

For Six Month Period Ending 11/30/2009  
(insert date)

**I - REGISTRANT**

1. (a) Name of Registrant  
Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic  
in the USA

(b) Registration No.  
5342

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant

1334 G Street N.W., Suite 200  
Washington D.C., 20005

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.  
The office has relocated from:

1140 19th Street N.W., Suite 600  
Washington D.C., 20036

to

1334 G Street N.W., Suite 200  
Washington D.C., 20005

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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.

<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.)

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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
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(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
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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.

(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
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(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
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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.

N / A

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.

The 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

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:

The Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

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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.

The Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

see attached

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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.

Question 14 (a):

During this 6 month reporting 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 principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes

If yes, set forth 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 11/30/2008 - 5/30/2009

<b>date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>address line 1</b>	<b>address line 2</b>	<b>amount</b>
6/09-11/09	NKR Government	28 Azatamartikneri St.	Stepanakert, NKR, Armenia	\$70,667.00
	<b>Total</b>			\$70,667.00

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
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see attached

\$ 69 762 .35  

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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.

The 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) 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 )

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

11/30/2009



Robert Avetisyan

Representative of the NKR in the USA

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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.





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
Avetisyan	Robert	12/29/2008		

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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: *Sticks*

Date: *11/30/09*

Title: *NKR Representative 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: 06/25/09  
Contact: Members of the U.S. Congress (list of names also attached)  
Purpose: provide with the fact-sheet named 'Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Nagorno Karabakh'  
Contact manner: mail / fax

Date: 07/04/09  
Contact: Barack H. Obama, the President of the United States  
Purpose: to forward NK President's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

Date: 07/04/09  
Contact: Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
Purpose: to forward NK Parliament Speaker's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

Date: 07/04/09  
Contact: Offices of the U.S. Congressmen Frank Pallone and Mark Kirk  
Purpose: to forward NK Foreign Minister's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

Date: 07/04/09  
Contact: Hillary Clinton, Matthew Bryza; the U.S. Department of State  
Purpose: to forward NK Foreign Minister's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

Date: 09/30/09  
Contact: Carolyn B. Maloney, member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
Purpose: condolence letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

**Newsletter**

Date: 06/30/09, 07/31/09, 09/30/09, 11/30/09  
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR  
Availability: email

**Press-releases**

Date: 06/03/09  
Subject: NKR Office Relocates to New Office  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

## 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: 06/25/09  
Contact: Members of the U.S. Congress (list of names also attached)  
Purpose: provide with the fact-sheet named 'Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Nagorno Karabakh'  
Contact manner: mail / fax

Date: 07/04/09  
Contact: Barack H. Obama, the President of the United States  
Purpose: to forward NK President's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

Date: 07/04/09  
Contact: Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
Purpose: to forward NK Parliament Speaker's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

Date: 07/04/09  
Contact: Offices of the U.S. Congressmen Frank Pallone and Mark Kirk  
Purpose: to forward NK Foreign Minister's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

Date: 07/04/09  
Contact: Hillary Clinton, Matthew Bryza; the U.S. Department of State  
Purpose: to forward NK Foreign Minister's congratulatory letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

Date: 09/30/09  
Contact: Carolyn B. Maloney, member of the U.S. House of Representatives  
Purpose: condolence letter  
Contact manner: letter / mail

### Newsletter

Date: 06/30/09, 07/31/09, 09/30/09, 11/30/09  
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR  
Availability: email

### Press-releases

Date: 06/03/09  
Subject: NKR Office Relocates to New Office  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

Date: 09/03/09

Subject: Karabakh Celebrates Independence Day Anniversary  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

Date: 10/28/09  
Subject: Members of U.S. Congress Support Assistance to Artsakh  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

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

Date: 07/13/09  
Media: Voice of America  
Subject: Nagorno Karabakh conflict  
Notes: Interview by phone for a TV program

Date: 07/14/09  
Media: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty  
Subject: Nagorno Karabakh conflict

Date: 07/14/09  
Subject: Media Alert: Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty Publishes NKR Letter  
Availability: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org), electronic distribution

Date: 10/20/09  
Media: Washington Post  
Subject: Letter to Editor re the NK peace process

#### **Registrant's attendance at conferences and forums generally re Nagorno Karabakh and the region**

Date: 06/16/09  
Location: U.S. Capitol  
Speakers: Philip Gordon, assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasian Affairs.

Date: 06/30/09  
Location: U.S. Library of Congress  
Speakers: Marie L. Yovanovitch, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia

Date: 09/25/09  
Location: Tufts University, Boston, MA.  
Event: Seminar on Nagorno Karabakh Peace Process

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

Dates: November 16-27, 2009  
Official: Araik Harutyunyan, NKR Prime Minister  
Itinerary: By invitation of the "Hayastan" All-Armenian Fund, Inc., the Prime Minister had meetings in New York (NY), Boston (MA) and Los Angeles (CA) with media experts, representatives of the Armenian-American community. The issues regarding the Nagorno Karabakh (NK) peace process and economic situation in NK were mainly discussed during the meetings. On November 26, 2009, the Prime Minister participated in the televised fundraising (Telethon) for humanitarian and development programs in Nagorno Karabakh.

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	\$450.80
3	Health Insurance	\$7,990.32
4	Living expenses	\$26,168.00
5	Office Rent	\$8,765.36
6	Car rent	\$2,636.08
7	Office Supplies	\$1,440.75
8	Parking	\$1,405.00
9	Postage/Courier	\$457.00
10	Rent Housing Expats	\$16,380.00
11	Telephone	\$2,384.26
12	Travel International: No U.S. officials or media representatives were guests	\$1,418.20
13	Website/Email	\$266.58
	<b>Total operating expenses and other disbursements:</b>	<b>\$69,762.35</b>

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**List Of Members of the U.S. Congress who Received the fact sheet:**

**Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in Nagorno Karabakh**

Fistsname	lastname	affiliation
Robert	Aderholt	U.S. Representative
Todd	Akin	U.S. Representative
Rodney	Alexander	U.S. Representative
Gresham	Barrett	U.S. Representative
Roscoe	Bartlett	U.S. Representative
Joe	Barton	U.S. Representative
Howard	Berman	U.S. Representative
John	Boozman	U.S. Representative
Charles	Boustany	U.S. Representative
Corrine	Brown	U.S. Representative
Henry	Brown	U.S. Representative
Dan	Burton	U.S. Representative
G.K.	Butterfield	U.S. Representative
Shelley	Capito	U.S. Representative
Steve	Chabot	U.S. Representative
Ben	Chandler	U.S. Representative
Howard	Coble	U.S. Representative
Steve	Cohen	U.S. Representative
Tom	Cole	U.S. Representative
Mike	Conaway	U.S. Representative
Robert	Cramer	U.S. Representative
Henry	Cuellar	U.S. Representative
Geoff	Davis	U.S. Representative
Lincoln	Davis	U.S. Representative
Norman	Dicks	U.S. Representative
Lloyd	Doggett	U.S. Representative
Phil	English	U.S. Representative
Eni	Faleomavaega	U.S. Representative
Virginia	Foxx	U.S. Representative
Kay	Granger	U.S. Representative
Alcee	Hastings	U.S. Representative
Jeb	Hensarling	U.S. Representative
Rush	Holt	U.S. Representative
Darrell	Issa	U.S. Representative
Jesse	Jackson	U.S. Representative
William	Jefferson	U.S. Representative
Eddie	Johnson	U.S. Representative
Timothy	Johnson	U.S. Representative
Carolyn	Kilpatrick	U.S. Representative
Peter	King	U.S. Representative
John	Kuhl	U.S. Representative
Rick	Larsen	U.S. Representative
John	Lewis	U.S. Representative
Frank	LoBiondo	U.S. Representative
Betty	McCollum	U.S. Representative
Mike	McIntyre	U.S. Representative
Gregory	Meeks	U.S. Representative
Brad	Miller	U.S. Representative
Dennis	Moore	U.S. Representative

Fistsname	lastname	affiliation
James	Moran	U.S. Representative
John	Murtha	U.S. Representative
Solomon	Ortiz	U.S. Representative
Bill	Pascrell	U.S. Representative
Mike	Pence	U.S. Representative
Joseph	Pitts	U.S. Representative
Todd	Platts	U.S. Representative
Earl	Pomeroy	U.S. Representative
David	Price	U.S. Representative
Adam	Putnam	U.S. Representative
Nick	Rahall	U.S. Representative
Jim	Ramstad	U.S. Representative
Silvestre	Reyes	U.S. Representative
Ciro	Rodriguez	U.S. Representative
Ileana	Ros-Lehtinen	U.S. Representative
Dutch	Ruppersberger	U.S. Representative
Tim	Ryan	U.S. Representative
David	Scott	U.S. Representative
Pete	Sessions	U.S. Representative
Christopher	Shays	U.S. Representative
Bill	Shuster	U.S. Representative
Michael	Simpson	U.S. Representative
Ike	Skelton	U.S. Representative
Adam	Smith	U.S. Representative
Cliff	Stearns	U.S. Representative
Thomas	Tancredo	U.S. Representative
John	Tanner	U.S. Representative
Gene	Taylor	U.S. Representative
Bennie	Thompson	U.S. Representative
Nydia	Velázquez	U.S. Representative
Diane	Watson	U.S. Representative
Henry	Waxman	U.S. Representative
Robert	Wexler	U.S. Representative
Ed	Whitfield	U.S. Representative
Heather	Wilson	U.S. Representative
Joe	Wilson	U.S. Representative



# Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

June 2009

## FACT SHEET

### Refugees & Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) In Nagorno Karabakh

About **36,000 Armenian refugees** from Azerbaijan and some **71,000 internally displaced** ethnic Armenians live in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. These refugees, along with hundreds of thousands of Armenians, were expelled from their homes in 1988-91, prior to the full-scale war in Karabakh and as part of Azerbaijan's policy of ethnic cleansing. Azerbaijan's full-scale military offensives of 1991-1994 forced tens of thousands of Armenians out of their homes in Nagorno Karabakh. In Azerbaijan, on the other hand, majority of the internally displaced come from areas east and south of Karabakh. Most of them fled their homes in 1993-1994, as a result of Azerbaijan-initiated fighting in those areas.

#### Background

First ethnic Armenian refugees arrived in Karabakh and Armenia following the pogroms in Sumgait in late February 1988. They were followed in subsequent years by a steady stream of refugees from Baku, Kirovabad (Ganje) and settlements throughout Azerbaijan. In 1988-89, ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan were summarily fired from their jobs, robbed, intimidated and murdered, without consequences for perpetrators. During January 1990 pogroms in Baku, remaining Armenians were rounded up en masse and transported to Yerevan, from where they settled throughout Armenia and Karabakh. In all some 350,000 Armenians were thus expelled. Some 36,000 of them came to Nagorno Karabakh.

Starting in 1990, and growing in intensity in April 1991 during what became known as Operation Ring, Azerbaijan forced out tens of thousands of Armenians from over two dozen settlements in Dashkesan, Khanlar, Shaumian, Hadrut and Shushi Districts. During Azerbaijan's military offensives in 1992-1994, most of the population of the Mardakert District in the north of Nagorno Karabakh was similarly forced out. Some of the displaced from Azerbaijan, who resettled in the relative safety of Armenian populated settlements in and near Karabakh, were thus **displaced for the second time in just a few years.** In all some 71,000 Karabakh Armenians were thus internally displaced.

#### Conclusion & Requested Action

**Azerbaijan's campaign of ethnic cleansing, hatred and full-scale military attack on Nagorno Karabakh resulted in hundreds of thousands of Armenian and Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced people.** All refugees and internally displaced deserve compassion and humanitarian support, independent of their physical location. But unlike refugees and IDP in Azerbaijan and Armenia, the refugees and internally displaced persons in Karabakh have not received adequate international assistance. A limited humanitarian aid provided by the ICRC, MSF and the ongoing assistance of the Armenian Diaspora and, since 1998, the U.S. government helped address some of the needs. However, more such assistance is needed to fully address basic humanitarian needs of refugees and IDP in Nagorno Karabakh. The U.S. leadership is needed for the United Nations and other relevant organizations to find ways to support refugees and IDPs residing in Nagorno Karabakh despite Azerbaijan's continued effort to discriminate against them by opposing such international assistance.

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# OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

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September 30, 2009

**The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney**  
**US House of Representatives**  
**2332 Rayburn HOB**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Maloney,

It is with profound regret that we learnt of the tragic passing of your husband, Mr. Clifton Maloney, and I am writing on behalf of the people and Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, and myself personally, to convey our deepest condolences to you and your family.

Mr. Maloney will always remain in our memory as a man of conviction and courage. He set a good example for current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan

Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

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Email: [info@nkrusa.org](mailto:info@nkrusa.org) • Website: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org)



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МИНИСТР ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ НАГОРНО - КАРАБАХСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ  
FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

Ստեփանակերտ  
Степанакерт  
Stepanakert

July 4 2009 թ.  
N 14/675

July 4, 2009

The Honorable Hillary R. Clinton  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary,

On behalf of the people and Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on occasion of the United States' Independence Day.

Your nation saw many ordeals on the path to independence. Outstanding persistence and patriotism allowed the American people overcome the severe challenges and become a great democracy in the world.

The formidable American spirit of freedom has motivated many nations, including Artsakh, to achieve its long-dreamed objectives of national liberation and prosperity. We defended our right to live in freedom, under the government of our own choosing, against Azerbaijan's attempt to undermine our basic right to exist.

The people of Artsakh are thankful to the American nation for the ongoing humanitarian assistance, which helps to rebuild our lives and restore our economy shattered by a devastating conflict. Further, we appreciate the ongoing U.S. efforts to promote a durable peace and stability in the South Caucasus and to bring about a fair and viable settlement to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

As we celebrate the spirit of freedom on this Day, I am confident that our shared values of peace and prosperity will lead to mutually beneficial, expanded and enriched relations between our two nations.

Sincerely,

Georgy Petrossian



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FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

Մինիստրապետություն  
Степанакерт  
Stepanakert

4 July 2009  
N 14/674

July 4, 2009

Mr. Matthew J. Bryza  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
for European and Eurasian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Bryza,

On behalf of the people and Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on occasion of the United States' Independence Day.

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The people of Artsakh appreciate the U.S. Administration's and your personal efforts to promote a durable peace and stability in the South Caucasus and to bring about a fair and viable settlement to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

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Ստեփանակերտ  
Степанакерт  
Stepanakert

July 4 2009 թ.  
N 14/677

July 4, 2009

The Honorable Mark Steven Kirk  
Co-Chairman of the Congressional Armenian Caucus  
United States Congress  
1030 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kirk:

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FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

Մարտիրոսապոլիս  
Степанакерт  
Stepanakert

July 11

2009

N 14/676

July 4, 2009

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Co-Chairman of the Congressional Armenian Caucus  
United States Congress  
237 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

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Sincerely,

Georgy Petrossian



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2. February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel: 941287, 943221, 9286674

№ 01-124

« 4 » July 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
US Capitol, H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

CRM/ISS/REGISTRATION UNIT  
2009 DEC 15 PM 2:55

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the people and the National Assembly of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on occasion of the United States' Independence Day.

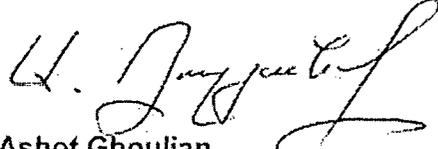
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Sincerely,

  
Ashot Ghouljian



President of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh

14 July.....2009.

no. 1-06/174

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the people and Government of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, Artsakh, I am writing to congratulate you and the American people on occasion of the United States' Independence Day.

Your nation saw many ordeals on the path to independence. Outstanding persistence and patriotism allowed the American people overcome the severe challenges and become a great democracy in the world.

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As we celebrate the spirit of freedom on this Day, I am confident that our shared values of peace and prosperity will lead to mutually beneficial, expanded and enriched relations between our two nations.

Sincerely,

Bako Sahakyan

October 20, 2009

**Letter to Editor of the Washington Post**

Dear Editor,

The process of Armenian-Turkish rapprochement can contribute to a greater stability in the entire Caucasus. It also represents a historic opportunity for the two nations to engage in a constructive dialogue over the ways of creating the atmosphere of mutual trust and tolerance. Armenia and Turkey agreed to move forward without preconditions - the principle, which was strongly supported by the United States, Russia and other actors. Also, the US President and Secretary of State have repeatedly stated that the Armenian-Turkish rapprochement should be regarded and treated as a separate and independent process. Yet, the opposers of the Armenian-Turkish thaw keep on arguing that it must be linked with the Nagorno Karabakh-Azerbaijani conflict, which erupted in late 1980-s in the wave of the USSR disintegration. It should be realized that interlinking those two separate issues could undermine both and postpone the long-cherished regional peace and cooperation. Moreover, the independent Nagorno Karabakh Republic, its free and democratic society cannot be subject to bargain of any kind. Regretfully, ignoring the reality has been one of the main obstacles for the NK-Azerbaijan conflict resolution. An objective and constructive approach by Azerbaijan remains a significant factor required for a long-term settlement of this conflict.

*Robert Avetisyan, Washington*

Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

## **Conflict Resolution: The Realities And The Peace Process**

Azerbaijan's and NKR's political evolution differ fundamentally. Defined by free and fair elections and a tradition of postelectoral consensual coexistence of the government and the opposition, Nagorno-Karabakh's political system is irreversibly incompatible with that of Azerbaijan. This is just one of the many reasons why any attempts to propose a political future for these two countries under the roof of one state are doomed to fail.

The negotiation process must be backed up by a commitment on the part of all three states to confidence-building measures. Bellicose rhetoric should be abandoned. And societies in all three states should start preparing for reconciliation as official talks continue. Only genuine reconciliation -- achieved through official contacts, confidence building measures and elements of second-track diplomacy -- can yield a stable peace.

The international community, for its part, should support this approach to achieve progress.

The Karabakh dispute is a difficult one to solve, but the people of Nagorno-Karabakh remain optimistic. We believe that reverting to the original format of the peace talks, with the full participation of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic, will restore the lacking balance and provide Azerbaijan with tangible incentives to act constructively. That would also credibly demonstrate Azerbaijan's readiness to co-exist peacefully with Nagorno-Karabakh, regardless of the outcome of the negotiations.

\* \* \*

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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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## **MEDIA ALERT: RADIO FREE EUROPE / RADIO LIBERTY PUBLISHES NKR LETTER**

DATE: July 14, 2009

TO: Media Colleagues

RE: RFE/RL PUBLISHES NKR LETTER

Today, the Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty published NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan's commentary in response to a publication on the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process. NKR Representative said in part:

"Since 1997, Azerbaijan has been refusing to negotiate directly with NKR, preferring to discuss the resolution with Armenia. NKR appreciates Armenia's role in the peace process, but it should be understood from the onset that Karabakh's elected officials must be represented in the talks every step of the way. Indeed, politically NKR is a separate state with its own democratic traditions, and, in the long run, any serious progress towards resolving the conflict cannot take place unless its representatives return to the negotiating table and agree to share the responsibility for implementing the hoped-for peace agreement".

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

[http://www.rferl.org/content/NagornoKarabakh\\_Must\\_No\\_Longer\\_Be\\_Barred\\_From\\_The\\_Negotiating\\_Table\\_/1776580.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/NagornoKarabakh_Must_No_Longer_Be_Barred_From_The_Negotiating_Table_/1776580.html)

\* \* \*

**Radio Free Europe  
Radio Liberty**

July 14, 2009

### **Nagorno-Karabakh Must No Longer Be Barred From The Negotiating Table**

by Robert Avetisyan

Just a month or two ago, it seemed to many observers that the Karabakh conflict was closer than it had been for years to a negotiated solution. But the much-trumpeted "breakthrough" never materialized.

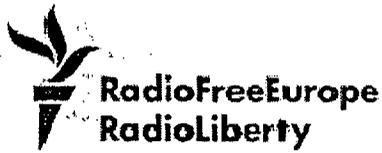
This is not surprising. Once an active participant in the peace process, the central party in the dispute -- the Nagorno Karabakh republic (NKR), which in 2009 marks the 18th anniversary of its de facto independence, but whose international status has not been formalized -- is conspicuously absent from the talks today.

Since 1997, Azerbaijan has refused to negotiate directly with the NKR, preferring to discuss the resolution with Armenia. The NKR appreciates Armenia's role in the peace process, but it should be understood from the outset that Karabakh's elected officials must be represented in the talks every step of the way.

*This commentary is the latest of several on the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute by authors supporting different parties to the conflict. RFE/RL reserves the right to run further articles on this issue*

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July 14, 2009

## Nagorno-Karabakh Must No Longer Be Barred From The Negotiating Table

by Robert Avetisyan

Just a month or two ago, it seemed to many observers that the Karabakh conflict was closer than it had been for years to a negotiated solution. But the much-trumpeted "breakthrough" never materialized.

This is not surprising. Once an active participant in the peace process, the central party in the dispute -- the Nagorno Karabakh republic (NKR), which in 2009 marks the 18th anniversary of its de facto independence, but whose international status has not been formalized -- is conspicuously absent from the talks today.

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Indeed, politically the NKR is a separate state with its own democratic traditions, and, in the long run, any serious progress towards resolving the conflict cannot take place unless its representatives return to the negotiating table and agree to share the responsibility for implementing the hoped-for peace agreement.

### Azerbaijan: Oil-Backed Warmongering Will Not Work

Many analysts believe that the high oil prices of the past few years gave rise to the nationalist illusion in Baku that, by channeling millions of petrodollars into upgrading its armed forces, Azerbaijan could launch a new offensive and thus bring the NKR under its control by force. Azerbaijani presidential administration official Elnur Aslanov **issued an implicit warning** last month that the "leadership of Armenia must understand that it is necessary to protect its citizens from a new war" and should therefore stop helping Nagorno-Karabakh defend its hard-won freedom.

Despite the temporary euphoria created by the influx of petrodollars, and because of Azerbaijan's history of military-backed coups d'etat, the least desirable option for the country's ruling family is to start a war, during which the army could again snap out of control. But rising military expenditures and the threat to attack Nagorno-Karabakh again should still be taken seriously, because that rhetoric could inspire

opportunistic skirmishes on the Line of Contact that currently separates the Azerbaijani armed forces from the troops of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army. This could lead to larger, possibly uncontrolled, clashes.

Azerbaijan's zero-sum logic was visible from the very first days of the conflict in February 1988, when Azerbaijan responded to Nagorno-Karabakh's peaceful and constitutional appeal to the Soviet leadership to reconsider its status within the USSR with the unprecedented massacre of ethnic Armenians in the Caspian city of Sumgait, hundreds of miles away from Nagorno-Karabakh.

The events in Sumgait were the continuation of policies implemented by Heydar Aliyev during his tenure as the first secretary of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan in the 1970s and early 1980s. Aliyev bragged in 2000-03 that for two decades he executed a policy of economic and demographic discrimination against Nagorno-Karabakh in a deliberate effort to force its majority-Armenian population to emigrate. As a result of Aliyev's strategy, the growth of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh stopped, while the number of ethnic Azeris increased artificially.

Following the collapse of the USSR in late 1991, Azerbaijan advanced from pogroms to full-scale armed aggression. Reports compiled between 1991 and 1994 by the Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, later renamed OSCE) document the openly declared genocidal intentions of that military campaign.

Azerbaijan ignored four consecutive UN Security Council resolutions calling for a Karabakh cease-fire, and is therefore responsible for the continuing consequences of the war it started. Azerbaijan must appreciate the lessons of the early 1990s: all previous such attempts by Baku to use force against Nagorno-Karabakh proved infinitely more costly than the perpetrators anticipated.

### **Self-Determination: International Law And History Do Matter**

Azerbaijan's standard approach to arguing the legitimacy of its claims on Nagorno-Karabakh is to stress the principle of the territorial integrity of states while downplaying the right of peoples to self-determination.

Although the territorial-integrity principle does apply to Azerbaijan as a general theoretical notion -- as it does to NKR, Armenia, or any other state -- it does not apply to Baku's claims on Nagorno-Karabakh. The reason is straightforward: in contrast to, say, Spain (with its potentially secessionist Basque country) or the United Kingdom (with its potentially separatist Scotland), no independent Azerbaijani state ever controlled Nagorno-Karabakh -- neither in 1918-20, nor after 1991. It was the Soviet leadership that imposed on Nagorno-Karabakh the subordinate status of an autonomous region within the Azerbaijani Soviet Socialist Republic. When the USSR began to weaken in the late 1980s, this artificial "matryoshka doll" construct collapsed immediately, with Baku losing any measure of direct power over Stepanakert three years before declaring sovereignty in 1991.

Importantly, the NKR's right to self-determination also hinges on the fact that the region has for centuries been the centerpiece of Armenian statehood. Nagorno-Karabakh -- the historic Armenian province of Artsakh -- is the only territory where the self-rule and political institutions of a compactly residing Armenian majority were maintained continuously from the fifth century to the present day, with the exception of several decades in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Indeed, politically the NKR is a separate state with its own democratic traditions, and, in the long run, any serious progress towards resolving the conflict cannot take place unless its representatives return to the negotiating table and agree to share the responsibility for implementing the hoped-for peace agreement.

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Artsakh is the birthplace of the earliest known Armenian constitutional edict -- the fifth-century document called "The Canons of Aghven." It governed Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian kingdoms and principalities hundreds of years before most European peoples became nations, and 15 centuries prior to the time when the people known today as "Azerbaijanis" were officially designated as such for the first time in the Soviet census of 1939.

Among the dozens of Armenian medieval churches and monasteries and hundreds of Armenian stone inscriptions (some dating from the fifth century) on the territory of the NKR is the Monastery of Amaras. It was founded by the foremost Armenian saint, St. Gregory the Enlightener, shortly after he proclaimed Christianity the official faith of the Kingdom of Armenia, which thus became in 301 A.D. the world's first Christian state. It was at Amaras one century later that the inventor of the Armenian alphabet, St. Mesrob Mashtots, founded the first-ever school where that script was taught.

The indigenous Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh is fiercely protective of that centuries-old Christian heritage, now under threat. The international community should continue investigating the barbarous demolition of dozens of medieval Armenian churches and cemeteries in the formerly Armenian-populated province of Naxcivan and the region south of the city of Ganja.

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*Robert Avetisyan is the permanent representative of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic to the United States. The views expressed in this commentary are his own, and do not necessarily reflect those of RFE/RL. Nor does RFE/RL make any judgment as to the current and future international political status of Nagorno-Karabakh.*

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E-mail: [info@nkrusa.org](mailto:info@nkrusa.org)  
Web site: [www.nkrusa.org](http://www.nkrusa.org)

**NKR OFFICE RELOCATES TO NEW OFFICE**

Artsakh's Representation Changes Location

**PRESS RELEASE**

June 03, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC – The Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the United States has relocated to a new office. Since 2004, the NKR Office had been located on the 19th Street NW, in Washington DC.

"Since the day of establishment in 1997, the Armenian Assembly of America has been generously providing the office space for the NKR Representation in the United States. We are grateful to the Assembly for their steadfast support of our activity in Washington, D.C.", said NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan. "This support is crucial for our office to continue serving the interests of Artsakh in the United States".

The new mailing address for the NKR Office is: 1334 G Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005.

The Representation's telephone and e-mail remain unchanged: (202) 223-4330; [info@nkrusa.org](mailto:info@nkrusa.org).

\* \* \*

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 public representing the official policies and interests of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

This material is distributed by the Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the USA 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 "Russian Community of Nagorno Karabakh" NGO celebrated its 10th anniversary in Stepanakert. Members of government, including President Bako Sahakian, as well as guests from Russia, attended the event. At the event, Stepanakert Mayor's Office announced the provision of a 6,110 sq. m lot for construction of an Orthodox church in the capital.

The Washington, DC-based Americans for Artsakh (AFA) organized an event aimed at increasing awareness of Armenia and Artsakh and hosted by the Armenian Embassy. Robert Avetisian, NKR Representative to U.S., spoke about developments in Artsakh, while Sarah Ludwig, AFA's Executive Director, informed participants about the past and future projects of the organization in Artsakh. [Read more](#)

LIFE IN ARTSAKH (our new segment on people's lives and important projects)

The Baroness Cox Rehabilitation Center opened in Stepanakert in September 1998, just four years after the ceasefire agreement with Azerbaijan. Amid challenges of post-war rehabilitation, the Center provided specialized medical treatment to both war veterans and civilians with spinal cord injuries, as well as children with such disabilities as cerebral palsy, poliomyelitis, and spin bifida.

Housed in a former school building badly damaged during the war, the Center has been renovated to include ten rooms for in-patients and special rooms for sports, computer room and arts and crafts classes, including painting, woodwork, macramé and pottery. The Center is also equipped with a hydrotherapy pool. Over ten years, more than a thousand people benefited from physical therapy at the Rehabilitation Center.

Since 2008, a day care center for young children has also been functioning at the center. Along with healthy children, children with disabilities and special needs attend the day care center. In the future, the center plans to open a new department for rehabilitation and treatment of babies, finish the Center's interior renovation works, develop its sports facilities and expand home visits to include all regions of Artsakh.

#### ***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.*

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

Please visit our YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ArtsakhOnline>

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PRESS RELEASE  
September 3, 2009

KARABAKH CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY  
Members of U.S. Congress Sent Congratulations

Washington, DC - On September 2, 2009 the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh marked eighteenth anniversary of Artsakh's Independence. In 1991, after over seventy years of discrimination and oppression, the people of Artsakh boldly and fearlessly stepped up their struggle for freedom and democracy, shaking off the shackles of subjugation.

The decision to establish a sovereign state came as a continuation of the national liberation movement that began immediately after Joseph Stalin's infamous and arbitrary decision to include Nagorno Karabakh within Soviet Azerbaijan in 1921. The NKR Declaration of Independence, formally adopted on September 2, 1991 at a joint session of local legislatures - Nagorno Karabakh Regional and Shahumian District Councils of Peoples Deputies, said in part:

"Expressing the popular will supported by a documented referendum ... striving for freedom, independence, equality and good neighborly relations ... recognizing Azerbaijan's policies of apartheid and discrimination [against its] Armenian population ... striving for restoration of good neighborly relations between Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples ... abiding by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ... and trusting in the understanding and support of the international community ... declares [the establishment of] the Nagorno Karabakh Republic." (The full text of the document appears below.)

The Declaration of Independence allowed to provide security and prosperity of Artsakh's people and to restore historical justice. Eighteen years later, Artsakh is proud of its impressive achievements: successful defense of its freedom against Azerbaijani military aggression, restoration of its war-devastated economy, continued strengthening of its democracy and constructive partnership with the international community to bring about lasting peace and stability to the South Caucasus.

As it was said in the address of the NKR President Bako Sahakyan: "Today our country shows stable growth; almost all the branches of economy are developing, the living standards of the population are rising. The democratic system functioning in our state meets international norms and criteria. Artsakh is among the key factors of preserving stability in the region and its international recognition is only matter of time. ... There could be no doubts about the independence of Artsakh or even the slightest weakening of the republic's security. These unconditioned values are not subjects to any speculations."

Joining the people of Artsakh on this anniversary were also the two Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Congressmen Mark S. Kirk (R-IL) and Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), who sent a joint letter to the NKR President.

In their letter the Congressmen said in part, "We are writing to congratulate the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and you on your 18th Anniversary of Independence. This historic day represents another important milestone in Nagorno Karabakh's path to freedom. On September 2, 1991 the people of Artsakh declared their intention to build a free and democratic state, and they have been steadfast in this mission."

The Co-Chairs also said, "For the past 18 years, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh has firmly upheld the universal values of freedom, peace and democracy."

They voiced strong support for Nagorno Karabakh's right for self-determination, saying that they stood by the people of Nagorno Karabakh along their path to liberty and continued to join Artsakh in its call for formal international recognition of its independence. "We look forward to the day when we can join you in celebration of the flag of an independent Artsakh proudly flying in capitals all over the world" concluded the letter.

NKR Representative to U.S. Robert Avetisyan expressed gratitude to Rep. Kirk and Rep. Pallone for their ongoing, critical and multifaceted support of Artsakh.

"During the last eighteen years, Artsakh convincingly demonstrated its ability as an independent state. Its independence is indisputable and incontestable. We are very grateful to our congressional friends for their continuing and consistent support of Artsakh." said Avetisyan.

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\* \* \*

Full text of the Co-chairs' letter follows:

September 2, 2009

H.E. Bako Sahakyan  
President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic  
20th February Street, 3  
Stepanakert, NKR

Dear President Sahakyan:

We are writing to congratulate the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and you on your 18th Anniversary of Independence. This historic day represents another important milestone in Nagorno Karabakh's path to freedom. On September 2, 1991 the people of Artsakh declared their intention to build a free and democratic state, and they have been steadfast in this mission.

Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh has successfully promoted democracy and the right to self-determination. Your continued efforts to advance these principals in the face of many challenges are admirable. We remain committed to supporting the restoration of Artsakh's war-torn economy, strengthening its democracy and creating a solid foundation for continued development and prosperity.

For the past 18 years, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh has firmly upheld the universal values of freedom, peace and democracy. We appreciate your ongoing contribution to regional stability and assure you of our continued dedication to Artsakh's security and development.

We have stood with you along your path to liberty and we continue to join you in the call for formal international recognition of your independence. We look forward to the day when we can join you in celebration of the flag of an independent Artsakh proudly flying in capitals all over the world

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

/signed/

Frank Pallone, Jr  
Member of Congress

/signed/

Mark S. Kirk  
Member of Congress

\* \* \*

Full text of the NKR Declaration of Independence:

[http://nkrusa.org/nk\\_conflict/declaration\\_independence.shtml](http://nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/declaration_independence.shtml)

#### PROCLAMATION OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC

(Adopted at a joint session of legislative bodies)

With the participation of delegates from all levels of councils in a joint session of peoples' deputies of the Nagorno Karabakh (NK) regional and Shahumian district councils, by the expression of the popular will supported by a documented referendum, and by the decision taken by the authorities of the NK autonomous region and the Shahumian district between 1988-91 concerning its freedom, independence, equal rights, and neighborly relations;

Noting specifically the Azerbaijani Republic's declaration of restoring its national independence according to its 1918-20 boundaries;

Recognizing that Azerbaijan's policies of apartheid and discrimination have created an atmosphere of hatred and intolerance toward the Republic's Armenian population, and led to armed clashes, casualties, and the deportation of Armenian civilians from peaceful villages;

Establishing itself on the basis of the current constitution and the laws of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), which, upon the secession of a union republic from the USSR, allow the peoples of autonomous formations and coexisting ethnic groups the right to self-determination of its national-legal status;

Noting that the territory of the Shahumian district was forcibly detached from Nagorno Karabakh, and recognizing the intentions of the Armenian population to reunify as commensurate with the norms of natural and international law;

Intending that neighborly relations between the peoples of Armenia and Azerbaijan be restored based on mutual respect for each other's rights;

Taking into consideration both the complexity and controversial nature of the situation in the country, the future of the [Soviet] Union, and the uncertain future of the [Soviet] Union structures of ruling authority and government;

Respecting and abiding by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the principles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and trusting in the understanding and support of the international community;

Declares:

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic within the current boundaries of the NK autonomous region and the adjacent Shahumian district, the NKR

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, basing itself on the authority given to republics by the constitution and legislation of the USSR, reserves the right to decide independently its legal status as a state on the basis of political consultations and negotiations with the leadership of other countries and republics.

Prior to the acceptance of the constitution and laws of the NKR, the constitution and legislation of the USSR, as well as other existing laws shall be in effect on the territory of the NKR unless they contradict the purposes and principles of this declaration and the specific nature of the republic.

/Signed by delegates of all levels participating in the joint session of the NK regional and Shahumian district council's peoples delegation/

September 2, 1991

\* \* \*

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PRESS RELEASE  
October 28, 2009

**MEMBERS OF US CONGRESS SUPPORT ASSISTANCE TO ARTSAKH**  
*Reiterate the Importance of Overcoming the Consequences of War*

Washington, DC – More than 30 members of the U.S. Congress co-signed a letter to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees in support for a continued U.S. financial assistance for Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

The letter initiated by Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Caucus member Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ) welcomed the House's attention to the situation in Artsakh and backed the allocation of \$10 million to address the humanitarian consequences of the 1991-1994 Azerbaijani aggression.

NKR Representative to U.S. Robert Avetisyan thanked the Caucus members for their staunch support for Artsakh. "The people and authorities of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic are grateful to the members of the American Congress for their steadfast support for Karabakh's post-war rehabilitation. We are confident that a continued U.S. assistance will allow Artsakh to overcome all the consequences of the devastating war imposed by Azerbaijan, and lead to new achievements in building a free and democratic nation", Avetisyan said.

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\* \* \*

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# ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

June 2009

*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

François Rochebloine, a French lawmaker who chairs the France-Armenia Friendship Group in the French Parliament visited Artsakh to meet with political leadership and get first-hand information on economic development in the republic. Mr. Rochebloine met with NKR President Bako Sahakian, National Assembly Speaker Ashot Ghouljian and also addressed the NKR legislature, expressing his **continued support to Artsakh struggle for freedom** and independence. Read more at:

<http://armradio.am/news/?part=pol&id=15146>

Baroness Caroline Cox, member of the British House of Lords, made her 67<sup>th</sup> humanitarian trip to Artsakh. Meeting with members of her delegation, President Sahakian stressed that **formal international recognition of NKR independence was a matter of time** and determined development of Artsakh's statehood along with strengthening of its democratic values is the way to achieve it. The group also visited the Foreign Ministry, several museums in Stepanakert, as well as numerous historical, cultural and archeological sites throughout Artsakh. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithForeignDelegations/611/>

The House Appropriations Subcommittee and then Committee responsible for U.S. foreign aid allocation voted to **increase humanitarian assistance to Nagorno Karabakh** to an unprecedented annual level of \$10 million. Both panels also maintained U.S. economic assistance to Armenia at last year's level of \$48 million and restored balance in U.S. military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Narine Aghabalian, a veteran TV journalist, was appointed **new Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs**.

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

An economic forum Bridge Artsakh took place on June 19-21 in Stepanakert. Titled "**Government and Business: from Dialogue to Partnership**," the forum was organized under the auspices of the NKR President and put together by the NKR Government, the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen (Employers) of Armenia along with "MASTER" Center for International Integration. Artsakh Investment Fund is the official partner of the Forum. More info on <http://www.aif.am/?language=english&change=news&id=9>

An unprecedented attack by Moroccan grasshoppers (agricultural pests) **threatened this year's grain harvest**. Coordinated efforts of a government-established ad-hoc committee were able to mobilize technical and human resources to effectively eliminate it.

Two young Artsakh violinists, David Hakobian and Harutyun Sargissian, **reached finals and won prizes** at an international musical contest in Fermo, Italy. They both study music at the Stepanakert's Sayat Nova musical college.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual "Yntsa" (Gift) **pan-Armenian Song Contest** concluded in Stepanakert. Razmik Amian, a native of Artsakh, took the grand prize, while Anahit Simonian and Hripsime Hakobian took the first and second prizes correspondingly.

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More than 60 children exhibited their artworks as part of the “**Seeds of Peace**” project organized by Nagorno Karabakh Committee of “Helsinki Initiative-92” office in Artsakh. [Read more and see photos at: http://www.hca.nk.am/index.php?newsid=140](http://www.hca.nk.am/index.php?newsid=140)

An early 18<sup>th</sup> century residence of **Melik Yegan**, the ruler of Dizak, is undergoing restoration. Located in Togh, Hadrut Region, the new tourist site is on the main North-South highway to Arax River valley.

Two more Artsakhian families – one with nine and the other with ten children – received new homes as part of a government-sponsored **program of stimulating population growth**. Both families live in Kashatagh region of Artsakh.

**About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh**

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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 2009

*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

**Foreign ministers of G8 countries** (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom and U.S.) called for a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and improved Armenia-Turkey relations. They welcomed the efforts of Armenia and Turkey to normalize their relations and the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to seek a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Read more at <http://www.asbarez.com/2009/06/29/g8-foreign-ministers-call-for-karabakh-peace-armenia-turkey-ties/>

In Yerevan, NKR President Bako Sahakian met with OSCE Chair-in-Office, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis. The President reiterated Artsakh's adherence to the peace process and asked Ms. Bakoyannis to use her offices to **restore full format of negotiations** that would include Nagorno Karabakh. He characterized militaristic and anti-Armenian policy of Azerbaijan as one of the obstacles to peace. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithForeignDelegations/650/>

President Sahakian also met with the EU Special Envoy in the South Caucasus Peter Semneby. Meeting at the NKR Permanent Representation in Armenia, they discussed a wide range of issues related to the current stage and the prospects of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement. President Sahakian noted that it was impossible to achieve a resolution without **Artsakh's direct participation** in the negotiations. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithForeignDelegations/647/>

Armenian and Azerbaijani Ambassadors to Russia joined by a special envoy of the Russian president crossed the de-facto Azeri-NK border as part of a special OSCE monitoring of the Line of Contact to visit Nagorno Karabakh, Armenia and Azerbaijan for meetings with the three presidents. The trip follows a similar visit two years ago and is intended to stimulate **people-to-people contacts** and other confidence building measures to support the ongoing negotiations. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithForeignDelegations/651/>

Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan met in Paris in the presence of the OSCE Minks Group mediators to discuss the possibility of **another presidential meeting**. As a result, the mediators agreed to visit the region later this month to work out the details. Read more at: <http://www.asbarez.com/2009/06/29/armenian-azeri-foreign-ministers-meet-in-paris-presidents-set-for-talks-in-july/>

Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement and the Armenian-Turkish relations were the main subjects of the July 10-11 **Pan-Armenian Forum** organized in Stepanakert by ARF Dashnaksutiun. Attended by over 120 delegates from some 20 countries, the Forum adopted a resolution demanding a reassessment and a change of what was called a "flawed approach" to both the Karabakh peace talks and the efforts to achieve a rapprochement with Turkey. Read more at: <http://www.asbarez.com/2009/07/14/pan-armenian-summit-says-karabakh-self-determination-non-negotiable-demands-yerevan-break-off-turkey-negotiations/>

Responding to recent developments in the Nagorno Karabakh peace process, the NKR Foreign Ministry issued a statement stressing that "no agreement regarding the interests, fate, and future of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic can be adopted without the participation of its people and the leadership." NKR also called

for **resetting the "distorted negotiation process"** and for transformation of the basic principles of the settlement. Read more at: [http://nkrusa.org/nk\\_conflict/statements.php?id=19](http://nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/statements.php?id=19)

Armenian Foreign Minister traveled to Stepanakert to discuss the current stage of the NK conflict settlement with NKR President Bako Sahakian. Edward Nalbandian reiterated after the meeting that the return to the full format of negotiations (i.e. **ensuring Artsakh's direct participation**) is a must because no agreement could be implemented without Artsakh's consent. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/workingMeetings/670/>

Several **political parties of Artsakh** issued a statement on the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict settlement calling for a direct role for Stepanakert in the peace talks. The call was supported by NKR civil society and, separately, by youth organizations. Read more at: <http://www.asbarez.com/2009/07/16/karabakh-political-parties-demand-direct-role-for-stepanakert-in-peace-talks/>

Armenian President Serge Sargsian and his Azeri counterpart met in Moscow for a 3-hours-long **tête-à-tête discussion**. No document was signed as a result of the meeting, and the presidents made no statements. The following day, the presidents met again this time joined by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Read more at: <http://www.armradio.am/news/?part=pol&id=15447>

Executive director of the European Ombudsman Institute Nikolaus Schwarzler, former Russian Ombudsman Oleg Mironov, and Chairman of the Russian Association of Political Scientists Vladimir Petrovsky visited Stepanakert to establish contacts and discuss possible **cooperation between Artsakh and international human rights institutions**. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/meetingsWithForeignDelegations/663/>

U.S. Congressmen have issued a statement expressing their full support for "the people of Nagorno Karabakh's right to decide their own future". They also condemned Azerbaijan's destructive position and its military rhetoric and aggressiveness against Armenia and NKR. "No solution is possible without Nagorno Karabakh's consent," said the statement. Read more at: [http://www.aaainc.org/index.php?id=7&no\\_cache=1&newsID=218](http://www.aaainc.org/index.php?id=7&no_cache=1&newsID=218)

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Over **300 entrepreneurs from different countries** and representatives of government agencies, as well as an Armenian governmental delegation headed by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian took part at the Bridge, Artsakh economic forum in Stepanakert on June 20-21. The forum titled "The State and the Business: from dialogue to partnership" aimed to attract potential investors into Artsakh's economy. More info at: <http://www.aif.am/?language=english&change=news&id=9>

Speaking at the forum, Prime Minister Sargsian said that Artsakh could join the "Back to Armenia" program implemented by the Armenian Ministry of Diaspora. The program provides mortgages backed by the government for **Diaspora Armenians wishing to return** and settle in Armenia.

NKR Prime Minister Ara Haroutunian met with representatives of the French affiliate of the "Hayastan" All Armenian Fund. Thanking the guests, Mr Haroutunian noted with satisfaction that Diaspora Armenians **contribute to charitable projects and also invest** in Artsakh's economy. Read more at: <http://www.karabakh.net/enq/inform/2009/6/25.htm>

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# ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

September 2009

*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

Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and heads of Armenian diplomatic missions abroad, **came to Artsakh as part of their annual meeting** in Armenia. The Armenian ambassadors and their Yerevan-based colleagues met with NKR President Bako Sahakian, NKR National Assembly Chairman Ashot Ghouljian and also visited the Tigranakert historical excavation site.

On September 2, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, marked the **18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence**. Current and former presidents of NKR and Armenia, officials from Armenia and other countries took part in the festive events, which included state ceremonies and entertainment events. A spectacular fireworks display in Stepanakert's Republic Square concluded the day's festivities.

Members of the U.S. Congress sent a congratulatory letter to the people and the president of Artsakh on Independence Day. Frank Pallone (D.-N.J.) and Mark Kirk (R.-Ill.), co-chairs of the Armenian Caucus, reiterated their **steadfast support to Artsakh's continued security and development**. "We look forward to the day when the flag of an independent Artsakh would proudly fly all over the world as a testament to the realization of your democratic dream," concluded the letter.

<http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/workingMeetings/687/>

President Sahakyan reiterated that NKR independence and security were not subject to discussion, and stressed the importance of restoring the full negotiation format.

Robert Bradtke, most recently the U.S. Ambassador to Croatia, replaced Matthew Bryza in the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship. NKR, Armenia, and Azerbaijan signaled their readiness to work with the **newly-appointed American mediator**. <http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2009-09-09/189/>

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Artsakh's **economy grew by 16%** in the first six months of this year, reported NKR Ministry of Finance. Compared to the same period of last year, state expenditures grew by AMD2.57 billion (\$7 mil) or 12%. Notably, nearly 50% of spending has been directed to the social sphere. Thus, despite the global financial crisis and economic recession, state programs in Artsakh will be financed and implemented as planned.

Shushi's Central Hospital now has a **renovated surgical department** thanks to the sponsorship of the "Land and Culture" organization, which had previously implemented cultural programs in Artsakh and Armenia. The organization had also sponsored the renovation of the maternity ward of the hospital.

Sixty-four apartments will be built in Shushi in 2010 as part of the **state-sponsored mortgage program** implemented by the [Artsakh Investment Fund](#). The Fund is also in the process of financing construction of a new block of 21 private homes and four apartment buildings in Martuni.

[Americans for Artsakh](#) successfully completed the third session in a series of **professional training seminars** for Artsakh government employees. With each course increasing in depth and complexity, the latest installment focused on two topics: negotiations and government public relations. The course was conducted at the NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and involved diplomats, as well staff from the President's Office and the National Assembly. <http://www.panarmenian.net/news/eng/?nid=35624&date=2009-08-27>

The Union of Banks of Armenia held its meeting in Stepanakert. Representatives of the banking sectors of Armenia and Artsakh discussed issues of **social-economic development of Artsakh**. They also met with President Bako Sahakian. Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/workingMeetings/662/>

President Sahakian accompanied by Prime Minister Ara Haroutunian visited the **airport construction site** to check the progress. First passengers are now expected to use the airport in October 2010.

NKR Department of Tourism is offering **specially-designed tour packages to Artsakh** at 70,000, 85,000 and 110,000 AMD. These will include visits to the monastic complexes of Gandzasar and Amaras, the ancient Tigranakert excavation site, the Nikol Duman museum, and places of interest in Stepanakert and Shushi.

Vladimir Kazimirov, former Special Representative of the Russian President on Nagorno Karabakh in 1992-1996 and a Minsk Group Russian Co-Chair, presented his new book in Stepanakert. Titled "**Peace to Karabakh**", the book covers the history of the conflict, Russia's mediating efforts and its leading role in achieving the May 1994 cease-fire. Published in Moscow, the book also incorporates copies of official documents on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement. Read more at: <http://www.nkr.am/en/news/2009-06-25/168/>

Fourth Congress of the NKR Writers' Union reelected Vardan Hakobian as Chairman. In her welcoming remarks, NKR Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs Narine Aghabalian noted that the writers' key role in society was vividly manifested during early years of Artsakh freedom movement. She called upon the writers to also **lead in a time of peace**.

More than 600 senior high-school students from Artsakh will spend their **summer holidays at a military-sports camp** near Aygestan village that opened its doors on July 1.

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

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# ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

November 2009

*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

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund concluded its annual telethon. This year, it was devoted to the reconstruction of historic Armenian town of Shushi. Along with its reach cultural and Christian heritage, Shushi is also the place of the most significant modern-day Armenian military victory that eventually made today's peace and prosperity in Artsakh possible. Artsakh's friends around the world extended their generous support to this effort that helped raise around \$16 million in donations and pledges. The collected funds will be directed at the realization of social and economic infrastructure projects in Shushi. Read more at:

<http://himnadram.org/index.php?id=23337>

NKR Prime Minister Ara Harutiunian visited the United States for meetings with members of the Armenian-American community and its leaders in New York, Boston and Los Angeles. The Armenia Fund Telethon, current regional developments, economic and social programs in Artsakh were among the topics of discussion. On Armenian-Turkish relations, Mr. Harutiunian said that their further development cannot be at the expense of unilateral concessions in the Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian Genocide recognition issues.

The Armenian parliament voted down a resolution on draft law "On Recognition of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic", proposed by the opposition "Heritage" parliamentary fraction. Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharian argued that passing the measure at this time was inexpedient. Read more at:

<http://www.armenianow.com/?action=viewArticle&AID=4165&lng=eng&IID=1258>

OSCE secretariat received the statement by Artsakh's Parliament addressed to members of the OSCE Ministerial Council. Karabakh legislature appealed to the international community to criticize Azerbaijan's continued war rhetoric.

National Assembly Speaker Ashot Ghouljian held meetings in Moscow with Deputy Speaker of the Russian State Duma Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and coordinator of Armenia-Russia inter-parliamentary group Igor Chernyshenko. Ghouljian-led delegation also discussed regional issues, in particular the process of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement, with Russian expert circles.

## BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

NKR President Bako Sahakian visited the construction site of a new hospital building in Stepanakert to check on its progress. The hospital, planned to open in 2012, will have an emergency room, modern surgery and dialysis departments, and other facilities. The project, sponsored by a Russian-Armenian benefactor, Samvel Karapetian, and is implemented by the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund.

Artsakh's tourist attractions were presented at the World Travel Market international exhibition in London, UK. NKR Tourism Development Agency reported that this time representatives of the private sector, namely Stepanakert's Armenia Hotel, also participated in the trade show. More info at:

[http://www.wtmlondon.com/page.cfm/Action=Exhib/ExhibID=9841/loadSearch=1413209\\_17203](http://www.wtmlondon.com/page.cfm/Action=Exhib/ExhibID=9841/loadSearch=1413209_17203)

NKR government is taking steps to prevent potential spread of H1N1 virus/Swine Flu in Artsakh.

In January-September 2009, 2122 children were born in Artsakh (a 17% increase over last year), reported NKR's Statistical Service. Natural population growth reached 1185 people (a 43% increase).

**“Artsakh-France” art exhibit** opened in Stepanakert following a trip of a French delegation that visited Artsakh to identify opportunities for developing economic, cultural and humanitarian ties. A similar art exhibit took place in Paris, France, to promote tourism and vacation opportunities in Artsakh.

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