the Isle of Man, Oman, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Japan and Slovenia.

The top ten most unsafe countries are Venezuela, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Afghanistan, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, El Salvador, Brazil and Jamaica.

World Population Review Crime Index is calculated based on the total number of registered crimes of any kind per total population. Dependence on poverty and unemployment, police control and court sentences are taken into account, and there is also a strong correlation between age and crime.

Eric Esrailian Elected to the Board of Trustees of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures

LOS ANGELES -- Dr. Eric Esrailian has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures along with Julia S. Gouw and Shira Ruderman.

Ted Sarandos, Board Chair and Co-CEO of Netflix, said, "We are thrilled to welcome these three extraordinary leaders, who have already done so much.. for our community, and the industry at large... As members of our board, they will support and guide the Academy Museum in realizing its ambitious mission of increasing public appreciation for the arts and sciences of moviemaking and exploring the ongoing, multifaceted history of film."

Dr. Eric Esrailian is a film producer, philanthropist, physician, and entrepreneur. He is also actively involved in philanthropic efforts and education. Dr. Esrailian has been a significant supporter of Academy Museum educational programs and is part of the leadership of several philanthropic organizations, including the Motion Picture



& Television Fund.

He has produced films, including *The Promise* (2016) by Terry George, starring Oscar Isaac and Christian Bale. He also produced the educational companion documentary *Intent to Destroy* (2017) with Joe Berlinger, which was nominated for an Outstanding Historical Documentary Emmy. In 2019, Dr. Esrailian and his partners launched SOMM TV—a streaming service with original series, films, and master classes dedicated to wine and food.

Any Comprehensive Peace

Continued from page 1

prive the Armenians of Artsakh of their universal fundamental rights", Mirzoyan highlighted. "The humanitarian issues resulting from the aggression unleashed against Artsakh – the issues of the return of Armenian prisoners of war held in Azerbaijan and the humanitarian access to Artsakh remain unresolved, the politicization of which is unacceptable. The Anti-

Armenian and warmongering rhetoric, physical and psychological terror against the civilian population are unacceptable in the same way.

We believe that the Council of Europe, its relevant bodies and leaders should be more determined at least in the issues of Armenian prisoners of war and the humanitarian access to Artsakh, and put utmost effort so that the interim decisions of the European Court of Human Rights,

Armenia's Juliana Grigoryan Wins Grand Prix at Stanislaw Moniuszko Vocal Competition



prize went Yuliia Zasimova from Ukraine.

The first prize in the male voices category was not awarded, while the second prize went to Szymon Mechlinski from Poland and Volodymyr Tyshkov from Ukraine ex aequo and the third prize went to Rafael Alejandro Del Angel Garcia from Mexico.

With her interpretation of Halka's aria Nombulelo Yende won the year's Audience Award.

The final concert is available online on the VOD streaming platform of the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera and on OperaVision. It will also be retransmitted by the TVP Kultura at 3.15 p.m. on the 15th of June.

Global Startup Ecosystem Index Report 2022:

Continued from page 1

244th globally, and reversing its declining momentum from 2021.

This increase pushed Yerevan up the ladder in Eastern Europe, where it is now ranked 19th, versus 29th in 2021. Yerevan is the highest ranking city in the Caucasus region, with a safe margin. Its score is more than double Tbilisi's score, and more than triple Baku's score.

"As a landlocked country with restricted land access due to tensions with Turkey and Azerbaijan, the Armenian ecosystem manages to show true resilience. The Armenian government has long understood innovation is critical to the future of the country, and resources have been allocated to grow the ecosystem. In 2021, the tech sector in Armenia flourished, with new investments fueling growth," the report reads.

It reminds that the country's first unicorn, PicsArt, recently reached a US\$1 billion valuation. Moreover, the Armenian startup scene has seen growth in terms of entrepreneurship and tech development, with companies like Shadowmatic and YerevaNN receiving praise for designing deep learning technologies.

"A strong and successful Armenian diaspora is also supporting the Armenian economy, and several highly successful American entrepreneurs of

PACE Resolutions and the provisions of the memorandum of the Commissioner for Human Rights issues on November 8, 2021, be respected", he added.

Armenian origin, like Reddit founder Alexis Ohanian, are working to boost the local startup ecosystem. Armenian startups are built to target the global market from inception due to the small market size of the country. Armenia has a population of only 3 million people, but offers a sizable amount of tech talent. Additionally, the Armenian government does a great job of supporting tech startups, including tax incentives," the report says.

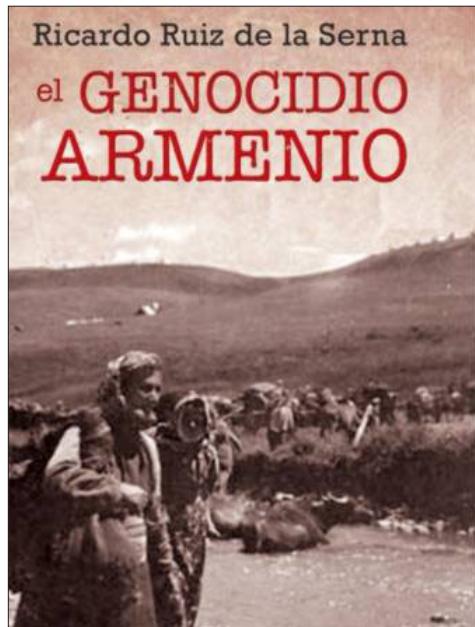
"To support foreign investment, Armenia established Free Economic Zones and full ownership among other incentives under the legal framework On Foreign Investments. During the past few years, Armenia made significant progress in reducing bureaucracy and corruption. While the Armenian startup ecosystems are still in their early stages and the country has work to do to recover from its turbulent past, there is substantial untapped potential waiting to come to the surface," it continues.

Since 2017, the index offers policymakers and startup ecosystem stakeholders insights into their startup economy, unveiling trends and momentum. The index is also used as a tool by founders and investors trying to discover the best ecosystems.

This year's report ranks the startup ecosystems of 1,000 cities and 100 countries, and features several new sections and an improved algorithm.

Mirzoyan's comments came the day after Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev warned Armenia against bringing up Karabakh's status in peace talks with Azerbaijan.

El Genocidio Armenio: Author of New Book Optimistic Over Recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Spain



YEREVAN -- A documentary book on Armenian Genocide has been published in Spain for the first time. Author of the book "Armenian Genocide" (El Genocidio Armenio), Ricardo Ruiz de la Serna, Associate Lecturer of Current World History at the international degrees of San Pablo CEU-University Madrid, has been studying the 1915 Armenian Genocide for years and advocating the Spanish recognition of the Genocide.

In an interview with ARMENPRESS, Ricardo Ruiz de la Serna said he wrote the book for justice aimed at raising awareness on the Armenian Genocide within the Spanish society.

"This book is just a modest contribution to set the facts and pave the way for a better understanding of the Armenian Genocide among the Spanish general public", he said.

Ricardo Ruiz de la Serna has no Armenian roots. He says he has been interested in Armenian culture since childhood thanks to his father who loved Armenian music. "After I visited the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in 2012, I decided to focus on the Armenian Genocide and have been reading and researching since then. After 10 years, it was high time to write something targeting the Spanish

audience. I wrote something about my personal progress some years ago", he said.

The author says that the book is a short history of the Genocide. It is covering the road to the Genocide – the Hamidian Massacres, the destruction of the Armenians in Cilicia, the ideological and political roots of political violence against Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, how it was perpetrated (legal framework, military and paramilitary units, etc) and the different stages of the genocide (massive arrests, deportations, confiscations, death marches through the desert, etc).

"However, I am also interested in the Armenian attempts to resist and fight. Sometimes people think that Armenians remained "silent like a lamb being led to the butcher" and accepted their terrible fate. It was not so. Wherever they could fight and resist, they did it. Probably the most famous example was the Armenian resistance in the Musa Dagh in July 1915", he added.

In his book Ricardo Ruiz de la Serna has also touched upon the material destruction and confiscation of Armenian-owned estate (houses, churches, businesses) and the unjust laws that made it possible.

Aliyev Threatens Armenia

Continued from page 1

province as a "historically Azerbaijani territory."

Aliyev already ruled out any discussions on Karabakh's status and threatened to lay claim to Armenian territory late last month. The Armenian Foreign Ministry deplored his "bellicose" statements. It said that "negotiations on the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan should be held on the basis of proposals of both sides."

Aliyev also reiterated his demands for a corridor that would connect Azerbaijan to its Nakhichevan exclave through Syunik. He said it should be similar to the existing Russian-controlled Lachin corridor connecting Karabakh and Armenia.

Aliyev implicitly threatened to resort to military action if the Armenian side continues to oppose such an

overland link for Nakhichevan.

"If they don't ensure that link for us it will be very hard to speak about peace," he warned.

Armenian leaders have repeatedly rejected such demands. They maintain that Armenian-Azerbaijani agreements brokered by Russia and the European Union call for only conventional transport links between the two South Caucasus states.

In response to a similar statement by Aliyev on May 27, the Armenian Foreign Ministry said that "ambitions for the sovereign territory of the neighboring state, the use of force to achieve these goals call into question the sincerity of Azerbaijan's intentions to achieve peace in the region."

"Moreover, the Armenian side believes that the security of Nagorno-Karabakh cannot be taken separately from the peace talks". The Foreign Ministry said.

USC Tacori Research Methods Workshops Expand in Armenia



The USC Institute of Armenian Studies is on a mission to provide the tools and resources necessary for students, instructors, and researchers in Armenia to enrich their work and integrate more deeply into global academic systems, including universities, conferences, and publications.

In April 2022, professors and researchers from three universities in Armenia gathered for phase one of a three-day hybrid seminar (remote & live) on research methods. The purpose was not only learning about best practices in research methods but also learning to teach research methodology to their own students. Weeks later, the same professors passed on their knowledge and skills and led their own training sessions for master's level students from all over Armenia and Artsakh.

"The continuity, sequence of topics, conducted over two sessions is multiplying the program's impact by not just training students, but training the instructors who will be teaching hundreds of students," said Institute Associate Director Syuzanna Petrosyan.

How is this done? Dr. Artineh

Samkian, an Associate Professor at the USC Rossier School of Education whose Ph.D. is in Social Research Methodology, from the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, is the Institute's leading partner in this endeavor. At the same time, on the ground in Armenia, Dr. Naira Sahakyan, a lecturer at both American University of Armenia and Yerevan State University and a researcher at the Genocide Museum-Institute, coordinates the selection of participating instructors and students.

"Dr. Samkian not only teaches research techniques, but she also specializes in teaching how to teach, how to relay information, how to formulate a curriculum," Petrosyan said.

The master's students, who are from Yerevan, Etchmiadzin, Vanadzor, and Stepanakert, come from a variety of academic backgrounds and are at a crucial point in their academic trajectories. The range of research interests include post-Soviet education in Armenia, Turkey's soft power, access to healthcare in the country, Qatar's foreign policy in the Caucasus, Armenia within Russia-Azerbaijan relations, and much more.

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The event will take place on
Saturday, June 25, 2022,
Starting from 7:00 p.m.
At AEBU Center

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