

For Six Month Period Ending 11/30/08  
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant

(b) Registration No. 5342

*office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the U.S.A.*

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

*140 19th Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036*

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
- |                           |                              |                             |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship           | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation            | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

- (b) If an organization:
- |                          |                              |  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| (1) Name                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

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IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C<sup>1</sup>, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes  No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes  No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

*N/A*

<sup>1</sup> The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Position Date connection ended

Mr. Vardan Barseghyan Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the U.S.A. 11/30/2008

(b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Residence address Citizenship Position Date assumed

Mr. Robert Avetisyan 320 23rd Street S., apt. 1003, Arlington VA 22202 Armenia Director 11/30/08

5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes  No

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

Mr. Robert Avetisyan ; Director, office of the NKR in the U.S.A.

(b) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Position or connection Date terminated

Mr. Vardan Barseghyan Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the U.S.A. 11/30/08

(c) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name Residence address Citizenship Position Date assumed

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes  No

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal<sup>2</sup> during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals<sup>2</sup> whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

*Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic*

10. EXHIBITS A AND B

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A<sup>3</sup> Yes  No   
Exhibit B<sup>4</sup> Yes  No  *N/A*

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during the 6 month period? Yes  No

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes  No

If no, please attach the required amendment.

<sup>2</sup> The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a)(9).) A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

<sup>3</sup> The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157), sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

<sup>4</sup> The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155), sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

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11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes  No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

*Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic*

*see attached*

- 
12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity<sup>5</sup> as defined below? Yes  No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates and places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

*Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic*

*see attached*

- 
13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes  No

If yes, describe fully.

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<sup>5</sup> The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS - MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes  No

If no, explain why.

*see attached*

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.

Date	From whom	Purpose	Amount
------	-----------	---------	--------

\$120,332.09  
Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign<sup>7</sup>, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes  No

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D<sup>8</sup> to your registration? Yes  No

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date \_\_\_\_\_

(c) RECEIPTS - THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value<sup>9</sup> other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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6, 7 A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS – MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes  No

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes  No

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To whom	Purpose	Amount
------	---------	---------	--------

*see attached*

*\$108,476.37*  
Total

**(b) DISBURSEMENTS - THINGS OF VALUE**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value<sup>10</sup> other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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**(c) DISBURSEMENTS - POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value<sup>11</sup> in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes  No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
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<sup>10, 11</sup> Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials<sup>12</sup>?  
Yes  No

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

*Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic*

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes  No

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- Radio or TV broadcasts
- Magazine or newspaper articles
- Motion picture films
- Letters or telegrams
- Advertising campaigns
- Press releases
- Pamphlets or other publications
- Lectures or speeches
- Internet
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- Public officials
- Newspapers
- Libraries
- Legislators
- Editors
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies
- Civic groups or associations
- Nationality groups
- Other (specify) Foreign embassies, NGOs

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- English
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes  No

12 The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI - EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature )

11/30/08

(Type or print name under each signature<sup>13</sup>)

Vardan Barseghian  
VARDAN BARSEGHIAN

Representative of the  
Nagorno Karabakh  
Republic to the U.S.

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<sup>13</sup> This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FARA REGISTRATION UNIT  
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

**NOTICE**

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

1. Is your answer to Item 16 of Section V (Informational Materials – page 8 of Form NSD-2, formerly Form CRM-154 Supplemental Statement):

YES \_\_\_\_\_ or NO \_\_\_\_\_

(If your answer to question 1 is "yes" do not answer question 2 of this form.)

2. Do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration:

YES  \_\_\_\_\_ or NO \_\_\_\_\_

(If your answer to question 2 is "yes" please forward for our review copies of all material including: films, film catalogs, posters, brochures, press releases, etc. which you have disseminated during the past six months.)

Vardan Barseghian  
Signature

11/30/08  
Date

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VARDAN BARSEGHIAN

Please type or print name of  
Signatory on the line above

Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic to U.S.  
Title



U.S. Department of Justice  
National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL  
STATEMENT - PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

**Short Form List for Registrant: Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the USA**

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Barseghyan	Vardan	11/12/1999	11/30/2008	Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the U.S.A.

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U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

Name	Function	Date Hired
<i>N/A</i>		

Signature: *Jordan Bassigian* Date: *11/30/08*

Title: *NKR Rep. to U.S.*

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**Question 11:**

During this 6-month period, have you engaged in any activity for or rendered any service to any foreign principal named in items 7, 8 and 9 of this statement? Yes

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

Activities on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

**Contacts**

Date: 7/4/08  
Contact: Members of the U.S. Congress: Frank Pallone and Joe Knollenberg  
Matthew Bryza, US Department of State  
Purpose: to forward NK Foreign minister's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter/mail

Date: 9/10/08  
Contact: Michael Carpenter, U.S. Department of State  
Purpose: to discuss regional developments, NK conflict settlement  
Contact manner: lunch meeting

Date: 9/17/08  
Contact: Editor of the Wall Street Journal  
Purpose: response to an article on Nagorno Karabakh  
Contact manner: letter/email

Date: 9/19/08  
Contact: Michael Carpenter, U.S. Department of State  
Purpose: to discuss regional developments, NK conflict settlement  
Contact manner: meeting

Date: 11/6/08  
Contact: Barack Obama, U.S. President-Elect  
Purpose: to forward NKR President's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter/fax

Date: 11/7/08  
Contact: Henrietta Fore, Administrator of the USAID  
Purpose: to forward NKR Prime Minister's letter  
Contact manner: letter/fax

Date: 11/12/08  
Contact: Members of the U.S. Congress: Frank Pallone, Adam Schiff  
Purpose: to arrange a meeting with NKR President Bako Sahakian  
Contact manner: letter/email

**Newsletter**

Date: 06/06/08, 07/01/08, 09/08/08, 10/07/08, 10/31/08,  
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR  
Availability: email

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## **Press-releases**

Date: 9/19/08  
Subject: Artsakh's Freedom Anniversary Marked on Capitol Hill  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

Date: 11/6/08  
Subject: Artsakh Welcomes 44<sup>th</sup> American President  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

## **Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts**

Date: 9/17/08  
Media: The Wall Street Journal  
Subject: Nagorno Karabakh Conflict

Date: 9/17/08  
Subject: Media Alert: Wall Street Journal Publishes NKR Letter  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

## **Registrant's attendance at conferences and public forums generally dealing with Nagorno Karabakh and surrounding region**

Date: 9/17/08  
Location: U.S. Capitol  
Speakers: Members of the U.S. Congress: Frank Pallone, Joe Knollenberg, Steve Rothman, George Radanovich, Shelly Berkley, Patrick Kennedy, Gus Bilirakis, Jim Costa, Tim Walz, Barney Frank; NKR Representative Barseghian

## **Assistance in arranging meetings/planning itineraries for visiting officials**

Date(s): November 18-28, 2008  
Official: Bako Sahakian, NKR President  
Itinerary: On invitation of the Armenia Fund, Inc. and Armenia Fund USA, Inc., meetings in New York, Boston and Los Angeles with media, experts, government officials and representatives of the Armenian-American community. Discussed issues related to the Nagorno Karabakh peace process and assistance to Nagorno Karabakh. In Glendale, California, participation in a televised fundraising for humanitarian and development projects in Nagorno Karabakh. On November 22, 2008 the President met with U.S. Representative Frank Pallone in New York, NY, to brief on situation in Nagorno Karabakh.

**Question 12:**

During this 6-month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity as defined below? Yes

Political activities on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic:

**Contacts**

Date: 7/4/08  
Contact: Members of the U.S. Congress: Frank Pallone and Joe Knollenberg  
Matthew Bryza, US Department of State  
Purpose: to forward NK Foreign minister's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter/mail

Date: 9/10/08  
Contact: Michael Carpenter, U.S. Department of State  
Purpose: to discuss regional developments, NK conflict settlement  
Contact manner: lunch meeting

Date: 9/17/08  
Contact: Editor of the Wall Street Journal  
Purpose: response to an article on Nagorno Karabakh  
Contact manner: letter/email

Date: 9/19/08  
Contact: Michael Carpenter, U.S. Department of State  
Purpose: to discuss regional developments, NK conflict settlement  
Contact manner: meeting

Date: 11/6/08  
Contact: Barack Obama, U.S. President-Elect  
Purpose: to forward NKR President's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter/fax

Date: 11/7/08  
Contact: Henrietta Fore, Administrator of the USAID  
Purpose: to forward NKR Prime Minister's letter  
Contact manner: letter/fax

Date: 11/12/08  
Contact: Members of the U.S. Congress: Frank Pallone, Adam Schiff  
Purpose: to arrange a meeting with NKR President Bako Sahakian  
Contact manner: letter/email

**Newsletter**

Date: 06/06/08, 07/01/08, 09/08/08, 10/07/08, 10/31/08,  
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR  
Availability: email

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Question 14 (a):

During this 6 month period, have you received from any foreign principal named in items 7,8 and 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interest of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.

The amount listed below is the total of such financial support and contributions to the NKR Office from all sources for the reporting period of 6/1/2008 - 11/30/2008.

Date	Name (first)	Name (last)	address line 1	line 2	city	state	zip	amount
6'08-11'08	Armenian Assembly of America		1140 19th Street, NW, Ste 600		Washington	DC	20036	14,701.88
09/18/08	Prelacy of the Armenian Church (East)		138 East 39th Street		New York	NY	10016	10,000.00
11/12/08	Lion Tusklines		5801 Randolph Street		Commerce	CA	90040	25,000.00
6'08-11'08	NKR Government		Stepanakert, NKR, Armenia					70,000.00
6'08-11'08	Other Private Donations & Income							630.21
<b>TOTAL</b>								<b>120,332.09</b>

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Question 15 (a):

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal of such monies, including transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Foreign Principal: The Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

The following is a breakdown of those expenses incurred by the NKR Office in the USA during the reporting period.

<b>NN</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1	Entertainment/meals: No U.S. officials or media representatives were guests	\$779.51
2	Health Insurance	\$8,452.68
3	Living expenses	\$43,400.00
4	Office Rent	\$6,249.20
5	Office Supplies & Other operational expenses	\$4,806.13
6	Parking	\$1,101.99
7	Postage/Courier	\$50.00
8	Registration/Subscription	\$130.00
9	Rent Housing Expats	\$24,960.52
10	Social/Residence/Miscellaneous	\$158.28
11	Telephone	\$4,421.76
12	Travel International: No U.S. officials or media representatives were quests	\$12,307.66
13	Travel Domestic: No U.S. officials or media representatives were quests	\$1,638.69
14	Website/Email	\$19.95
	<b>Total operating expenses and other disbursements:</b>	<b>\$108,476.37</b>

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**Press-releases**

Date: 9/19/08  
Subject: Artsakh's Freedom Anniversary Marked on Capitol Hill  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

Date: 11/6/08  
Subject: Artsakh Welcomes 44<sup>th</sup> American President  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

**Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts**

Date: 9/17/08  
Media: The Wall Street Journal  
Subject: Nagorno Karabakh Conflict

Date: 9/17/08  
Subject: Media Alert: Wall Street Journal Publishes NKR Letter  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

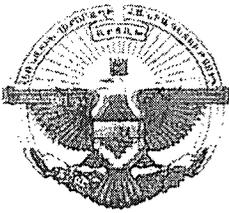
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**Registrant's attendance at conferences and public forums generally dealing with Nagorno Karabakh and surrounding region**

Date: 9/17/08  
Location: U.S. Capitol  
Speakers: Members of the U.S. Congress: Frank Pallone, Joe Knollenberg, Steve Rothman, George Radanovich, Shelly Berkley, Patrick Kennedy, Gus Bilirakis, Jim Costa, Tim Walz, Barney Frank; NKR Representative Barseghian

**Assistance in arranging meetings/planning itineraries for visiting officials**

Date(s): November 18-28, 2008  
Official: Bako Sahakian, NKR President  
Itinerary: On invitation of the Armenia Fund, Inc. and Armenia Fund USA, Inc., meetings in New York, Boston and Los Angeles with media, experts, government officials and representatives of the Armenian-American community. Discussed issues related to the Nagorno Karabakh peace process and assistance to Nagorno Karabakh. In Glendale, California, participation in a televised fundraising for humanitarian and development projects in Nagorno Karabakh. On November 22, 2008 the President met with U.S. Representative Frank Pallone in New York, NY, to brief on situation in Nagorno Karabakh.



**ԼՆՈՆԱՅԻՆ ԳԱՐԱԲԱԴԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ  
ԱՐՏԱՔԻՆ ԳՈՐԾԵՐԻ ԵՎԱԿԱՐԱՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ**

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ И АГТОРНО-КАРАБАХСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ  
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC**

Ստեփանակերտ  
Степанакерт  
Stepanakert

04 July 2008 թ.

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**The Honorable Frank Pallone  
U.S. House of Representatives**

Dear Congressman Pallone:

Please accept our sincere congratulations in connection with the Independence Day of the United States of America.

The American people saw many ordeals on its path to independent nation-building. Outstanding persistence, firmness and patriotism allowed your nation overcome the severe challenges and become a great democracy in the world.

Today the Nagorno Karabakh Republic is striving for international recognition of its independence and peaceful resolution of the conflict with Azerbaijan. Recognition of the democratic and viable NKR by the international community fully conforms with the modern realities and recent trends of conflict resolution. We are encouraged by the approach that gives a due respect to the peoples' right to self-determination.

We highly appreciate your efforts as Co-chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus and hope that our continued cooperation will help to bring about lasting peace, stability and prosperity for the benefit of all nations in the South Caucasus.

We are also grateful to the U.S. Government and the American people for the moral and financial support provided to the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

Once again, congratulations to you and the entire American nation on this Holiday and best wishes for future achievements and prosperity to your great country.

Sincerely,

**Georgy Petrossian**

**Minister**



**ԼՆՈՆԱՅԻՆ ԳԱՐԱԲԱԴԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ  
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**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ НАГОРНО - КАРАБАХСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ  
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC**

Ստեփանակերտ  
Степанакерт  
Stepanakert

04 July 200 Ջթ.

N 13/505

**The Honorable Joe Knollenberg  
U.S. House of Representatives**

Dear Congressman Knollenberg:

Please accept our sincere congratulations in connection with the Independence Day of the United States of America.

The American people saw many ordeals on its path to independent nation-building. Outstanding persistence, firmness and patriotism allowed your nation overcome the severe challenges and become a great democracy in the world.

Today the Nagorno Karabakh Republic is striving for international recognition of its independence and peaceful resolution of the conflict with Azerbaijan. Recognition of the democratic and viable NKR by the international community fully conforms with the modern realities and recent trends of conflict resolution. We are encouraged by the approach that gives a due respect to the peoples' right to self-determination.

We highly appreciate your efforts as Co-chair of the Congressional Armenian Caucus and hope that our continued cooperation will help to bring about lasting peace, stability and prosperity for the benefit of all nations in the South Caucasus.

We are also grateful to the U.S. Government and the American people for the moral and financial support provided to the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

Once again, congratulations to you and the entire American nation on this Holiday and best wishes for future achievements and prosperity to your great country.

Sincerely,

**Georgy Petrossian  
Minister**



**ԼՆՌՆԱՅԻՆ ՂԱՐԱԲԱՂԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ  
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**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ НАГОРНО - КАРАБАХСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ  
MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC**

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Степанакерт  
Stepanakert

04 July 200 թ.

N 13/507

**H.E. Ambassador Matthew J. Bryza  
US Co-Chairman  
OSCE Minsk Group**

Dear Mr. Bryza:

Please accept our sincere congratulations in connection with the Independence Day of the United States of America.

The American people saw many ordeals on its path to independent nation-building. Outstanding persistence, firmness and patriotism allowed your nation overcome the severe challenges and become a great democracy in the world.

Today the Nagorno Karabakh Republic is striving for international recognition of its independence and peaceful resolution of the conflict with Azerbaijan. The Nagorno Karabakh people and the authorities deeply appreciate the U.S. efforts as a Co-chair to the OSCE Minsk Group. We are convinced that together we can bring about lasting peace, stability and prosperity for the benefit of all nations in the South Caucasus.

We are also grateful to the U.S. Government and the American people for the moral and financial support provided to the people of Nagorno Karabakh.

Once again, congratulations to you and the entire American nation on this Holiday and best wishes for future achievements and prosperity to your great country.

Sincerely,

**Georgy Petrossian  
Minister**

## **Avoiding More Suffering In the Caucasus**

*Wall Street Journal Europe*

September 17, 2008

As civilians came under indiscriminate shelling last month in South Ossetia, uneasy memories were rekindled for many of us in the Caucasus who lived through the wars of the early 1990s.

As Thomas De Waal correctly mentions ("Caucasus Burning," editorial features, Aug. 19) if a new war breaks out in Nagorno-Karabakh -- read: if Azerbaijan attacks Karabakh -- it could result in even greater suffering and regional destabilization than what we have observed in Georgia.

If last month's tragedy is to become an effective lesson to the international community, we hope to see immediate, focused diplomacy to rein in Azerbaijan's aggressive posturing over Karabakh, condemnation of its officials' hate mongering, and implementation of existing agreements to strengthen the cease-fire. These steps could put our region on the path toward demilitarization and peace.

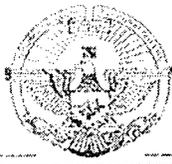
My country has repeatedly asked Azerbaijan to commit to nonuse of force and to implement confidence-building measures along the Line of Contact and, more broadly, between the two publics. Azerbaijan continues to refuse any such steps -- even cooperation on fighting natural disasters.

We know that the United States shares our view that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can only be resolved through peaceful means. Any settlement will be effective if it clearly reflects the realities on the ground and is based on the expressed will of the Nagorno-Karabakh people to live in freedom. We hope the United States and the other international mediators will not miss this opportunity.

**Vardan Barseghian**

**Representative of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic  
Washington**

2008 DEC 29 AM 11:31  
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President of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh

November 6, 2008

1-06/400

**To President-elect of the  
United States of America  
Mr. Barack Obama**

Honorable Mr. Obama,

On behalf of the people and authorities of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic I cordially congratulate You on the occasion of being elected as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. Your victory is an epoch-making event both in American history and world democracy.

Artsakh rates highly the role of the United States in peaceful settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict and the annual financial assistance provided by the USA to the Nagorno Karabagh Republic.

I am confident that with Your interest and support in solving issues the Armenian people face, under the new Administration the ties between our countries will become much stronger and more diversified.

I congratulate You once again and wish peace, happiness, robust health and prosperity to You and all your relatives and friends.

With deep respect,

**BAKO SAHAKYAN**

ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО  
НАГОРНО-КАРАБАХСКОЙ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ



THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

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г. Степанакерт

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с. Stepanakert

N 9766-159

" 6 November 2008 p.

**Henrietta H. FORE**  
**Administrator**  
**U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**

6 November, 2008  
Stepanakert

The Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic testifies its high respect to the U.S. Agency for International Development and expresses sincere appreciation to the United States for financing of vital projects on post-war reconstruction and development of NKR. The people and the authorities of Nagorno Karabakh highly appreciate the position of the United States, which has a long history of supporting democracy in Nagorno Karabakh and its right to live in peace and freedom and which since 1992 has been actively participating in the efforts of the international community to achieve a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Since 1998 the USAID has been carrying out through different humanitarian organizations a number of important humanitarian projects in NKR, including building and general overhaul of houses in rural communities, programs of water supply and reconstruction of school buildings in different parts of Nagorno Karabakh. These programs have played a considerable role in solving urgent problems in the republic and ensuring vital interests of the people.

The basic problems of humanitarian significance still remain on the agenda of the NKR Government, however realization of programs in the mentioned spheres requires considerable financial investments. Considering the limited possibilities of a young republic which has gone through aggression, solving such urgent problems as humanitarian mine clearing, potable water supply and due health services is not obviously possible without assistance by the United States.

Once again expressing appreciation to the American people for the invaluable contribution to the restoration of Nagorno Karabakh, the Government of NKR addresses to the United States with a request to continue active participation in post-war reconstruction of the republic. The continuation of USAID projects in Nagorno Karabakh and increasing of the volumes of financial assistance will allow to consolidate the achieved progress, as well as to change the life of tens of thousands of people.

We hope for the continuation of the fruitful cooperation with the Agency for the sake of achieving the common goal: increasing prosperity and strengthening stability in the South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

**Ara HAROUTYOUNYAN**  
**Prime-minister**  
**Nagorno Karabakh Republic**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ara Haroutyounyan', written over a light-colored background.

**cc: To Matthew Bryza**  
**Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs**  
**United States**

MEDIA ALERT: WALL STREET JOURNAL PUBLISHES NKR LETTER

DATE: September 17, 2008

TO: Media Colleagues

RE: WALL STREET JOURNAL PUBLISHES NKR LETTER

Today, the Wall Street Journal published NKR Representative Vardan Barseghian's letter to the editor in response to an article on recent events in the South Caucasus and prospects for peace. NKR Representative said in part:

"If last month's tragedy is to become an effective lesson to the international community, we hope to see immediate, focused diplomacy to rein in Azerbaijan's aggressive posturing over Karabakh, condemnation of its officials' hate mongering, and implementation of existing agreements to strengthen the cease-fire. These steps could put our region on the path toward demilitarization and peace."

The full text of the letter is provided below. You can also view it online at:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122159732094844543.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122159732094844543.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

\* \* \*

The Wall Street Journal Europe  
Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Letter

September 17, 2008

Avoiding More Suffering In the Caucasus

As civilians came under indiscriminate shelling last month in South Ossetia, uneasy memories were rekindled for many of us in the Caucasus who lived through the wars of the early 1990s.

As Thomas De Waal correctly mentions ("Caucasus Burning," editorial features, Aug. 19) if a new war breaks out in Nagorno-Karabakh -- read: if Azerbaijan attacks Karabakh -- it could result in even greater suffering and regional destabilization than what we have observed in Georgia.

If last month's tragedy is to become an effective lesson to the international community, we hope to see immediate, focused diplomacy to rein in Azerbaijan's aggressive posturing over Karabakh, condemnation of its officials' hate mongering, and implementation of existing agreements to strengthen the cease-fire. These steps could put our region on the path toward demilitarization and peace.

My country has repeatedly asked Azerbaijan to commit to nonuse of force and to implement confidence-building measures along the Line of Contact and, more broadly,

between the two publics. Azerbaijan continues to refuse any such steps -- even cooperation on fighting natural disasters.

We know that the United States shares our view that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can only be resolved through peaceful means. Any settlement will be effective if it clearly reflects the realities on the ground and is based on the expressed will of the Nagorno-Karabakh people to live in freedom. We hope the United States and the other international mediators will not miss this opportunity.

Vardan Barseghian  
Representative of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic  
Washington

\* \* \*

This material is distributed by the Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the USA (NKR Office) on behalf of the Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. The NKR Office is registered with the U.S. Government under the Foreign Agent Registration Act. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

The Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the United States is based in Washington, DC and works with the U.S. government, academia and the American public representing the official policies and interests of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh.

\* \* \*

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# ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

June 2008

*Artsakh Newsletter is produced by the Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the United States and covers political and economic development in Nagorno Karabakh, Artsakh.*

## POLITICS

**Artsakh-Armenia relations** were discussed in Stepanakert by presidents **Bako Sahakian and Serzh Sarkisian**. The Armenian president arrived in Artsakh to attend events marking the anniversary of **the liberation of Shushi on May 9, 1992**.

**Bernard Fassier**, the French Co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, said normalization of Armenia-Turkey relations **will help the Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution**. Fassier also confirmed that the Madrid Principles for the Nagorno Karabakh settlement **remained** on the negotiations table.

The **Armenian Parliament** called on the executive branch to pursue a **"more proactive"** policy on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. (More info on the issue at: [http://www.parliament.am/news.php?do=view&ID=2740&cat\\_id=2&day=28&month=04&year=2008&lang=eng](http://www.parliament.am/news.php?do=view&ID=2740&cat_id=2&day=28&month=04&year=2008&lang=eng))

The new Armenian president and his Azerbaijani counterpart have agreed to their **first face-to-face meeting** to discuss the Karabakh peace process on the sidelines of the June 7 Commonwealth of Independent States' summit in Saint-Petersburg, Russia.

**Breaching the ceasefire regime**, Azerbaijani forces opened fire killing a soldier across the Line of Contact that separates Armenian and Azerbaijani forces. Andranik Hayrapetian, 19, was badly wounded and soon died at the hospital.

Artsakh's Defense Minister Lt-Gen. Movses Hakobyan spoke about lessons of the war, the **preparedness of Artsakh's Army** and regional security issues in an interview to Armenian mass media. (Read full interview at: [http://nkrusa.org/nk\\_conflict/interviews.php?id=5](http://nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/interviews.php?id=5))

Experts, politicians, diplomats and scholars from Armenia, the United States, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Iran and Russia convened in Stepanakert to participate in an **international conference** titled **"Karabakh Movement: Reality and Prospects"**. During the two-day event, they discussed recent trends in the international arena, as well as prospects for regional peace and security.

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

"Nagorno Karabakh will continue developing and strengthening to ensure peace forever," said President **Bako Sahakian** in his remarks devoted to a triple holiday on May 9: **Victory of the Allies in the WWII, the 16th Anniversary of Liberation of Shushi and the NKR Defense Army Day**. Veterans received state awards for exceptional courage and patriotism.

In January-March 2008, the Nagorno Karabakh's **GDP grew by nearly 15%** compared to the same period of 2007. The largest growth has been registered in services sphere.

Stability and steady economic growth in Artsakh contribute to **raising living standards and purchasing power**. As a result, real estate prices in Stepanakert increased by over 40% reaching an average of about \$750 for a square meter. Highest prices were registered in the capital and also Shushi, while Martakert was at bottom of the list.

**James Tufenkian**, an Armenian-American rug maker and entrepreneur, will invest about half a million US dollars to build a modern tourist center in **Shoushi**, saying it is important to meet

increasing infrastructure demands of the historic Armenian town. Since 1999, the Tufenkian Foundation has implemented a large-scale of investment and charity programs in Armenia and Artsakh. (More at: <http://www.tufenkian.com> and <http://www.tufenkianheritage.com>)

Writers from Armenia and Artsakh convened in Stepanakert to participate in the **Assembly of Young Armenian Writers**. NKR authorities welcomed this initiative and pledged support for this Assembly to become a tradition.

The **Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction** will open branch in Artsakh, joining a number of Armenia-based colleges that maintain divisions in Stepanakert.

A **new state agency of tourism** will be formed to boost the development of this sphere. The statistics indicates a steady growth of tourism industry in Artsakh.

## HISTORICAL REFERENCE

### **Liberation of Shushi**

The liberation of Shushi on **May 9, 1992** was the **first major success** of the Armenian forces in Artsakh during the 1991-1994 war. This brilliant military victory also symbolized the rebirth of the **Armenian spirit** that resonated far beyond Artsakh, to all corners of the world. The **Artsakh Defense Forces** then swiftly established a vital land-link with Armenia proper. Fierce battles continued throughout 1992-1994, but the **Shushi Operation** made all subsequent victories possible. In May of 1994, Azerbaijan, having been forced out of most of Artsakh and adjacent territories, agreed to sign a **cease-fire agreement** with Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, which still holds. (Read more about the historic Victory of Shushi at <http://shushi.org/en/liberation.php>)

### **About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh**

*The de-facto independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, was formed in 1991 based on a declaration of its legislature and results of a subsequent popular referendum. Supported by Armenians around the world, the people of Artsakh then defended their choice in a war unleashed by Azerbaijan. NKR/Artsakh has emerged as a democratic, rule-of-law state with capable armed forces, a growing market economy, and an independent foreign policy. Artsakh continues to work towards international, formal recognition of its independence.*

\*\*\*

We would like to hear from you. Just reply to [info@nkrusa.org](mailto:info@nkrusa.org) with your comments. Thanks!

\*\*\*

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# ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

July 2008

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## POLITICS

Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary of State, expressed concern about what he called “**bellicose rhetoric from Azerbaijani officials**”, which he described as **unhelpful and unwelcome**. Speaking at a congressional hearing on South Caucasus, Fried warned that a new war in Karabakh “would be costly to both sides and unwinnable by either one.” He also noted that Azerbaijan’s wealth derived from oil export would be jeopardized should a new war start. (Testimony: <http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/110/fri061808.htm>)

**Artsakh would take the fighting deep into Azerbaijan’s territory** should the latter launch a new war, said NKR President. Bako Sahakian also emphasized the need for his country to be directly involved in the peace talks. (Interview: [http://nkrusa.org/nk\\_conflict/interviews.php?id=6](http://nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/interviews.php?id=6))

Armenian president and his Azeri counterpart met in St. Petersburg, Russia to discuss the Karabakh peace process. They said the talks were ‘constructive’ and **agreed to continue negotiations** based on the so-called ‘Madrid document’ proposed to the sides last year.

Commenting on possible peace deal, Foreign Minister Georgi Petrosian said that Artsakh’s **independence is not negotiable**. (Full comments: <http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2008-06-16/39/>)

Armenia warned that it **will respond in kind** should the Azeri sniper fire continue, after two farmers were killed this month in a northeastern Armenia village.

Azerbaijan is **neglecting the OSCE recommendations** on prevention of seasonal field fires. In 2006, an international fact-finding mission refuted Azeri allegations that Artsakh was responsible for uncontrolled fires on agricultural fields near the Line of Contact, the de-facto border between Artsakh and Azerbaijan. “Baku continues to reject any collaboration to address this important environmental issue” said Vice Prime Minister Armo Tsaturyan.

A delegation led by NKR Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghouljian met with members of the **German Bundestag** (parliament), NGOs and academia circles in Berlin. Ghouljian also spoke about Artsakh’s role in the region at a conference organized by the European Academy of Berlin.

USA-NKR ties and the Nagorno Karabakh peace process were discussed in Yerevan by NKR Rep. Karlen Avetisyan, Ambassador Peter Rosenblatt of the **American Jewish Committee** and Ross Vartian of the U.S.-Armenia Public Affairs Committee (USAPAC). Avetisyan emphasized the role of the international community in facilitating the resolution of the conflict with Azerbaijan.

Public and business representatives from the United Kingdom visited Artsakh on a traditional ‘pilgrimage’ led by Baroness Caroline Cox of the UK House of Lords. They met with government officials, toured Artsakh’s medieval monasteries and inaugurated a school named in honor of the Baroness, **a great humanitarian and public leader**, for her strong and consistent support for Artsakh. The school was built by the Toronto chapter of the All-Armenian Fund. “Freedom and peace are crucial to the continued development of our young republic,” said NKR President Bako Sahakian meeting with the group.

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

**Private sector** produced two-thirds of total goods and services that made Artsakh’s 2007 gross domestic product (GDP). The economy continued to expand registering a 9% growth. The newly-established Artsakh Fruit Company will invest \$5 million in the development of the agricultural sector – a **perspective branch of the local economy**.

About 400 families applied to the Artsakh Investment Fund for mortgage loans to finance buying, building and improving homes. The program was launched by the government in January 2008 to help **advance population's living conditions**.

A leading Armenian **bank solidified its presence** in Artsakh by opening branches in regional centers. "Ardshininvestbank" CJSC now has offices also in Shushi and Martuni.  
([http://www.ashib.am/branches.php?lang\\_id=1](http://www.ashib.am/branches.php?lang_id=1))

NKR continued judicial reforms by establishing a Court of Appeal. The move is designed to **complete separation of power** as provided by the NKR Constitution.

Media representatives from Armenia, Artsakh, Italy, Lithuania and the Netherlands convened in Stepanakert to participate in a **training-seminar for journalists** organized by the Civil Society Institute (Yerevan).

## HISTORICAL REFERENCE

**On July 5, 1921**, the Bolshevik Party's Caucasus branch arbitrarily decided to place a majority-Armenian populated province of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) under Soviet Azerbaijan's administrative rule, creating a territorial autonomy. **Joseph Stalin was in charge of the effort**. This illegal decision running contrary to the wishes of the native Armenian population allowed Azerbaijan to carry out a policy of ethnic, cultural, religious, and economic discrimination against the Armenians of Artsakh. Azerbaijan also implemented a planned policy to change the demographic balance in favor of ethnic Azerbaijanis. After decades of protests, the impending dissolution of the Soviet Union provided the historic Armenian province an opportunity to break away from Baku's oppressive rule.

### **About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh**

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# ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

July - August 2008

Artsakh Newsletter is produced by the Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the United States covering political and economic development in Nagorno Karabakh, Artsakh.

2008 DEC 29 AM 11:32  
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## POLITICS

**Georgia attacked South Ossetia**, a breakaway republic, trying to retake its former province by force. This provoked a massive counter-attack by Russia, whose peacekeepers in South Ossetia also came under Georgian fire. Georgia immediately called for a cease-fire and retreated soon after the Russian military response leaving local and Russian forces in full control of South Ossetia as well as Abkhazia, another breakaway former Georgian province. **Russia then formally recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.**

"All conflicts must be resolved only by peaceful means," said NKR President Bako Sahakian at the sitting of this **Security Council**, which convened to discuss the **latest regional developments** and Artsakh's readiness to meet **potential challenges**.

**NKR Foreign Ministry expressed concern** over the outbreak of hostilities in South Ossetia. It called on all conflicting sides and the international community to restore peace in the region. (See full statement at: <http://nkr.am/en/news/2008-08-09/66/>).

Jean-François Bureau, **NATO Assistant Secretary General** for Public Diplomacy, condemned any military attempt to 'resolve' the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. He affirmed NATO's support of OSCE Minsk Group's mediation and called for regional cooperation between the conflicting sides.

"Resolution of the conflict requires Nagorno Karabakh's **direct participation** in the negotiation process", said President Sahakian at the meeting with the **OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs** in Stepanakert. The President reaffirmed Artsakh's **commitment to peaceful resolution** of the conflict and also charged Azerbaijan with regional destabilization through its aggressive rhetoric against Armenia and Artsakh. High-level diplomatic envoys from France, Russia and the United States, who co-lead the peace process, shared these concerns and stressed that **Artsakh's direct involvement in the talks was a matter of time**.

**NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs marked its 15th anniversary**. Saluting Artsakh's diplomats, President Sahakian said "international recognition and peaceful settlement of the NK conflict remain urgent tasks" and also underscored close ties with the Armenian foreign office and the Diaspora.

Armenian and Azerbaijani **Foreign Ministers met** in Moscow to discuss prospects for peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict. Edward Nalbandian and Elmar Mamedyarov also consulted with the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs and called their meetings 'constructive'.

Another facet of Azerbaijan's state-ran disinformation campaign was disclosed when the NKR Foreign Ministry identified several official Azerbaijani websites, which falsely presented Kosovo war-time mages as taken during the Karabakh war. (Read more at: <http://nkr.am/en/news/2008-07-07/49/>)

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

**The U.S. House** Subcommittee on Foreign Operations **approved \$8 million** in assistance for Artsakh in the FY2009. Since 1998, the American assistance has been used to build houses, medical facilities, drinking water mains, and to finance micro-credit projects to help NKR recover from the Azerbaijani aggression of 1991-1994.

**Control Chambers** of Armenia and Artsakh signed a joint agreement in Stepanakert, which envisaged enhanced cooperation between these bodies and provided the necessary legal framework for further logistical and technological assistance to the local control agency by its Armenian counterpart.

**Artsakh's GDP** (Gross Domestic Product) **increased by 8%** in the first half of 2008 compared to last year's results. Non-adjusted growth rate stood at 13.6%. Government officials expect to outperform the budget in revenues. Strong macroeconomic trends are also expected to continue.

**Americans for Artsakh (AFA)**, a Washington-based NGO, conducted its pioneer executive training course in Artsakh. The first of a series – Business English for NKR Diplomats - was funded by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and taught by a professional ESL (English as a Second Language) instructor. AFA plans on organizing regular training courses for NKR government employees to include disciplines such as international public law, diplomacy, public administration, economics, and management. (To learn more and to support AFA, please visit <http://www.americansforartsakh.org>)

A new **Investment Policy Concept** has been approved by the NKR Government. The document aims to determine Artsakh's competitive advantages and to foster economic growth through targeted investments.

***About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh***

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# ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

September 2008

*Artsakh Newsletter is produced by the Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the United States covering political and economic developments in Nagorno Karabakh, Artsakh.*

## POLITICS

September 2, 2008 marked the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Artsakh Independence. "There is **no alternative to independence** of Nagorno Karabakh," stated NKR President Bako Sahakian marking the anniversary in Stepanakert.

Members of Congress celebrated **Artsakh's freedom at a Capitol Hill event** attended by diplomats, human rights activists, religious leaders, regional experts, congressional staff members, Armenian-American community members, local and international media representatives. Armenian Caucus co-chairs Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) and Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) and other congressional speakers reaffirmed their strong commitment to Artsakh's security and development. (More at: [http://nkrusa.org/news/daily\\_news.php?id=1432](http://nkrusa.org/news/daily_news.php?id=1432))

The European edition of the *Wall Street Journal* published NKR Representative Vardan Barseghian's letter to the editor, in which Artsakh's envoy called on the international community to take immediate and effective diplomatic measures to **prevent Azerbaijan from unleashing a new war** in the region that could result in even greater suffering and regional destabilization than what was observed in Georgia. (Full article at: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122159732094844543.html>)

Matthew Bryza, the American co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, met with President Sahakian in Stepanakert, Artsakh, to discuss regional developments and the ongoing peace talks. Bryza, who is also U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, said the **U.S. direct economic assistance to Nagorno Karabakh** will continue. NKR President expressed his support to the Minsk Group negotiations format and stressed Artsakh's full participation in it. (More at: <http://nkr.am/en/news/2008-09-13/77/>)

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

The government drafted a new program of **strategic development for agricultural sector**, aimed at rural development and maintaining consistent agricultural growth.

The NKR President's Office launched a **redesigned web-site**, which now included video material. Visit the site at: [www.president.nkr.am](http://www.president.nkr.am)

### ***About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh***

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# ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

October 2008

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## POLITICS

"The United States wish to see **Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh developing in peace**," said Daniel Fried in Yerevan. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs also said that reconciling the territorial integrity of states and other principles [right to self-determination] as part of the peace process is a challenge.

Foreign ministers of Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan met on the sidelines of the 63rd session of the U.N. General Assembly to discuss issues of regional security and cooperation. Separately, Edward Nalbandian of Armenia and Elmar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan met in presence of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs to discuss the Karabakh peace process. The international mediators made a statement underscoring "**a particularly constructive spirit** and a desire by the parties to invigorate the negotiating processes".

Marie Yovanovitch, the new U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, said in Yerevan that each conflict situation required a unique approach. Commenting on guiding principles of the ongoing Nagorno Karabakh peace talks, she said "there is a principle of territorial integrity. However, there is also a **principle of the self-determination of nations**."

"**Karabakh war is not yet over**," said Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan in a televised address to the nation. Sargsyan also said the continued arms race was destructive and hampered comprehensive economic development of the region.

Just two days after he pledged a policy of "total offensive" against Armenia, Ilham Aliyev collected just under 90% of votes in the Azeri presidential election. The vote, described as "a good swimming in an empty pool" by a European election observer, was marred with irregularities. Andreas Herkel, the head of the Council of Europe parliamentary delegation, said the general atmosphere "**did not reflect principles of democratic elections**". The opposition boycotted the polls saying that the government had twisted the rules so much that it made fair competition impossible.

Parliamentary hearings in Artsakh brought together officials and experts from Armenia and NKR to discuss recent regional developments and their implications. The participants recognized the need for **fresh approaches to deal with the new reality** brought about by this summer's events in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Russia formally recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia after rebuffing a Georgian military attack on Ossetia. (More info on the hearing at: <http://nkr.am/en/news/2008-10-13/91/>)

Albert Voskanian, a human rights advocate and director of the Stepanakert-based "Center for Civil Initiatives" spoke the "South Caucasus: Conflict Management in Crisis" **international seminar in Istanbul, Turkey**. Voskanian welcomed Turkey's regional security platform initiative, but underscored that it should involve all regional countries, including the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh.

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

**NKR will be a net-exporter of electricity in 2015**, announced NKR Prime Minister Ara Harutiunian. A program developed by the government envisages construction of new hydroelectric power plants in years 2009-2015 to satisfy domestic needs and produce energy for export. Currently, Artsakh's own energy production guarantees uninterrupted electricity supply to the population in wintertime.

The second International South Caucasus Film Festival of Peace and Human Rights took place in Artsakh. Organized by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the festival titled "I am a Human" offered topical documentaries produced in Denmark, France, Israel, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States. The films on

human rights and peace aimed at **promoting cultural life in the region** and also stimulating debate over peaceful settlement of conflicts and human rights.

About **700 couples “tied the knot” in an unprecedented mass wedding ceremony in Artsakh**. The elaborate and well-coordinated event included a church ceremony, official registration, remarks by officials and benefactors, champagne reception and party with live performances by local and guest entertainers and spectacular fireworks. **Levon Hairapetian**, a well-known Artsakh-born businessman and benefactor, came up with the idea and also sponsored the event. Each new family received \$2,500 on the wedding day, with a pledge for additional gifts for each child.

(We expect to post a film on our [ArtsakhOnline YouTube Channel](#) channel soon)

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PRESS RELEASE  
September 19, 2008

**ARTSAKH'S FREEDOM ANNIVERSARY MARKED ON CAPITOL HILL**  
Members of Congress Back Nagorno Karabakh Republic's Independence

WASHINGTON, DC – Members of Congress, prominent attorney **Mark Geragos**, and human rights advocate Kathryn Porter came together with about one hundred other friends of Artsakh on September 17, 2008 on Capitol Hill to express support for the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR/Artsakh).

In 1988, the people of Artsakh were at the forefront of democratization movement challenging the status quo in the former Soviet Union. Twenty years later they are celebrating their achievements in rectifying Stalin's infamous 1921 decision that forcibly placed Artsakh, an Armenian region, within administrative borders of Soviet Azerbaijan.

Diplomats, human rights activists, religious leaders, regional experts, congressional staff members, Armenian-Americans community members, local and international media representatives attended the event, sponsored and organized by the Co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues **Frank Pallone Jr.** (D-NJ) and **Joe Knollenberg** (R-MI) in cooperation with the Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the United States, the Armenian Embassy and leading Armenian-American organizations. The elaborate Rayburn Gold Room was standing room only.

During the two-hour event entitled "**Nagorno Karabakh Republic/Artsakh: 20 Years of Freedom, Democracy, and Progress**" the speakers highlighted Artsakh's challenges and successes since the start of the National Liberation Movement in 1988.

**Archbishop Vicken Aykazian**, diocesan legate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America (East), who also serves as President of the National Council of Churches USA, offered the invocation, followed by a brief presentation on the Nagorno Karabakh liberation movement by **Archbishop Cholyan**, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church (East).

Rep. Pallone and Rep. Knollenberg conducted the event, taking turns to introduce speakers. In his opening remarks, Mr. Pallone called for continued American support for democracy in Artsakh.

"The past year has proven Nagorno Karabakh's commitment to peace. Faced with constant war rhetoric from Azerbaijani officials, the citizens of Nagorno Karabakh have remained committed to respect for human rights and democracy", said Mr. Pallone adding that he will continue promoting Nagorno Karabakh's progress into a mature democracy and encourage the evolution of U.S. policy towards NKR.

"The U.S. policy should include expanded dialogue with the democratically elected leadership of Nagorno Karabakh and an increase in development assistance. Above all, the United States should unequivocally support the right of the people of Nagorno Karabakh's to decide their own future and way of life", continued Frank Pallone.

In conclusion, the congressman stressed that throughout its history of independence, "Nagorno Karabakh had proven to be a reliable partner of the international community and contributed to regional stability, cooperation and peace".

These remarks were echoed by Rep. Joe Knollenberg, a fellow Armenian Caucus co-chair, who praised Artsakh's achievements in transitioning to a free market and building a civil society despite the repeated war threats emanating from neighboring Azerbaijan.

"NKR has remained strongly committed to peace and stability in the region of the South Caucasus, and together with the United States, and the rest of the civilized world, remains dutifully committed to human rights, good governance, liberty and the rule of law", Mr. Knollenberg noted.

Mr. Knollenberg called for recognition of Artsakh's independence, arguing that the U.S. support for a final settlement providing for the security and self-determination of Nagorno-Karabakh was not only warranted, but an important aspect of fostering and promoting democracy in the region.

New Jersey Democrat **Rep. Steve Rothman** expressed his support for Artsakh's independence and stressed the necessity of peaceful solution of the existing problems in the region. "There are outstanding issues that need to be resolved [and] they should be resolved peacefully and without threats and I have communicated those views directly to the Azerbaijani government", the Congressman said.

**Rep. George Radanovich** (R-CA) in his turn underscored the necessity of supporting democratic development in Artsakh and called for greater U.S. involvement in this process. In his opinion, the international community should pay more attention to democracies like Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia as components of a durable peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

**Congresswoman Shelly Berkley** (D-NV) concurred, stating that members of the U.S. Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues should remain steadfast in their support to the Armenian people. "With the commitment of the members of Congress who are part of the Armenian Caucus and are just supporters of the Armenian people and the causes that are so important to humanity and to democracy throughout the world I think we can get this done", she said.

**Rep. Patrick Kennedy** (D-RI) touched upon the difficult ordeals the people of Artsakh went through on their path to independence, praising the Artsakhians for their strength and determination in defending their values. "They [Artsakhians] had the spirit, they had something that the Azeri's didn't have - the determination to be free and that was what won the day", the congressman said in his impassioned remarks recalling his trip to Artsakh in the 1990s.

**Congressman Gus Bilirakis** (R-FL) expressed strong support to Artsakh's aspirations and pledged to continue promoting Armenian issues.

California Democrat **Rep. Jim Costa** shared his ideas concerning Artsakh's place in the region and latest developments in the South Caucasus. "Freedom is never free and it was underlined and reinforced just recently between the challenge of Georgia and Russia in that part of the world", the Congressman noted adding that the United States should actively involve into resolution of the regional conflicts to prevent recurrence of the Georgia-Ossetia-type situation.

**Congressman Tim Walz** (D-MN) pledged his support to the young democracy and to the development of Artsakh. He also underlined the need for peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

"We are here with you today to make sure that it is the pledge of this nation that the next conflict or aggression by Azerbaijan is not going to be tolerated or allowed to happen in the first place. This free and democratic people deserve the support of the American nation", Mr. Walz said and expressed confidence that all members of the Armenian Caucus were determined to continue their efforts in supporting Nagorno Karabakh's independence.

**Congressman Barney Frank** (D-MA) spoke about the importance of congressional efforts to promote Armenian-American cooperation. Talking about U.S. support for Karabakh, Mr. Frank said: "I want to assure you that I will continue supporting the self-determination rights that you are standing up for."

Mark Geragos, a prominent lawyer and an active member of the Armenian-American community, delivered an enthusiastic and energetic keynote address that stressed the historic nature of the pan-Armenian victory in Artsakh.

"[In Artsakh] we have established an independent democratic republic that sits there as a beacon in the middle surrounded by some of the most repressive areas in the world", said Geragos.

Mr. Geragos called for international recognition of the rights and freedoms of Artsakh's people. He also urged substantial increase in U.S. assistance to Nagorno Karabakh and pledged to continue active involvement in developing of Artsakh-Diaspora ties.

**Kathryn Porter**, the President of the Leadership Council for Human Rights, called "Angel of Artsakh" for visiting and supporting Artsakh during the war, recalled her first trip to the area: "I watched women who had nothing to create a future for their children, for their families, for all the people of Karabakh. I will not forget what I learned there [in Artsakh], and I pray that you all support them I think we have to have the courage in this country to stand up and be what they need", concluded Mrs. Porter.

**Tatoul Markarian**, the Armenian Ambassador to the United States, addressed the gathering and reiterated Armenia's position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"As stated by President Serzh Sargsyan, the fact and the right of self-determination of the people of Nagorno Karabakh must be affirmed and recognized internationally. Armenia remains committed to a peaceful negotiated settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict within the OSCE Minsk Group. While the final settlement is still being negotiated, some realities are already irreversible", said the Armenian envoy.

"The Nagorno Karabakh Republic has existed since 1991 and conforms to all definitions of an independent state. The Sumgait pogroms and the subsequent massacres and expulsion of the Armenians living in Soviet Azerbaijan, as well as the war against Nagorno Karabakh and continuing anti-Armenian hate rhetoric in Azerbaijan have created a situation where Azerbaijan can never claim to govern Nagorno Karabakh.

Many in the international community recognize this. And the package on the table mediated by the Minsk Group co-Chairs recognizes the right of self-determination of Nagorno Karabakh. The self-determination of the Nagorno Karabakh people is the key to achieving real freedom and for bringing long-term peace and prosperity in the region," concluded the Ambassador.

**Vardan Barseghian**, NKR Permanent Representative to the United States, thanked Artsakh's congressional friends for their ongoing, steadfast support of Artsakh.

"The people of Artsakh knew all along that this day will come, that we will be celebrating life and freedom, democracy and justice, economic progress and prosperity. By supporting Nagorno Karabakh politically and economically, our congressional friends also serve the cause of peace and stability in the South Caucasus, which is in fact America's overriding strategic interest in the region", said Barseghian.

Barseghian said Azerbaijan continues to threaten Artsakh with a new war because his country insists on freedom.

"And today, especially in light of the recent events in Georgia, our friends in the U.S. Congress and around the globe, those who are interested in stability and peace in our part of the region, need to ensure that Azerbaijan commits in writing, without any delay, to non-use of force", stressed Artsakh's diplomatic envoy.

Barseghian also called for enhanced cooperation and partnership between NKR and the United States for establishing a durable peace in the South Caucasus.

"We expect the United States and other nations to formally recognize the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, thereby affirming the right of the people of Artsakh to live in freedom without fear of violence, oppression and persecution", said Vardan Barseghian.

A special thank you gift from Artsakh was presented to Representatives Knollenberg and Pallone. **Nelly Martirosian**, a Columbia University student who spent two months in the Artsakh village of

Tsmakahogh implementing a youth development project, brought back a collection of photographs and hand-made souvenirs from the children of the village to the American people for their support to Nagorno Karabakh.

The souvenirs included hand-woven mini-carpets, handcrafted wood souvenirs, dry wild flowers, hand-sewn greetings and needle work depicting the U.S. and Artsakh flags. Both co-chairs also received commemorative medals on the 20th Anniversary of the Liberation Movement.

Each member of Congress in attendance received a framed photo of the Tsmakahogh children forming a "Thank You" on the ground.

The event also featured a new documentary on Artsakh produced by Los-Angeles-based journalist **Peter Musurlian** ([www.globalistfilms.com](http://www.globalistfilms.com)). The film "Artsakh/NKR: the Struggle for Freedom", soon to be available on the Internet, is a powerful combination of interviews, narration and video footage that eloquently presents Artsakh's story.

NKR Representative Barseghian thanked all those involved in the organization of the event. He especially thanked co-chairs Knollenberg and Pallone for taking their support of Artsakh to a new high by extending a full congressional hosting to the event on Artsakh's independence that highlighted shared values of freedom, democracy and determination for progress.

Rep. Barseghian congratulated Artsakh's friends around the world on the 20th Anniversary of the Freedom Movement, adding that "surrounded by such formidable friends, Artsakh looks confidently into the future."

PRESS RELEASE  
November 6, 2008

**ARTSAKH WELCOMES 44<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN PRESIDENT**

Looks Forward to Expanded Cooperation with New U.S. Administration

WASHINGTON, DC – NKR President Bako Sahakian congratulated the U.S. President-elect Barack Obama on his election victory, calling it an “epoch-making event both in American history and for the world democracy.”

In his November 6 letter, President Sahakian highly appreciated the ongoing American economic assistance to Nagorno Karabakh and the U.S. mediation efforts as co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group. Bako Sahakian expressed confidence that under the new Administration “the ties between the two countries will become much stronger and more diversified”.

Elected the 44<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, Barack Obama has advocated for further deepening of the U.S.-Armenia ties and for formal recognition of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. Mr. Obama also called for a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) conflict in a way “agreeable to all parties, and based upon America’s founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self-determination”.

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