

U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, DC 20530

Supplemental Statement

Pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended

For Six Month Period Ending 05/31/2012

(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant

(b) Registration No.

Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in the U.S.A.

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 No
- (2) Citizenship Yes No
- (3) Occupation Yes No

(b) If an organization:

- (1) Name Yes No
- (2) Ownership or control Yes No
- (3) Branch offices Yes No

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

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

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, 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.

¹ 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
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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 the service rendered.

N/A

(b) During this six 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

Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
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(c) 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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(d) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their connection with any foreign principal during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or Connection	Foreign Principal	Date Terminated
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6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(b) 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:

Foreign Principal

Date of Termination

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal(s)² during this 6 month reporting period? Yes No
If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and Address of Foreign Principal(s)

Date Acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principal(s)² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

10. (a) Have you filed exhibits for the newly acquired foreign principal(s), if any, listed in Item 8?

Exhibit A³ Yes No Exhibit B⁴ 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 this six month period? Yes No

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

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² 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.)

³ 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.

⁴ 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

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, or 9 of this statement? Yes No

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

Government of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

see attached

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12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ 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, places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

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 your foreign principal(s)? Yes No

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activity" 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 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.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies.⁶

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
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see attached

\$ 77,470

Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fundraising campaign⁷, 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 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 value⁹ 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:

Foreign Principal	Date Received	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, moneys, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fundraising 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 fundraising 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
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see attached

\$ 76,352

Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS-THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ 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	Recipient	Foreign Principal	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 value¹¹ 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	Political Organization or Candidate	Location of Event
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^{10, 11} 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. (a) During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials?¹²
Yes No

If Yes, go to Item 17.

(b) If you answered No to Item 16(a), do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration?
Yes No

If Yes, please forward the materials disseminated during the six month period to the Registration Unit for review.

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
- Motion picture films
- Letters or telegrams
- Advertising campaigns
- Press releases
- Pamphlets or other publications
- Lectures or speeches
- Other (specify) _____

Electronic Communications

- Email
- Website URL(s): www.nkrusa.org
- Social media websites URL(s): www.facebook.com
- 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) Armenian

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 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)

(Print or type name under each signature or provide electronic signature¹³)

June 15, 2012

/s/ Robert Avetisyan

eSigned

¹³ 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.

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: 12/16/11
Contact: Joseph Biden – White House;
Hillary Clinton, Philip Gordon, Eric Rubin, Robert Bradtke - U.S. Department of State
Rajiv Shah – USAID.
Purpose: to forward NKR Foreign Minister's and Prime Minister's New Year congratulatory letters
(copies provided in attachment #1)
Contact manner: fax / e-mail/ mail

Date: 12/19/11
Contact: Members of the US Congress: Mitch McConnell, Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Barbara Boxer,
Steny Hoyer, Frank Pallone, Lloyd Doggett, Devin Nunes, Adam Schiff, Mark Kirk, Brad
Sherman, Ed Royce, Jackie Speier, Howard Berman, Eliot Engel, Steven Rothman.
Purpose: to forward NKR Parliament Speaker's New Year congratulatory letters
(copies provided in attachment #2)
Contact manner: mail/fax

Date: 02/14/12
Contact: B. Hennessey, Legislative assistant, Office of the US Congressman Frank Pallone.
Purpose: discussion of recent developments in the region
Contact manner: office meeting

Date: 02/14/12
Contact: Members of the US Congress (list of recipients and the copy provided in attachment #3).
Purpose: Forwarded fact-sheet named "Azerbaijan Continues to Manipulate with the Events in
Khojaly"
Contact manner: fax / e-mail

Date: 02/27/12
Contact: Members of the California State Assembly members Mike Gatto and Katcho Achadjian.
Purpose: Developments in and around Nagorno Karabakh
Contact manner: office visit

Date: 03/07/12
Contact: Members of the U.S. Congress: Howard Berman, David Cicilline, Judy Chu, Frank Pallone,
Anna Eshoo, Brad Sherman, Robert Dold, Steven Rothman, Gary Peters, Adam Schiff,
Frank Wolf.
Purpose: to thank for floor statements in support of Nagorno Karabakh
(copies provided in attachment #4)

Contact manner: mail

Date: 05/20/12

Contact: U.S. Congressman Cicilline

Purpose: to thank for statements in support of Nagorno Karabakh

Contact manner: meeting

Date: 05/31/12

Contact: Members of the Rhode Island's State Assembly: David Bennett, Brian Newberry, Gordon Fox, Nicholas Mattiello, Joseph McNamara and Arthur Corvese

Purpose: to forward letters by the NKR Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulian (copies provided in attachment #5)

Contact manner: mail

Date: 05/31/12

Contact: Members of the US Congress: David Cicilline, Jim Langevin, Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse

Purpose: to thank for statements in support of Nagorno Karabakh (copies provided in attachment #6)

Contact manner: mail

Date: 05/31/12

Contact: US think-tanks

Purpose: to invite to observe the presidential elections (the list of recipients and a sample copy of the invitation provided in attachment #7)

Contact manner: mail

Newsletter

Date: 12/15/11, 12/30/11, 01/15/12, 01/31/12, 02/15/12, 03/01/12, 03/15/12, 03/31/12, 04/15/12, 04/30/12, 05/15/12, 05/30/12.

Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR

Availability: email

Press-releases

Date: 01/12/12

Subject: Victims of 1990 Baku Pogroms Remembered

Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 02/28/12

Subject: Febryary 26-29, 1988: The Tragedy in Sumgait

Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 03/16/12

Subject: Members of the US Congress Condemned Atrocities in Azerbaijan in 1988-1990

Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/09/12

Subject: Karabakh Celebrates Liberation of Shushi

Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/15/12
Subject: Artsakh Marks Anniversary of Armistice with Azerbaijan
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/17/12
Subject: RI Representatives Support Artsakh's Independence, and Call on the US Government to Formally Recognize the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/22/12
Subject: Rhode Island Celebrates Liberation of Shushi
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/29/12
Subject: Doctors from American medical NGO visit Artsakh
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/29/12
Subject: The City of Providence Celebrates Shushi Liberation Day
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts

Date: 12/23/11
Subject: Media Alert: New York Times Publishes NKR Letter
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 03/12/12
Subject: Media Alert: Foreign Policy Journal Published Article on Artsakh
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/03/12
Subject: Media Alert: Foreign Policy Journal Published Article on Karabakh Conflict
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/15/12
Media: Interview to 'Voice of America' News Service on situation around Nagorno Karabakh

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

Date: 12/07/11
Event: Hearings "Conflicts in the Caucasus: prospects for Resolution"
Venue: U.S. Congress / Helsinki Commission
Speakers: Tom De Waal (Carnegie Endowment); Fiona Hill (Brookings institution); Wayne Merry (American Foreign Policy Council);

Date: 04/25/12
Event: Armenian Genocide Commemoration.

Location: U.S. Congress;
Speakers: Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Representatives Joe Baca (D-CA), Howard Berman (D-CA), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), David Cicilline (D-RI), Robert Dold (R-IL), Elliot Engel (D-NY), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Scott Garrett (R-NJ), Janice Hahn (D-CA), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Ed Markey (D-MA), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Laura Richardson (D-CA), Steven Rothman (D-NJ), Ed Royce (R-CA), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Brad Sherman (D-CA), Jackie Speier (D-CA), and Bob Turner (R-NY), Armenian Ambassador Tatoul Markaryan, NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan.

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: 12/16/11
Contact: Joseph Biden – White House;
Hillary Clinton, Philip Gordon, Eric Rubin, Robert Bradtke - U.S. Department of State
Purpose: to forward NKR Foreign Minister's and Prime Minister's New Year congratulatory letters
(copies provided in attachment #1)
Contact manner: fax / e-mail/ mail

Date: 12/19/11
Contact: Members of the US Congress: Mitch McConnell, Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Barbara Boxer,
Steny Hoyer, Frank Pallone, Lloyd Doggett, Devin Nunes, Adam Schiff, Mark Kirk, Brad
Sherman, Ed Royce, Jackie Speier, Howard Berman, Eliot Engel, Steven Rothman.
Purpose: to forward NKR Parliament Speaker's New Year congratulatory letters
(copies provided in attachment #2)
Contact manner: mail/fax

Date: 02/14/12
Contact: B. Hennessey, Legislative assistant, Office of the US Congressman Frank Pallone.
Purpose: discussion of recent developments in the region
Contact manner: office meeting

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Anna Eshoo, Brad Sherman, Robert Dold, Steven Rothman, Gary Peters, Adam Schiff,
Frank Wolf.
Purpose: to thank for floor statements in support of Nagorno Karabakh
(copies provided in attachment #4)
Contact manner: mail

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Purpose: to thank for statements in support of Nagorno Karabakh (copies provided in attachment #6)
Contact manner: mail

Date: 05/31/12
Contact: US think-tanks
Purpose: to invite to observe the presidential elections (the list of recipients and a sample copy of the invitation provided in attachment #7)
Contact manner: mail

Newsletter

Date: 12/15/11, 12/30/11, 01/15/12, 01/31/12, 02/15/12, 03/01/12, 03/15/12, 03/31/12, 04/15/12, 04/30/12, 05/15/12, 05/30/12.
Subject: Developments in NKR and related to NKR
Availability: email

Press-releases

Date: 01/12/12
Subject: Victims of 1990 Baku Pogroms Remembered
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 02/28/12
Subject: Febuary 26-29, 1988: The Tragedy in Sumgait.
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 03/16/12
Subject: Members of the US Congress Condemned Atrocities in Azerbaijan in 1988-1990
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/09/12
Subject: Karabakh Celebrates Liberation of Shushi
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/15/12
Subject: Artsakh Marks Anniversary of Armistice with Azerbaijan
Availability: www.nkrusa.org, electronic distribution

Date: 05/17/12
Subject: RI Representatives Support Artsakh's Independence, and Call on the US Government to Formally Recognize the Nagorno Karabakh Republic
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Subject: The City of Providence Celebrates Shushi Liberation Day
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Interviews, Articles, Media Alerts

Date: 12/23/11
Subject: Media Alert: New York Times Publishes NKR Letter
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Date: 03/12/12
Subject: Media Alert: Foreign Policy Journal Published Article on Artsakh
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Speakers: Tom De Waal (Carnegie Endowment); Fiona Hill (Brookings institution); Wayne Merry (American Foreign Policy Council);

Date: 04/25/12
Event: Armenian Genocide Commemoration.
Location: U.S. Congress;

Speakers:

Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Representatives Joe Baca (D-CA), Howard Berman (D-CA), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), David Cicilline (D-RI), Robert Dold (R-IL), Elliot Engel (D-NY), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Scott Garrett (R-NJ), Janice Hahn (D-CA), Rush Holt (D-NJ), Ed Markey (D-MA), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Laura Richardson (D-CA), Steven Rothman (D-NJ), Ed Royce (R-CA), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Brad Sherman (D-CA), Jackie Speier (D-CA), and Bob Turner (R-NY), Armenian Ambassador Tatoul Markaryan, NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan.

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 (12/01/2011 - 05/31/2012).

Name	Address line 1	Address line 2	Amount
NKR Government	28 Azatamartikneri St.	Stepanakert, NKR, Armenia	\$77,470.00
Total			\$77,470.00

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 (12/01/2011 - 05/31/2012).

NN	Purpose	Amount
1	Entertainment/meals: No U.S. officials or media representatives were guests	\$1,887
3	Health Insurance	\$2,859
4	Living expenses	\$38,084
6	Car rent/related expenses	\$4,356
7	Office Supplies	\$6,913
8	Parking	\$470
9	Postage/Courier	\$182
10	Rent Housing Expats	\$15,482
11	Telephone / Internet	\$3,135
12	Travel within US & International: No U.S. officials or media were quests	\$2,865
13	Website/Email	\$119
	Total operating expenses and other disbursements:	\$76,352

Question 16:

During this 6 month period, did you prepare, disseminate or Cause to be disseminated any informational material?

Answer: Yes. Below are the copies of the Press Releases and Media Alerts distributed during the reporting period (12/01/2011 – 05/31/2012)

MEDIA ALERT: NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHES NKR LETTER

DATE: December 23, 2011
TO: Media Colleagues
RE: NYTimes Publishes Artsakh Envoy's Letter

The New York Times published NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan's commentary re Anastasia Taylor-Lind's publication "The National Womb" on the Nagorno-Karabakh.

In his letter Artsakh envoy outlined the NKR people's determination to continue building their lives despite opposition from Azerbaijan.

The full text of the letter is provided below. You can also view it online at:
[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/22/opinion/life-in-nagorno-karabakh.html?_r=1#h\[RTNTpb,1\]](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/22/opinion/life-in-nagorno-karabakh.html?_r=1#h[RTNTpb,1])

A version of the letter also appeared in print on December 22, 2011, on page A36 of the New York edition with the headline: Life in Nagorno-Karabakh.

* * *

The New York Times

Published: December 21, 2011

Life in Nagorno-Karabakh

To the Editor:

Re "The National Womb," by Anastasia Taylor-Lind (Sunday Review, Dec. 11): The photos by Ms. Taylor-Lind, a photojournalist, show the desire and steadfast efforts by the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities to support new families despite scarce state resources.

But the most important message is that the freedom-loving people living there are determined to build their lives despite the everyday warmongering from neighboring Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani military attempts to destroy Nagorno-Karabakh from 1991 to 1994, the blockade ever since and the everyday threats of renewed hostilities against our people cannot prevent the natural course of life there. The sooner the authorities in Azerbaijan realize this, the better and safer the future of the children born in our states will be.

ROBERT AVETISYAN
Representative, Office of the
Nagorno-Karabakh Republic
Washington, Dec. 19, 2011

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PRESS RELEASE

January 12, 2012

VICTIMS OF 1990 BAKU POGROMS REMEMBERED

Survivors Seek Justice More than Two Decades After Atrocities

WASHINGTON, DC – January 13, 1990 was the day the Azerbaijani nationalist mobs dramatically escalated a wave of violent pogroms and deadly attacks against the Armenian population in Baku, Azerbaijan's capital. While tens of thousands of nationalists gathered in the city's central square, a numbers groups numbering dozens and hundreds each – egged on by agitators – broke off and conducted methodical, house-by-house attacks against ethnic Armenians remaining in the city.

Soviet and Western media published eyewitness reports of the atrocities bringing blood-chilling details of murders of hundreds of helpless civilians. No proper investigation of the violence was ever conducted and the exact number of victims is still unknown. Human rights groups, including the Human Rights Watch, stressed the organized character and the sophisticated cruelty of the anti-Armenian pogroms in Baku, hundreds of miles away from the Karabakh conflict area. "Most of the deaths were caused by beatings and knife wounds; ... The action was not entirely (or perhaps not at all) spontaneous, as the attackers had lists of Armenians and their addresses", the organization reported.

The Soviet leadership remained largely silent for days after the first reports about the killings. Forces were dispatched into Baku a week later, when the bloodbath and chaos in the city threatened Soviet authority.

Armenian pogroms in Sumgait, Kirovabad, Baku and elsewhere around Azerbaijan and the full-scale military aggression against the Nagorno Karabakh Republic that followed demonstrated the level of intolerance and anti-Armenian sentiment among the Azerbaijani leadership and society.

22 years after the tragic events in Baku, the organizers and perpetrators of that crime, though some are publicly known, remain unpunished.

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PRESS RELEASE

February 28, 2012

FEBRUARY 26-29, 1988: THE TRAGEDY IN SUMGAIT

Azerbaijan spreads lies to avoid accountability

WASHINGTON, DC – February 26-29, 1988 were the days when Azerbaijani authorities organized and committed mass-pogroms and massacres against the Armenian population in Sumgait, Azerbaijan. It was the first ethnic cleansing campaign that Azeri nationalists committed in response to peaceful manifestation of Karabakh Armenians for self-determination. Going unpunished, it became a precursor for further bloody episodes of ethnic cleansings perpetrated by Azeri authorities in Kirovabad, Mingechaur, Baku and elsewhere around Azerbaijan along with later full-scale military aggression against the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh.

In a result of genocidal actions of Azerbaijan's authority in Sumgait, dozens of Armenians were brutally killed, majority of whom were set afire alive after being beaten and tortured. Official number of victims stated 36, while other independent sources reported more than a hundred victims. Global media including the New York Times, Washington Post, Chicago Sun-Times and many others also reported about those bloody days of Sumgait.

That crime against humanity committed by the Azerbaijani government has remained unpunished. No adequate political and legal evaluation was provided due to the lack of interest of the Central Soviet government in restoring the truth and punishing real organizers. A few criminal cases and sentencing of a couple of hooligans were only aimed at slurring over those crimes.

Instead of repenting for its actions, Azerbaijan tries to escape responsibility for committing the Sumgait genocide by shifting attention to the Armenian side. The Azerbaijani government continues misinforming global community by spreading outrageous lies about the killings of civilians of Khojaly by Armenian forces. In reality, those innocent Azeri civilians, who managed to leave Khojaly area of military actions via peace corridor provided by Armenian forces, were cold-heartedly killed by Azeri Popular Front's troops near Azerbaijan-controlled Aghdam, a town seven miles away from Khojaly, for the internal struggle for control of power in the oil-rich Azerbaijan.

Today, the international community risks repeating the mistakes of the central Soviet government by not condemning the Armenian genocide in Sumgait, but also crimes against its own Azeri people. Today's bellicose rhetoric and aggressive policy of Azerbaijan is a direct result of the lack of conviction of those crimes committed by Azerbaijan against humanity.

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MEDIA ALERT: FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON ARTSAKH

DATE: March 12, 2012
TO: Media Colleagues
RE: FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON ARTSAKH

On March 10, 2012, Foreign Policy Journal published an article by Aram Avetisyan.

Named "Karabakh Knot: Myths and Realities", the publication covers political and legal aspects of Nagorno Karabakh conflict, as well as touches upon relations between Azerbaijan and NKR.

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

<http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2012/03/10/karabakh-knot-myths-and-realities/>

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Foreign Policy Journal

Karabakh Knot: Myths and Realities

by Aram Avetisyan

Published: Saturday, March 10, 2012

2011 became another year of wasted opportunities, and failure to finding a fair and legitimate settlement to the Karabakh conflict. The unresolved conflict continues to undermine the security and stability in the whole South Caucasus region and beyond. Unfortunately, various obstacles still impede a tangible progress.

After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the Karabakh conflict has escalated into one of the most complicated international disputes. Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh, and Armenia—the co-signers of the 1994 ceasefire—were actively involved in the negotiation process to find a workable solution to this problem. However, since 1998, Azerbaijan has been rejecting any further contacts with Nagorno Karabakh. Baku's policy hasn't changed ever since, and continues to create additional, artificial obstacles in the settlement process. Azerbaijan's efforts are clear. They are aimed at portraying the conflict as a territorial dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Misinterpretation of international documents, particularly the U.N. Security Council resolutions, is another measure Baku undertakes to mislead the international community. Azerbaijan often refers to four UN resolutions adopted in April-November 1993 at the height of armed hostilities to claim that Armenia "has occupied Azerbaijan's territory". In reality, none of those U.N. Security Council documents has ever mentioned Armenia as "aggressor" or "occupier".[1] For instance, U.N. Security Council Resolution 822, adopted in 1993, stated that armed hostilities were taking place between Azerbaijan and "local Armenian forces" in Nagorno Karabakh, which distinguished Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh as immediate parties to the conflict.[2]

Prior to the obligation to withdraw the forces, the resolutions of the Security Council demanded "immediate cessation of hostility and hostile acts with a view to establishing a durable cease-fire".[3] This principal provision, along with a few others, was consistently violated by Azerbaijan due to its general aggressive stance, including permanent infringements of the cease fire agreement.[4] Azerbaijan, which has repeatedly undermined the international peacekeeping efforts, and pursued aggressive military policy towards Artsakh, remains responsible for the resolutions' non-implementation. Another example is U.N. Security Council Resolution 874, adopted later in 1993, which called for "reciprocal and urgent steps", such as "withdrawal of forces and removal of blockade basing on the CSCE Minsk Group's "Adjusted timetable".[5] Unlike the Armenian sides, Baku has rejected all the proposals and timetables, and continues its blockade of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh up until now.

Moreover, Armenia continues fulfilling its international obligation—to facilitate what the resolution called "acceptance by this party (Nagorno Karabakh) of the proposals of the Minsk Group of the CSCE (antecedent of the OSCE)".[6] Accusations that the Armenian sides failed to implement the UNSC resolutions are groundless. Misleading the international community is 'typical' of Baku's efforts to distort the essence of the Karabakh conflict.

Unlike conflicts around South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Kosovo, Transdniestria or elsewhere, the Karabakh conflict remains the only dispute that lacks direct contacts between the immediate internationally-recognized conflicting sides—Azerbaijan and Artsakh. This fact raises additional doubts in sincerity of Azeri high ranking officials when they persuade the international community of the country's willingness to have the conflict settled. It is worth

mentioning that, in at least ten cases, Baku and Stepanakert were able to reach mutual agreements through direct contacts, even without Yerevan's participation.[7]

Maintaining contacts between the conflicting sides is the minimal and crucial requirement for any effective settlement process. Azerbaijan's refusal to resume negotiations with Nagorno-Karabakh contradicts not only the stance of the international mediators and community, but also contravenes to the country's own commitments.

Artsakh's status of the conflicting side has been documented in various international records, particularly in the OSCE documents, and other agreements co-signed by Azerbaijan. Starting from 1993, after realizing the impossibility of conquering Artsakh by force, then President of Azerbaijan, later claimed as the "father of nation", Heydar Aliyev (father of the incumbent Azeri leader Ilham), intensified contacts with the NKR authorities, and delegated several officials to negotiate an armistice. In May of 1994, a trilateral cease-fire agreement was signed between Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh, and Armenia, which remains in force until now.[8] The OSCE Minsk group—the main vehicle for the negotiations, has also recognized this agreement by periodically calling on the conflicting parties to "cooperate to implement and observe fully the 1994 ceasefire".[9]

Moreover, on July 27, 1994, the defense ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the commander of the NKR Defense Army have co-signed another cease-fire agreement to provide legitimacy to the accord worked out earlier in May.[10] In addition, the final document of the 1994 OSCE Summit in Budapest, Hungary, refers to all the parties of the conflict basing on the abovementioned July 27, 1994, agreement.[11]

In 1995, the OSCE has re-confirmed its decisions regarding "the status of the parties, i.e. the participation of the two State parties to the conflict, and of the other conflicting party (Nagorno-Karabakh) in the whole negotiation process, including in the Minsk Conference",[12] which reserved a seat for Artsakh representatives at the Minsk process negotiating table. Based on those documents, the OSCE Minsk Group continues mediation efforts between Yerevan, Baku, and Stepanakert by regular visits to all the three capitals, and meetings with officials.

It is clear that, by rejecting direct negotiations with Artsakh, Azerbaijan artificially postpones the final settlement of the conflict. Unlike Nagorno Karabakh, which has repeatedly reiterated its readiness to resume direct negotiations with Azerbaijan,[13] Baku still prefers to reject the reality, and continues a policy that embezzles international resources, both political and financial.

Notes

[1] See UN Security resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884

[2] UN Security Council, April 30, 1993, Resolution 822: See: <http://xocali.net/EN/Frame/resolutions-text.html>

[3] Ibid

[4] "Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov's letter to Mr. David Atkinson, a member of the Council of Europe", Moscow, December 3, 2004: <http://vn.kazimirov.ru/k101eng.htm>

[5] UN Security Council, October 14, 1993, Resolution 874: See: <http://xocali.net/EN/Frame/resolutions-text.html>

[6] UN Security Council, July 29, 1993, Resolution 853: See: <http://xocali.net/EN/Frame/resolutions-text.html#2>

[7] Vladimir Kazimirov: "Looking for a Way Out of the Karabakh Impasse" November 9, 2004, see: http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_3881

[8] The Bishkek protocol, See: http://nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/documents.shtml#two

[9] OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs Statement, June 9, 2011, See: <http://www.osce.org/mg/78589>

[10] Human Rights Watch, See: <http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/AZER%20Conflict%20in%20N-K%20Dec94.pdf>

[11] <http://www.osce.org/mc/39554>

[12] <http://www.osce.org/documents/16260>

[13] http://nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/interviews.php?id=12

Aram Avetisyan holds Master degree in Public Policy from George Mason University. He is a former fellow of Kennan Institute of Woodrow Wilson International Center, Washington DC. Avetisyan also contributes to the work of the Washington-based Americans for Artsakh NGO. He is interested in public policy, governance and conflict resolution. Aram Avetisyan serves as Counselor at the Office of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the United States (Washington DC). Read more articles by [Aram Avetisyan](#).

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PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2012

**MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS CONDEMNED ATROCITIES IN AZERBAIJAN IN 1988-1990
Reiterate Their Support to Artsakh's Security**

WASHINGTON, DC – Members of the U.S. Congress have issued statements to commemorate the victims of pogroms by Azerbaijani nationalists against the republic's Armenian population in 1988-1990. Representatives Frank Wolf (R-VA), Judy Chu (D-CA), David Cicilline (D-RI), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Howard Berman (D-CA), Brad Sherman (D-CA), Michael Burgess (R-TX), Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Robert J. Dold (R-IL), and Jim Costa (D-CA) have condemned the atrocities, and reiterated that crimes against humanity should not go unrecognized.

On February 26-29, 1988, a week after the first peaceful manifestation for freedom took place in Stepanakert, Azeri authorities organized and committed massacres of the Armenian population in a peaceful town of Sumgait, located hundreds of miles from Nagorno Karabakh. Going unpunished, it became a precursor for further bloody episodes of anti-Armenian fascism, which took dozens of innocent lives in Kirovabad, Mingechaur, Baku and elsewhere around Azerbaijan. Lack of reaction from the central, then - Soviet authorities in Moscow, the atrocities have rapidly escalated in to a full-scale military aggression against Artsakh. The events of the 1988 – 1990 have disclosed the level of Azerbaijan's hatred against the Armenian people.

The members of the US Congress expressed concern over Azerbaijan's continued military buildup and a continued warmongering, which undermines the regional stability and jeopardizes international efforts to find a settlement to the Azerbaijan - Artsakh confrontation.

NKR representative in the USA Robert Avetisyan thanked members of the Congress for their critical support of Artsakh's freedom. In his letter, Avetisyan stressed that the statements by the members of the US Congress commemorating the victims of the atrocities, when hundreds of innocent civilians were tortured to death just for being Armenians, has sent a strong signal to the perpetrators that "the racism and genocidal actions do not have time limitation".

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MEDIA ALERT: FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON KARABAKH CONFLICT

DATE: May 3, 2012
TO: Media Colleagues
RE: FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON KARABAKH CONFLICT

On May 3, 2012, Foreign Policy Journal published an article by Hovhannes Nikoghosyan.

Named "A War That Has Been Neglected Since 1994", the publication covers issues of regional security and stability in the context of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, violations of cease fire regime as well as international involvement to prevent further escalation.

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

<http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2012/05/03/a-war-that-has-been-neglected-since-1994/>

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Foreign Policy Journal

A War That Has Been Neglected Since 1994

by Hovhannes Nikoghosyan

May 3, 2012

Using the infamous quote of former British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, this story below is about "a quarrel in faraway countr[ies] between people of whom we know nothing". And this is not about Europe of late 1930's, but about the periphery of Europe of 2012. I marked this quote listening to a Member of the Legislative Assembly from Northern Ireland, Mr. John McCallister, who was delivering a speech about the conflict settlement process in Northern Ireland at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)-hosted Ministerial conference in Dublin on April 27. Fortunately enough for all Irishmen, who suffered three decades of Troubles in their recent history, through the inclusive contribution of international mediators, and chief of them US Senator George Mitchell, as well as the maturity of the leaderships in London, Belfast, and Dublin, they became able to seal the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

When foreign diplomats or my fellow colleagues from political science disciplines elaborate on commonalities between the conflict in Ulster and others in, for example, the former Soviet Union areas, including Nagorno Karabakh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia (both now partially recognized by few states), and Transdnistria, I always pinpoint on two key differences: a) decisive international involvement; and b) maturity of political and community leaderships.

A smoldering conflict is often not about absence of any peace initiatives. It is substantially about an unwillingness of either of the parties to commit to negotiated agreements once out of the meeting room. This is especially true about the peace talks on Nagorno Karabakh, where the geography of negotiations since the ceasefire was established in 1994 (and even between the war of 1992-94) covers the most beautiful cities on the planet—Rome, Helsinki, Prague, Lisbon, Moscow, Paris, Key West, Madrid, etc.—while any progress is hardly visible. A "no war, no peace" situation has been the only and appreciated result of peace talks, which is now under increasing risk to erupt into conflict as both sides are engaged in a Cold war-style "deterrence" with extensive military buildup.[1]

Instead of going into the substance of current talks, here I want to offer another key difference, which still makes it impossible to heal wounds of enmity.

One of the most tragic events in the Troubles, "Bloody Sunday" of January 1972, may serve as an example to show one difference between Great Britain and Azerbaijan—two metropolises that had been trying to keep their conflict regions inside the common area. While after "Bloody Sunday" the Westminster immediately rushed into whitewashing the tragedy and justifying the killings of mostly unarmed civilian protesters in the streets of Derry, the Tony Blair Cabinet established the so-called Saville Inquiry in 1998, which came out with a final report in 2010 and contained rightful and lawful elaborations on the "usual suspects". This bloody event might be much similar to what happened in Sumgayit, a town in still Soviet Azerbaijan in February 1988, where Armenians were being executed for the sake of their ethnic origins, just because few days before, on February 20, the legislature in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO) capital Stepanakert applied with a petition to the Kremlin to re-join Soviet Armenia. The same policy of pogroms against Armenians later unfolded in Baku, Kirovabad, and other cities and villages of Azerbaijan in the late years of the Soviet Union's existence. Though the Soviets staged some prosecutions to punish anti-Armenian pogroms in Sumgayit (and not anywhere else), only few suspects got prison terms for "hooliganism and mass riots". Instead of blaming and shaming for the ethnic cleansings, which might have put the follow-up events into another channel, most suspects were freed in the courtrooms or sentenced to conditional terms. Absence of any "Saville Inquiry", and moreover a policy of whitewashing the history and blaming Armenians themselves "for provocations that led to pogroms", is what qualitatively distinguishes the Karabakh case from the success story in Northern Ireland. This is what I think the next similar conference, hosted by Irish Chairmanship of the OSCE, will need to address.

Before conflicting diplomats and mediators may come to terms for conflict resolution, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno Karabakh are still fighting.

The official releases from the Armenian Defense Ministry reported on April 27 that the Azerbaijani army has been shelling with sniper and artillery fire the borderland villages of Tavush region in Armenia, including onto a school and kindergarten.[2] Three soldiers of the Armenian army are reported to have been killed, another one wounded. Azerbaijani officials and the media indirectly confirmed the incident.[3] The Armenian Foreign Ministry urgently asked the Personal Representative of OSCE CiO to dispatch an emergency monitoring mission to the Armenia-Azerbaijan border.[4] The two OSCE observers were already in place on April 30 and recorded the incidents carefully.

Recalling the vocabulary of the so-called Caroline affair, common in international law to describe justifications of legitimate self-defense, now the threat to Armenian frontlines is imminent. Immanency is vested on daily violations of ceasefire regime, including the recent shelling upon the borderland school and kindergarten, where ordinary civilians must enjoy the protection of their government against any threat to their life and health by any force— internal or external. This quite simple erga omnes obligation is enshrined in any Constitution across the globe, which gave rise to "Responsibility to Protect", or R2P doctrine, affirmed by UN Security Council in Resolution 1674 (2006). As parliamentary elections in Armenia are due on May 6, this inflammable situation is specifically bold and affects the domestic political stability and threatens the national security more than ever, leaving for this tiny country in the Caucasus no other option than to engage militarily.[5]

Serzh Sargsyan, the President of Armenia, has already manifested an "inevitable" and devastating answer to punish for the ceasefire violation,[6] while OSCE Minsk Group co-Chairs (in attendance to OSCE Dublin

conference on April 27) rushed to urge the parties "to abstain from retaliatory measures".[7] The co-Chairs, who have attracted much criticism for a long time now, didn't utter anything about strengthening the ceasefire regime monitoring capabilities. When there are no early warning mechanisms or permanent observer missions established on site, the sides will always remain prone to resuming the conflict.

This is exactly the time when the international community should urge Azerbaijan to comply with long-negotiated confidence-building measures – pulling back snipers[8] and allowing installation of ceasefire violation mechanisms to avoid any new escalation that the region is obviously rushing into while international conferences discuss "success stories".

Notes

[1] Military expenditure in the South Caucasus; Stockholm International Peace Research Institute 2011

<http://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2011/files/SIPRIYB1104-04A-04B.pdf>

[2] News.am agency, 26/04/2012

<http://news.am/eng/news/102879.html>

[3] News.az agency, 30.04.2012 (in Russian)

<http://1news.az/politics/karabakh/20120430015641090.html>

[4] News.am agency, 28/04/2012

<http://news.am/eng/news/103258.html>

[5] Panarmenian News Agency, 28/04/2012,

<http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/105253/>

[6] Panorama.am News Agency, 27/04/2012

<http://www.panorama.am/en/society/2012/04/27/serzh-sargsyan-mil/>

[7] Statement of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, 27 April 2012

<http://www.osce.org/mg/90140>

[8] Armenia 'Still Ready' For Sniper Withdrawal In Karabakh, RFE/RL, November 25, 2011 http://www.rferl.org/content/snipers_karabakh_armenia_azerbaijan/24402333.html

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PRESS RELEASE

May 9, 2012

KARABAKH CELEBRATES LIBERATION OF SHUSHI

Hundreds of Guests Joined Artsakh in Celebrations

Washington, DC - This May 9 the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh marked the 20th anniversary of the liberation of Shushi, historical one of the most important centers of Armenian culture. Artsakh people and foreign guests attended the festive events that included a large-scale military parade of the Artsakh Defense Army.

Shushi emerged as one of the most important cities for Armenians in the 18th and 19th centuries. The city was devastated in the early 20th centuries after several bouts of anti-Armenian violence. Remaining Armenian population fled the city in the late 1980s.

By the early 1990s, Shushi – which seats on a plateau above Stepanakert - became the base for Azerbaijan's military operations, particularly the devastating shelling of Karabakh's capital. In the months before its liberation, up to 400 missiles launched from Shushi would land in Stepanakert, driving its population into underground basement, causing hundreds of casualties and damaging more than half of the capital's buildings. Azerbaijani control of Shushi also gave it control over the main road connecting Stepanakert to Goris in Armenia proper. The day is also marked as the day of the formation of the Defense Army of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

With survival of the Armenian Artsakh at stake, its self-defense forces launched the military operation to take Shushi early on May 8, 1992. After twenty-four hours of heavy fighting, in which over fifty Armenian soldiers paid the ultimate price, Azerbaijani forces panicked and fled Shushi. In subsequent operations Armenian forces from Artsakh opened a corridor to Goris that became known as "Road of Life" that allowed for key supplies to enter Artsakh and make its defense possible.

Also on May 9, Armenians join other former Soviet peoples to mark the victory over Nazi Germany in the WWII, in which hundreds of thousands of Armenians actively participated.

In his holiday address Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan noted that "May 9 is the day of a victory, the victory of nationwide unity and consolidation, freedom-loving spirit and an unshakable will..."

"May 9 is the victory day of all Armenians in the national liberation struggle, when all parts of the Armenian nation united around the noble idea of defending Artsakh. Everything was done for the sake of our sacred mission, for the fulfillment of our long-cherished aspirations, for the bright future of the Armenian nation".

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PRESS RELEASE

May 15, 2012

ARTSAKH MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE WITH AZERBAIJAN

Peace Remains Fragile 18 Years after the Agreement was Signed

May 12 marks the 18th anniversary of the cease fire agreement signed by Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia. Co-signed by the official representatives of the three countries, the document remains one of few tangible achievements in the Karabakh peace process. Despite frequent violations along the line of contact, the armistice agreement allows maintaining a relative stability in the South Caucasus.

In the early 1994, after a series of heavy military defeats and suffering significant losses in manpower and equipment, Azerbaijan finally accepted the armistice agreement. On May 5, 1994 parliamentary leaders from Azerbaijan, Artsakh and Armenia met in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek on the sidelines of Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States to co-sign the Bishkek Protocol, which gave a political endorsement to a permanent cease-fire.

In the days that followed, defense ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan Serzh Sargsyan and Mamedraffi Mamedov, as well as the commander of Artsakh Defense Army Samvel Babayan put their signatures under the cease-fire agreement, which envisaged cessation of hostilities from midnight on May 12, 1994, and establishment of a buffer zone. The agreement does not mention an expiration date, and is supposed to remain in force until the peace agreement is reached.

Unfortunately, Azerbaijan continues to infringe assumed commitments by frequent violations of the cease-fire regime. Bellicose rhetoric by Azerbaijani officials and the resulting radical anti-Armenian atmosphere in the Azeri society leaves little hope for a final peace agreement to be reached anytime soon.

For its part, Artsakh continues to support the international mediators' vision of a lasting peaceful solution to the conflict that can only be based on direct negotiations and good will.

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PRESS RELEASE

May 17, 2012

RI REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORT ARTSAKH'S INDEPENDENCE

and Call on the U.S. Government to Formally Recognize the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

PROVIDENCE, RI — On May 17, 2012, the Rhode Island House of Representatives passed a resolution introduced by Representatives Fox, Mattiello, Corvese, McNamara, and Bennett that calls on the U.S. President and Congress to recognize the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. The resolution also encouraged the republic's "continued efforts to develop as a free and independent nation," and praised Artsakh's "constructive involvement with the international community and its efforts to reach a lasting solution to the existing regional problems."

"I thank the Rhode Island House for passing this resolution in support of Karabakh's aspirations for freedom, and hope that the legislature's commitment to our shared values of human rights and justice will set an example for other legislatures in the U.S. and beyond," said NKR representative Robert Avetisyan.

The resolution was voted on the House floor in the presence of Artsakh Representative and a delegation from the local Armenian community: Chairman of the Armenian Cultural Association of R.I. Hagop Donoyan, youth advisor to the AYF of R.I. Levon Attarian, member of the board of trustees of the Sts. Vartanantz Church Stephen Elmasian, and member of the ARF Eastern U.S. Central Committee Ani Haroian.

Almost concurrently, on U.S. Capitol Hill, Representatives James Langevin (D-R.I.) and David Cicilline (D-R.I.) made statements on the House floor in support of the people of Artsakh. U.S. Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.), in turn, issued statements.

"It is more important than ever that the United States maintain a principled stand for peace in this region, show that democracy can be born from conflict, and support Nagorno-Karabakh," said Representative Langevin. "It is my sincerest hope that Nagorno-Karabakh's right to self-determination can be affirmed without further loss of life."

"20 years ago, the people of Nagorno Karabakh fought and died for their independence from Soviet Azeri repression and discrimination," said Representative Cicilline. "I join the people of Nagorno Karabakh today in recognizing the 20th anniversary of their independence and the formation of the Republic's Army, and the liberation of Shushi." Representative Cicilline also referred to the resolution of the R.I. State House of Representatives on supporting the NKR's independence. (See the video of the statement at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=9vnm6QsCAv4)

Meanwhile, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee proposed in its Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill to provide "at least" \$5 million for assistance to humanitarian and development programs in Nagorno Karabakh. The Committee also restated the importance of confidence-building measures and urged "all parties (to the NK conflict) to refrain from threats of violence."

"We are deeply grateful to our congressional friends for their continuing support of Artsakh on its path towards strengthening freedom, democracy and economic prosperity", said NKR Representative.

The full text of the R.I. House resolution appears below. You can also find it on the Rhode Island House of Representatives webpage at: <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/billtext12/housetext12/h8180.pdf>

2012 -- H 8180 ===== LC02637 ===== STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012 _____

HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AS A FREE AND INDEPENDENT NATION

Introduced By: Representatives Fox, Mattiello, Corvese, McNamara, and Bennett

Date Introduced: May 17, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

WHEREAS, The Region of Artsakh, also known as Mountainous Karabagh, is located in the Transcaucasus and has historically been Armenian territory, populated by an overwhelming majority of Armenians; and

WHEREAS, In 1923, the communist dictatorship of Joseph Stalin, in violation of the national, territorial, and human rights of the Armenian people, annexed part of the region of Artsakh which was composed of a 95 percent Armenian population, and joined it with the region of Soviet Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, For decades, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, having arbitrarily been severed from Armenia and forced under Soviet Azerbaijani administration, peacefully demonstrated for national independence and individual freedom and against Soviet Azerbaijani repression and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, In the years immediately preceding the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's declaration of independence, these peaceful demonstrations were met with acts of violent repression by Soviet Azerbaijani forces who refused to allow the reestablishment of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh's national independence; and

WHEREAS, During the repressive and violent events leading to the birth of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, ethnic Armenians were killed in Sumgait (February, 1988), Kirovabad (November, 1988), and Baku (January, 1990), by Soviet Azerbaijani forces. Over 350,000 Armenians were forcibly deported from Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1988, within months of the Sumgait tragedy, the United States Senate unanimously passed Amendment 2690 to the Fiscal Year 1989 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill (H.R. 4782), concerning the Karabakh conflict and calling on the Soviet government to "respect the legitimate aspirations of the Armenian people ..." and noted that "dozens of Armenians have been killed and hundreds injured during the recent unrests ..."; and

WHEREAS, The Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh would not be deterred and would not allow their dream of national independence, and their inherent desire for individual freedom, to be destroyed by violence and repression; and

WHEREAS, On December 10th of 1991, despite continued violence against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, a popular referendum proclaiming the republic took place in Nagorno-Karabakh during the process of the Soviet Union disintegration; and

WHEREAS, Under the watchful eye of more than 50 international observers and in full compliance with international standards for free and fair elections, more than 80 percent of the eligible voters in Nagorno-Karabakh cast a ballot. Ninety-eight percent of those casting ballots overwhelmingly chose national independence and individual freedom, thereby choosing the path of democracy after decades of communist control; and

WHEREAS, The population of Nagorno-Karabakh then held free, democratic, and direct elections for its parliament; and

WHEREAS, On January 6th of 1992, the first-ever freely elected Parliament of Nagorno-Karabakh adopted a Declaration of Independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic; and

WHEREAS, From the earliest days of its formation, the Republic's freely elected governmental bodies have continuously striven to build an open and democratic society through free and transparent elections, affirmed by international observers; and

WHEREAS, Since signing a cease-fire agreement with Azerbaijan in 1994, after three years of armed conflict, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic registered significant progress in post-war humanitarian and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Despite the 1994 cease-fire agreement, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's security and sovereignty continue to be threatened by regional tension and hostile acts; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby encourages the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's continuing efforts to develop as a free and independent nation in order to guarantee its citizens those rights inherent in a free and independent society; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this House hereby supports the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's continued constructive involvement with the international community and its efforts to reach a lasting solution to the existing regional problems, and to establish peace and stability in the strategically important region of South Caucasus; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this House hereby respectfully urges the President and Congress of the United States of America to recognize the independence of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and to encourage nations neighboring the Republic to foster and maintain peaceful relations with the people of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. We furthermore urge our country's leaders to continue promoting humanitarian and economic rehabilitation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and to fully support its continuing development of a free and democratic society, with all the social, economic, and political advantages that such a free and democratic society brings to its citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this House hereby memorializes the United States of America to support strengthening and solidifying our country's relationship with the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and its citizens, both culturally and economically, to insure the continued survival of this nation's burgeoning growth of freedom and democracy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and to Rhode Island's Congressional Delegation.

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PRESS RELEASE

May 22, 2012

RHODE ISLAND CELEBRATES LIBERATION OF SHUSHI

Community and Dignitaries Join the Celebrations

Providence, RI - On May 20, 2012, The Armenian Community of the State of Rhode Island organized a special reception to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the liberation of Shushi. Open-air reception and a concert were organized by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation's Eastern U.S. Central Committee, the Armenian Cultural Association of Rhode Island and the Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church of Providence. US Congressman David Cicilline (D-RI), Mayors of Providence, Warwick and Cranston also attended the celebrations, and offered their remarks to congratulate the people of Artsakh with the Triple Holiday.

"We will support Karabakh economically, legislatively, and diplomatically to ensure that it prospers", said Dikran Kaligian, member of the ARF Eastern Region's Central Committee.

Addressing the gathering, Representative of Artsakh Robert Avetisyan talked about the importance of the 1992 victory, and expressed hope for future significant achievements. Avetisyan thanked the vibrant Armenian community of Rhode Island for their continued involvement and support of Artsakh's aspirations to continue developing as a free and sovereign country.

On May 17, Rhode Island's House of Representatives adopted a resolution supporting independence of Artsakh, and calling upon the U.S. government to recognize the sovereign NKR.

During the Artsakh Liberation War, on May 8-9, 1992 Artsakh self-defense forces launched a military operation intended to lift the siege of Stepanakert and end Azerbaijani bombardments of Karabakh's capital. Shushi, a historically Armenian town by then cleared of all its Armenian population, became Azerbaijan's military stronghold. After twenty-four hours of heavy fighting, Artsakh forces liberated the town, and moved further to break the blockade and open a corridor to Armenia. The corridor, which became known as "Road of Life," allowed for key supplies to enter Artsakh and make its long-term defense possible.

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PRESS RELEASE

May 29, 2012

Doctors from American medical NGO visit Artsakh

The Hope for Tomorrow Foundation donates medical equipment and performs more than hundred surgeries

A group of American doctors, registered nurses and students of US medical colleges visited Artsakh as part of The Hope for Tomorrow Foundation, New York-based humanitarian organization's mission to the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

The Hope for Tomorrow Foundation was established in New York City in 1994 with the mission to recruit doctors from across the United States to help children around the world in need of surgeries. Since then, the foundation has performed, free of charge, complex surgeries in dozens of countries around the globe.

During the foundation's mission to Artsakh, doctors and specialists in plastic, vascular and orthopedic surgery, as well as anesthesiologists and a radiologist performed more than one hundred of surgeries in Stepanakert and Shushi. The group of 32 specialists and students also visited the republic's orphanage, and met with the local entrepreneurs. The guests also visited Artsakh's popular tourist destinations.

Member of the foundation Dr. Hratch Karamanoukian donated equipment for laser and ultrasound diagnostics, which, according to local doctors, will significantly improve the locally available medical services.

President of Artsakh Bako Sahakyan received the delegation, and expressed gratitude for their mission.

"Our people, all of us appreciate the humanitarian assistance you provide", said the President.

Bilateral visits, exchange of experience and increased cooperation have also been discussed at the meeting with Artsakh's Minister of Health Sergey Movsisyan.

"We will share with others what we saw here", said Brian Rusk, coordinator of the mission, adding that "the Foundation will continue helping Artsakh".

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PRESS RELEASE

May 29, 2012

The City of Providence Celebrates Shushi Liberation Day

Mayor Taveras Proclaims May 20 Day of the City's Liberation

"The City of Providence acknowledges the 20th anniversary of Shushi's liberation at a ceremony at Sts Vartanantz Church marking this significant Armenian military victory in Nagorno Karabakh", says the resolution by Mayor Angel Taveras issued on May 20 to mark the Liberation of Shushi Day.

The resolution also underlines, that the liberation of Shushi in 1992 "was an important event in the Nagorno Karabakh war between the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh and the Republic of Azerbaijan".

Mayor of Shushi Garen Avakimyan sent a letter to Mayor Taveras, in which he thanked the Mayor and the City of Providence for the Proclamation.

The letter, in particular, said "Twenty years ago the city (of Shushi) returned to the Armenian people to become a symbol of courage and perseverance, a symbol of a selfless struggle for freedom and justice. Today, we remain committed to continue developing as a free, open and democratic society based on our shared values of human rights and liberties. And our determination became even stronger with the May 20, 2012 Proclamation from the proud City of Providence".

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Question 16:

During this 6 month period, did you prepare, disseminate or Cause to be disseminated any informational material?

Answer: Yes. Below are the copies of the Newsletters distributed during the reporting period (12/01/2011 – 05/31/2012)

ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

December, 2011

Artsakh Newsletter summarizes key developments in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States.

SECURITY & POLITICS

NKR President Bako Sahakyan reiterated Artsakh's readiness for peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict via direct negotiations during his speech at the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI) in Buenos Aires. Azerbaijan's non-constructive position, its extremist and belligerent anti-Armenian policy continues impeding the peace process, NKR President stressed. Sahakian undertook a visit to Argentina and Uruguay where he met high level officials and Armenian community leaders.

Karabakh conflict must be solved based on international law and the right of people for self-determination, said Lebanese President Michel Suleiman during his visit to Yerevan.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reiterated that only a negotiated settlement in Karabakh conflict can lead to peace, stability, and reconciliation while referring to Deauville statement of Presidents of U.S., France and Russia.

OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries and the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia reaffirmed the importance of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the joint statement issued during the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania. In the statement they also agreed to develop a mechanism to investigate cease-fire violations.

NKR Foreign Ministry responded to misleading efforts by Azerbaijan on the subject of the so-called "inter-communal dialogue." In its statement, the foreign ministry explained Baku's deception stressing that only direct negotiations between leaders of Azerbaijan and NKR can produce a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. Earlier, Foreign Ministry of Armenia expressed its position on the same issue.

Karabakh war is not our war, declared representatives of non-governmental organizations and ethnic minority groups of Azerbaijan, including Avars, Lezgins, Rutuls and Talishs in their public statement that condemned the government of Azerbaijan for its aggressive stance against Artsakh and its forcefully assimilative policy against ethnic minority groups.

BUSINESS, ECONOMY & SOCIETY

Over the last decade, Artsakh's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased by eight times.

Artsakh parliament began discussing a draft of NKR state budget for FY 2012.

Artsakh president visited Martuni, Shoushi and Hadrut regions to discuss regional development issues.

New exhibition dedicated to Artsakh sculptor Armen Hakobyan's 70th anniversary has been opened in Stepanakert.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

December 10, 2011 marks the 20th anniversary of the national Referendum in Artsakh, which expressed overwhelming popular endorsement of the newly-formed Nagorno Karabakh Republic. 82% of the total number of Artsakh's registered voters participated in the elections. The overwhelming majority of participants (99.98%) voted for independence.

On the same day in 2006, the people of Artsakh reaffirmed their commitment to live in a free, independent and democratic state by adopting the republic's main law – Constitution. In his address to the nation, the NKR President Bako Sahakian congratulated Artsakh people on both occasions stating that ideas of justice, protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and legitimate interests are in the basis of Artsakh struggle for freedom and democracy.

Chairman of the NKR Supreme Court Aramais Avagian underscored the importance of the adoption of the basic law in a recent interview.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, was formed in 1991 based on a declaration of its legislature and results of a subsequent popular referendum. The people of Artsakh defended their choice in a war unleashed by Azerbaijan. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh has emerged as a democratic, rule-of-law state with capable armed forces, a growing market economy, and an independent foreign policy.

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

December, 2011

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We wish our readers a peaceful and happy new year!

SECURITY & POLITICS

Members of the U.S. Congress Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Adam Schiff (D-CA) met with the US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon. The Congressmen urged the State Department to support Artsakh's self-determination. Also discussed were Azerbaijan's aggressive policies and increase in US aid to NK. As part of the Fiscal Year 2012 foreign aid legislation, Congress agreed to provide assistance for Nagorno Karabakh "at levels consistent with prior years, and for ongoing needs related to the conflict." Previously, American legislators have authorized spending up to \$10 million in Artsakh in Fiscal Year 2011.

Defense Minister Movses Hakobian reiterated in an interview with RFE/RL that Artsakh Defense Army remained in a state of constant vigilance for possible aggression by Azerbaijan. The statement came soon after **another cease-fire violation by Azerbaijan in which** Defense Army's private Gevorg Yeghiazaryan was wounded.

In an interview to Regnum news agency, acting Foreign Minister Vasily Atajanian discussed legal principles of the Karabakh conflict settlement and the peace process. He noted that "Artsakh's independence doesn't violate Azerbaijan's territorial integrity."

The New York Times published comments of Robert Avetisyan, Artsakh Representative in the US. "Life in Nagorno Karabakh" mentions Artsakh intention to continue independent development despite Azerbaijan's opposition.

Australia's New South Wales Legislative Council member Walter Secord visited Stepanakert where he met with Artsakh's Parliament Speaker Ashot Ghulian.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Artsakh lawmakers approved the **\$184 million 2012 state budget**. The document envisages a 9% economic growth and provides for a modest increase in public spending.

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund concluded its annual fundraising effort. **\$31 million in donations and pledges** will be directed in the 2012 mainly towards water infrastructure development throughout Artsakh; the largest pledge - \$11 million - came from businessman Eduardo Eurnekian.

NKR premier confirmed that **construction of the Stepanakert airport has been completed**. "We will now proceed with the purchase of aircraft" Ara Harutyunyan said at a press conference in Stepanakert. He said that March - April 2012 is the "most probable" timeframe for first flights.

"Base Metal" company remained the biggest taxpayer in Artsakh in 2011. President Sahakyan stressed the potential of the mining industry's development in Artsakh.

A number of **Russian-Armenian jewelers expressed interest** to open facilities in Nagorno Karabakh. Establishment of a specialized college was mentioned among priorities during the meeting of the Artsakh President with the Chairman of the Armenian Jewelers' Association in Moscow.

SOCIETY

2,376 new citizens were born in Artsakh in January-November 2011, 4% more compared to last year. Natural increase in population was 1,183. Of the newborns 52% are boys and 48% are girls; a slight majority - about 52% - were born in urban areas.

Consumer price index in Artsakh reached 107% in 2011. The NKR Statistical service says the minimum consumer basket in the republic reached \$130. The highest increase in price was registered in healthcare and transportation - 29% and 21% respectively; while the communications prices dropped by 19%.

An average of **1600 vehicles** were imported annually in Artsakh since 2008. Imports averaged 600 vehicles in the early 2000s, NKR Police reports.

91 families of perished military servicemen moved into newly built apartments in the 'Artsakh' residential neighborhood in central Stepanakert. Artsakh's Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan noted that all of the families of servicemen killed in defense of Artsakh have now been provided with housing.

A new regional hospital in Martakert opened doors to patients. Up-to-date equipment and trained specialists are expected to improve the region's healthcare and demography. Businessman and philanthropist **Ralph Yirikian** was instrumental in financing the new facility.

Children's Art Center in Stepanakert plans to open four new groups in addition to the existing 92 sections. Around **two thousand children** will continue developing skills and talents in 2012 in the Center, free of charge.

The NKR Department of Tourism has registered four thousand historical and cultural monuments. The department's head said excavations in Tigranakert and Azokh cave, as well as restoration of churches and Artsakh's participation in international exhibitions will remain priorities in 2012.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

December 28 marked the **20th anniversary of the first parliamentary elections** in independent Artsakh. The newly-formed parliament consisted of seventy-five elected representatives. The elections established a firm basis for future development of democratic traditions and parliamentarism in NKR.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, was formed in 1991 based on a declaration of its legislature and results of a subsequent popular referendum. The people of Artsakh defended their choice in a war unleashed by Azerbaijan. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh has emerged as a democratic, rule-of-law state with capable armed forces, a growing market economy, and an independent foreign policy.

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

January 1-15, 2012

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SECURITY & POLITICS

Armenian and Artsakh Presidents began 2012 with visits to Artsakh's regions, attending the launch of a new hydro power station in Mardakert district, the opening of a newly-renovated military hospital in Askeran district and recently completed 'Artsakh' residential neighborhood in central Stepanakert.

(Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/visits/1592/>)

"Artsakh's soldiers ensure stability for the whole region" President Sahakyan stressed while meeting with Defense Army servicemen on the southern stretch of the border. More info at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/visits/1587/>

Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia are expected to meet on January 23 and 24 in Sochi, southern Russia, for a new round of talks.

Azerbaijan has blocked additional funding for the Office of Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-office for a comprehensive investigation of incidents along the contact line. Artsakh foreign ministry called the Azeri position unpromising, and contradicting to the earlier agreements. More at: <http://nkr.am/en/news/2012-01-16/402/>

Ireland give priority to the Karabakh peace process as the country chairs the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2012. Irish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Eamon Gilmore said that the OSCE Minsk Group would have his full support. Read more at: <http://www.osce.org/cio/86960>

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Artsakh Investment Fund continues its work supporting small and mid-scale businesses. The Fund CEO said that more than 70 business entities have received assistance from the Fund totaling \$1.8 million last year. Read about Artsakh Investment Fund at: <http://www.aif.am/index.php/en>

Hydro power stations will remain essential for Artsakh's energy security. In addition to six already functioning stations, two more stations are under construction. Officials note that favorable investment field and taxation have also attracted private investors in the sector.

SOCIETY

Nine babies were born in Artsakh during the New Year holidays.

In 2011 NKR government organized English language training program for public sector employees. 78 of 100 participants successfully passed exams. Courses will continue this year.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

January 16-31, 2012

Artsakh Newsletter summarizes key developments in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States.

SECURITY & POLITICS

Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian presidents met in Russia's Sochi to discuss Karabakh settlement. A joint declaration has been adopted to expedite "the process of reaching understanding with regard to the Basic Principles" and encourage confidence building. Read more at: http://www.nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/statements.php?id=28

NKR Foreign Ministry welcomed UK's position on Scotland's intention to hold a referendum on its future status. The Artsakh ministry reiterated that human rights and self-determination are a priority for democracies. More info at: <http://news.am/eng/news/91377.html>

French Senate has approved a bill criminalizing the denial of genocides, including the Armenian genocide of 1915. Armenia and Artsakh thanked the French Senators for their position. A group of

Senators have since appealed to the Constitutional Court to issue a judgment on the legislation's validity.

California Assembly member Felipe Fuentes introduced a resolution to commemorate the Armenian massacres in Azerbaijan's Sumgait, Kirovabad and Baku between 1988 and 1990. "We stand together today to acknowledge the atrocities of the past so that we do not repeat them in the future," the assembly member said. More details at: <http://asbarez.com/100621/sumgait-kirovabad-baku-massacres-commemorated-by-fuentes-resolution/>

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

NKR government pledged that development of industrial infrastructure, along with agriculture and housing will remain priorities in 2012. Stepanakert is expected to have round-the-clock water supply by the end of 2012.

A first-ever Ostrich farm has been established in Artsakh, located in Gishi village, Martuni region. Read more at: <http://hetq.am/eng/articles/3946/>

SOCIETY

The Huffington Post has profiled Nagorno Karabakh a one of the great tourist destinations. "If you're staying with a local, don't be surprised if you're offered homemade mulberry vodka with breakfast. Drink up", the article says. See full article at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/olivia-katrandjian/nagorno-karabakh-the-black-garden_b_1223383.html#s628021

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

The pogroms in Baku in January 1990 against its Armenian residents was a culmination of anti-Armenian violence in response to Artsakh's peaceful campaign for reunification with Armenia. Since January 13, 1990, Azerbaijani nationalists launched methodical, house-by-house attacks on Armenians living in the Azerbaijani capital, weeklong attacks that came to be known as Baku pogroms. As a result, scores of Armenians were killed. Soviet authorities evacuated remnants of once 250,000-strong Armenian community of Baku.

More details at: http://nkrusa.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?id=24
http://nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/ethnic_cleansing_campaigns.shtml#baku

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Twenty years ago, on January 26, 1992, the residents of Karin Tak village of Shushi region heroically defended themselves from an attack by the Azeri army. This became one of the first serious victories of Artsakh self-defense forces and paved the way for further military successes. Twenty-two of the forty Karin Tak defenders have lost their lives in the battle against a much larger enemy force.

See more info on Karin Tak village and battle at:

http://www.armeniapedia.org/index.php?title=Karintak_Village

http://armenianow.com/features/6967/standing_under_the_stone_karintak

On the occasion President Bako Sahakian visited the village and presented medals and awards to the participants of the defense operation. Read more at:

<http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/visits/1609/>

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

February 1-15, 2012

Artsakh Newsletter is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States, and summarizes key developments in and around the NKR.

SECURITY & POLITICS

Artsakh's President Bako Sahakian visits Greece; meets with local community and Armenian organizations.

Read more at: <http://www.president.nkr.am/en/news/visits/1622/>

Members of U.S. Congress Frank Wolf and Judy Chu remembered the victims of the Sumgait and Baku pogroms. Speaking in the Congress, Representatives condemned Azerbaijan's attacks and ongoing threats against Artsakh. Shortly after the statement, Azeri activists declared a campaign "against Congressman Wolf". More details at: <http://news.am/eng/news/91967.html>

Read more about Sumgait and Baku pogroms at:
http://www.nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/sumgait_massacre.shtml

http://www.nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/ethnic_cleansing_campaigns.shtml#baku

Member of the California State Assembly Felipe Fuentes has introduced a resolution to commemorate the victims of the Armenian pogroms in major Azerbaijani town, hundreds of miles away from the conflict zone.

Former Slovak Parliament's Speaker František Mikloško, who has observed the 2010 Parliamentary elections in the NKR, arrived in Stepanakert and named Artsakh "one of the most democratic states in the world". See more at: <http://www.armradio.am/eng/news/?part=pol&id=22049>

US Secretary of State reiterated that the Karabakh problem could be solved only by peaceful means. Read more at: <http://massispost.com/?p=5569>

U.S. National Intelligence expresses concern over aggressive rhetoric and lack of trust between the parties to the Karabakh conflict. Speaking earlier in the US Senate's Committee on Intelligence, director of the Service James Clapper mentioned incidents along the line of contact as threatening with escalation. More details at: <http://news.am/eng/news/91486.html>

Armenia's Representative to UN, Ambassador Garen Nazarian's letter disclosed Azerbaijan's attempt to use its non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council "for misleading the international community about the Karabakh peace process". Read more at: <http://www.panorama.am/en/politics/2012/02/11/un-ambassador/>

In response to Azeri president's recent statement that his country will never accept independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR), Armenian deputy foreign minister Kocharyan told the "Mir" TV company that Azerbaijan had already done so, and demonstrated a copy of the 1993 letter, in which then Azeri president Aliyev had delegated its envoy to organize a meeting between "the leaders of Azerbaijan and NKR". See a copy of the letter at: <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=345206142176802&set=a.345205705510179.85622.338103006220449&type=3&theater>

NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the South Caucasus and Central Asia James Appathurai reiterated the organization's support to the OSCE Minsk group efforts. More info at: <http://www.aysor.am/en/news/2012/02/13/nalbandyan-appathurai/>

Australian MP Walt Secord reiterated his support to Artsakh, commenting on Azerbaijan's complaining about the MP's recent visit to the NKR. Read more at:

<http://www.armtown.com/news/en/nws/20120207/92123/>

ECONOMY & BUSINESS.

Artsakh will supply coal to the Yerevan Power Plant as an effort to increase Armenia's energy security. Read more at: <http://www.arminfo.am/english/energy/article/02-02-2012/07-52-00>

Delegation of Slovak businessmen discussed in Stepanakert further investment projects, particularly in energy sector. See more details at: <http://news.am/eng/news/93246.html>

SOCIETY

President Sahakian appointed new members of recently-established NKR Commission on ethics. Full info at: <http://news.am/eng/news/91696.html>

The Slovak University of Skalitsa and the Artsakh State University will cooperate to provide mutual educational opportunities for students. More details available at: <http://news.am/eng/news/93269.html>

1109 people have permanently immigrated to Artsakh in 2011; 372 settlers more than in 2010.

NKR Police reports the total of 368 cases of crimes in the republic in 2011, 21.2% less comparing with the previous year.

London-based 'International Alert' organization noted Azerbaijan's intolerance and hatred towards everything Armenian. The research of the blogosphere called "Myths and Conflicts" says anti-Armenian sentiments among Azerbaijan's bloggers are even harsher than that in the official media. Read more at: <http://www.tert.am/en/news/2012/02/06/blogs/>

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

February 16-29, 2012

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SECURITY & POLITICS

February 20 marked the anniversary of the Artsakh's liberation movement. Read more at: http://nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/developments_1988_1990.shtml

Members of the U.S. Congress commemorate the victims of the Sumgait and Baku pogroms, and reiterate their support to Artsakh's security.

Artsakh's Foreign Ministry issued a statement regarding the events in Khojaly in 1992. The statement was later distributed in the UN. Read full statement at: <http://nkr.am/en/statements/116/>

International conference took place in Stepanakert with participation of local and international scholars. Dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Artsakh's independence, the event touched upon the NKR development and role in the international processes.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Artsakh explores international practice and different models of agricultural development. Recently, Karabakh officials have visited Israel for studying the agrarian sector of the country. Read more at: http://arka.am/en/news/economy/karabakh_adopts_the_practice_of_agrarian_sphere_of_israel/

Valex company, the biggest tax payer in Artsakh, continues exploring new reserves in the republic to ensure the company's increased presence in the NKR. More info at: <http://news.am/eng/news/94904.html>

SOCIETY

"Karabakh: Hidden Treasure" documentary of Jivan Avetisyan was presented in Stepanakert. The screening and production of the film was organized by the NKR Tourism department and Yerkir Media TV. See trailer at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyS8sIn4ZpY>

NKR State prosecutor's body registered crime reduction during its annual meeting. In 2011, it recorded 368 crimes in comparison with 467 cases in 2010.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

On February 26-29, 1988, the Azeri town of Sumgait (hundreds of miles away from Nagorno Karabakh) became the scene of mass pogroms and brutal killings of ethnic Armenians. The massacre claimed dozens of innocent lives, setting a dangerous precedent which was later repeated in Baku and elsewhere in Azerbaijan. Conducted with the connivance of the Azeri authorities, the tragedy never saw a comprehensive investigation; the organizers and perpetrators remain unpunished. Commemoration of the Sumgait genocide took place in Artsakh, Armenia and dozens of states worldwide.

For more info visit at: <http://nkr.am/en/news/2012-02-24/411/>

Instead of repenting for its actions, Azerbaijan tries to escape responsibility for committing the genocide in Sumgait, and other crimes against Armenians by misinforming the international community about the killings of civilians near Khojaly. In February, 1992, Azeri civilians who managed to leave from Khojaly via a corridor provided by Armenian forces, were consequently sacrificed for the political purposes and many of them murdered by Azeri troops near Azerbaijani-controlled Aghdam, a town seven miles away from Khojaly proper. The fact was supported by then Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov, who had been dethroned later in 1992, as well as by Azeri and international journalists.

Read more details on the Khojaly events at:

<http://xocali.net/EN/index.html>

<http://nkr.am/en/news/2012-02-15/409/>

http://www.nkrusa.org/nk_conflict/khojaly.shtml

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

March 1-15, 2012

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SECURITY & POLITICS

Azerbaijan continues violating the cease-fire on the Line of Contact. In recent days, Sgt. Sevak Aslikyan and Maj. Artak Shahbazian, both serving on Armenia's northeastern border, died from sniper fire. More details at: <http://news.am/eng/news/96626.html>

Intensive accumulation of weapons in the region does not facilitate a peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict, stated Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Nikolai Bordyuzha. Read more at:

http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/98279/CSTO_chief_Azeri_arms_race_wont_benefit_Karabakh_settlement

U.S. State Department ruled out a military solution of the Karabakh conflict urging the sides "to prepare their populations for peace, not war, and to refrain from any provocative rhetoric or actions on the ground." See full comment at: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/03/185830.htm>

Armenia has withdrawn its participation from the 2012 Eurovision contest in Baku citing the aggressive policy of Azerbaijan against Armenia and Artsakh. Read more at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_9704000/9704516.stm

or

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iFNKYsdtrliHzpHPfT7Dha0lMumw?docId=CNG.163dc6a974e4d63bf289b4444420ae3d.981>

No settlement can be reached without NKR's direct participation in the negotiation process, NKR President Bako Sahakyan reiterated during his meeting with OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs who arrived in Stepanakert during their tour of the region. The Co-Chairs have also visited Yerevan and Baku to meet presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan and issued a statement upon the end of their visit. Full text of statement at: <http://www.osce.org/mg/88686>
More details at: <http://news.am/eng/news/95888.html>

On a visit to Brussels, President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan called upon the international community to condemn Azerbaijan's xenophobic rhetoric during a press briefing with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. Addressing a government conference Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev called "Armenians of the world - the main enemies of Azerbaijan". () Sargsyan also stressed the importance of direct contacts of the European Union with Artsakh authorities. Read more at:
<http://news.am/eng/news/96172.html>
<http://news.am/eng/news/96238.html>

Speaking at the convention of the ruling Republican Party, president Sargsyan noted that international recognition of the right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination will be the foundation for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh problem.

By rejecting direct negotiations with Artsakh, Azerbaijan artificially postpones the final settlement of the conflict argues a publication in Foreign Policy Journal authored by Aram Avetisyan, counselor of the NKR Office in the United States. See full publication at:
<http://www.foreignpolicyjournal.com/2012/03/10/karabakh-knot-myths-and-realities/>

"Artsakh: From Liberation to Statehood" titled conference organized by ARF brought together over 400 participants in Glendale, CA. More details at: <http://asbarez.com/101511/artsakh-from-liberation-to-statehood-conference-brings-together-over-400-community-members/>

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Converse Bank launched its operation in Artsakh focusing on agricultural projects. More details at: http://karabakh.net/?section=info_center/view&news_id=188&lang=en

Artsakh president met heads of the Artsakh regions to discuss socio-economic issues. Read more at: <http://news.am/eng/news/97145.html>

SOCIETY

Graves and pottery dating to the V-VII centuries AD, were discovered in Shushi during construction works. Archeological groups have arrived to continue excavations.

"Hayastan" pan-Armenian Fund has marked 20th anniversary since its creation. NKR President Bako Sahakyan highlighted the importance of the Fund in the unification of Armenian nation in his address on this occasion. Read full address at: <http://news.am/eng/news/95806.html>

As of January 1, 2012, 1202 Artsakh families have received state assistance in housing improvement through the Artsakh Investment Fund. More info on AIF at: <http://www.aif.am/index.php/en>

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

On March 11, 1999, the European Parliament passed a resolution on Nagorno Karabakh (Resolution on Support for the Peace Process in the Caucasus) that legitimizes the declaration of an independent NKR on the basis of former USSR legislation. The document stressed that *"the autonomous region of Nagorno-Karabakh declared its independence following similar declarations by former Soviet Socialist Republics after the collapse of the USSR in September 1991"*. Full text of resolution at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:1999:175:0251:0252:EN:PDF>

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

March 15-31, 2012

Artsakh Newsletter-March 15-31, 2012

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SECURITY & POLITICS

In a message timed to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the OSCE Minsk Group President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan thanked leaders of Russia, France and the United States for their consistent efforts to find peaceful settlement of NK conflict.

Foreign Ministers of the three Minsk Group Co-Chair countries issued a statement urging the conflicting sides to "prepare their populations for peace, not war." Artsakh and Armenia welcomed the statement.

Acting foreign minister of NKR highlighted non-constructive position of Azerbaijan and their policy of xenophobia directed against all Armenians as main obstacles for conflict resolution.

Artsakh condemned the suggestion to replace France in the OSCE Minsk Group that can endanger the whole negotiation process.

More than 30 Congressmen called for an increase in U.S. aid to Artsakh, strengthening restrictions on aid to Azerbaijan, returning NKR to the negotiation table, and more contacts with Artsakh officials.

Hundreds of Canadian-Armenians from all over the country held a demonstration at the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Ottawa to protest against continuing anti-Armenian policy of Azerbaijan, including aggression, intimidation and hostility towards Armenians.

Artsakh Republic's next presidential elections have been scheduled for July 19, 2012.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

NKR government and Valex group agreed on new large mining project at the Kashen, Martakert region. The group is going to invest around \$80 million for this project.

Artsakh president convened working consultation on socio-economic issues of Hadrut region.

SOCIETY

More than 11 thousands foreign visitors traveled to Artsakh during last year, which is about 30 percent more in comparison with 2010, informs NKR Foreign Ministry.

Artsakh's capital Stepanakert is preparing for the Triple Victory Day's celebration on May 9. The capital's Renaissance Square is under intensive reconstruction to host a number of foreign guests and participants of festive events.

Further cooperation between the universities of Armenia and Artsakh was discussed during a visit by Armenia's education minister Armen Ashotyan.

Artsakh government is continuing to compensate deposits of its citizens that were devalued following the Soviet collapse. "ArtsakhBank" is administering the program.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

On March 21, 2012, the Council of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) met in Helsinki and issued a statement calling for a special conference in Minsk, Belarus on the issue of Nagorno Karabakh with the involvement of Artsakh representatives as a party to the conflict. Although the conference itself was never convened, the initiative laid a foundation for the establishment of the main mediation format, the OSCE Minsk Group that spearheads the efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. Since 1997 France, Russia and the United States have co-chaired the Minsk Group.

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

April 1-15, 2012

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SECURITY & POLITICS

U.S. State Secretary Hillary Clinton restated U.S. support for withdrawal of snipers from the Karabakh Line of Contact. Unlike Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh, Azerbaijan has rebuffed this suggestion by international mediators that can reduce tensions and casualties.

Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandyan again noted Azerbaijan's lack of desire to solve the Karabakh conflict. He also ruled out Turkey's role in the peace process.

Meeting with OSCE Minsk Group mediators, Nalbandyan highlighted the negative effect of Azerbaijan's anti-Armenian propaganda on the negotiation process.

Artsakh's incumbent president Bako Sahakyan declared his intention to run for a second term in office in presidential elections this July.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Sotk-Karvachar, the third highway to link Artsakh to Armenia, is nearly completed.

Artsakh continues to pursue the policy of energy independence. At present, NKR ensures around 70 percent of its energy needs through local sources.

Artsakh president visited Askeran and Martakert regions to convene working consultation on the issues of the regions' development.

SOCIETY

Artsakh president Bako Sahakyan congratulated NKR police officers on their professional day, stressing that Artsakh has one of the lowest criminal rates in the world, in part through the effective and dedicated work of Artsakh police officers.

Anastasia Taylor-Lind's "The National Womb: Baby Boom in Nagorno-Karabakh" project won the prestigious Project Award 2012, organized by CENTER, a non-profit photographic organization.

A new documentary by Marina Grigoryan and Larisa Alaverdyan on Maragha massacre was presented to the public.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

April 10 marked the 20th anniversary of the one of the bloodiest chapters of the Karabakh war. On April 10, 1992, Azerbaijani military units invaded the village of Maragha in Mardakert district. As a result of the aggression, hundreds of Maragha civilians, mostly women, children, and elderly person, were brutally killed, taken hostage or forcefully displaced. The fate of a number of them still remains unknown. Two weeks after the massacre, on April 22-23, the village was repeatedly attacked and locals who had come back to their burnt homes were forced to abandon the village, which has since been occupied by Azerbaijan. Baroness Caroline Cox, former vice speaker of the British parliament's House of Lord, visited Maragha area a few days after tragedy. She expressed her horror at the crime saying "They are not of human race" about those who carried out the slaughter, lately described in her book "Ethnic Cleansing in Progress".

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Tel: (202) 223-4330; Email: info@nkrusa.org Web: www.nkrusa.org

ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

April 15-30, 2012

Artsakh Newsletter summarizes key developments in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States.

SECURITY & POLITICS

Azerbaijan has intensified its violations of the cease-fire agreement. On April 24, two servicemen of the Karabakh Defense Army were wounded when Azerbaijani forces opened fire on the Karabakh army ambulance vehicle wounded. On April 25, the Dovegh village in Tavush region of Armenia was shelled. A local kindergarten and other civilian buildings were evacuated after being hit by automatic gunfire from Azerbaijani army positions. On April 27, also in Tavush three off-duty Armenian army servicemen were killed when their civilian vehicle traveling on a border road came under fire. And later on the same day a Karabakh army serviceman was killed on the Line of Contact. In each case, Armenian forces undertook retaliatory punitive actions against the aggressor.

The attacks were condemned by international mediators, including the United States, which restated that there is no alternative to a peacefully negotiated settlement of the conflict.

Azerbaijani government continues to threaten regional security and stability. Last year, it increased its military budget by 89 percent, the biggest increase in the world, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Armenia's Representative to the UN, Amb. Garen Nazarian responded to misinformation Azerbaijan continues spreading about Armenia and Artsakh aimed at escaping responsibility for its aggression against the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

A Franco-German ARTE TV channel broadcast a program about Armenia and Artsakh. While talking about Karabakh conflict, the program emphasized that Artsakh is a historically Armenian land that was forcefully granted to Azerbaijan.

The *Irish Times* published the article by Daniel McLaughlin about the Karabakh conflict that emphasized the readiness of Artsakh people to defend their homeland.

An article in the *Foreign Policy Journal* by Hovhannes Nikoghosyan called for international efforts to compel Azerbaijan to take long-recommended confidence-building measures, such as pulling back snipers, and other steps to help prevent a military escalation.

NKR Central Election Commission has registered four candidates for the upcoming presidential elections in Artsakh. Along with incumbent president Bako Sahakian, former member of NKR parliament Vitaliy Balasanyan, Deputy Director of State Agrarian University Arkadi Soghomonyan and currently unemployed Valeri Khachatryan expressed interest in running for president.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

NKR Ministry of Economic Development launched an initiative aimed at further computerization of Artsakh. NKR government will partially subsidize credit loans for its citizens to purchase new laptops and personal computers.

A new settlement will be established in the south of the Hadrut region, NKR in the nearest future. Fifteen families have already expressed willingness to relocate to the new settlement.

SOCIETY

Final preparations for festive celebration in Shushi and Stepanakert on the 20th anniversary of Shushi Liberation and Triple Holiday are in progress.

New anthem for Shushi is to be presented on May 8, with music composed by Avetis Berberyan and lyrics by Nushik Mikaelyan.

HISTORICAL REFERENCE

On April 24 the world marked the 97th anniversary of Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Turkey. The first genocide of the 20th century claimed the lives of more than one and half million Armenians - citizens of the Ottoman Empire. Despite a number of documented materials and recognition of the genocide by many governments and organizations, Turkey still denies this tragedy.

In Stepanakert, NKR President Bako Sahakyan and other leaders laid flowers to the monument commemorating the Genocide's innocent victims. In his remarks on this tragic occasion, Artsakh president stated that the world should recognize Armenia Genocide, and that the Armenian people is grateful to those who raise their voice for justice.

The genocide commemoration events also took place all over the world including the United States capital. On April 25, 2012 the Annual Armenian Genocide Observance on Capitol Hill featured many members of U.S. Congress, as well as Armenia's Ambassador to the U.S. Tatoul Markarian, and Artsakh Representative Robert Avetisyan.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, was established in 1991 basing on a declaration of the local legislature, and results of a subsequent nation-wide referendum. The people of Artsakh defended their choice in a war unleashed by Azerbaijan. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh has emerged as a democratic, rule-of-law state with capable armed forces, a growing market economy, and an independent foreign policy.

We would like to hear from you. Please send your comments to Press Service at: info@nkrusa.org
Please visit our YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ArtsakhOnline>

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

May 1-15, 2012

Artsakh Newsletter summarizes key developments in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States.

SECURITY & POLITICS

On May 9, Artsakh celebrated the 20th anniversary of the liberation of Shushi. Armenian President, hundreds of guests attended the festive events in Stepanakert and Shushi that included a large-scale military parade.

Shortly after a series of Azerbaijani cease-fire violations on Armenia's north-eastern border that left several Armenian army servicemen killed, the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs declared their plans to visit the region to investigate the incidents. Following their visit they issued a statement, in which they expressed "concern over recent incidents along the frontlines, and urged the sides to exercise restraint and refrain from retaliation".

"The people of Nagorno-Karabakh must decide their destiny", Uruguay's Foreign Minister Luis Almagro stated while in Yerevan. He condemned military rhetoric, and emphasized the importance to respect human rights, particularly the right to freedom and self-determination.

On separate occasions, parliaments of Sweden and Lithuania rejected initiatives to pass Azerbaijani government-sponsored resolutions. Both Riksdag and Seimas reiterated their support to the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group.

May 5 was the deadline for candidates applications ahead of presidential elections in Artsakh set on July 19. According to the Central Electoral Commission, the four candidates are the incumbent President Bako Sahakyan; deputy of the NKR National Assembly, former deputy minister of defense Vitaliy Balasanyan; deputy rector of the Stepanakert branch of the Armenian State Agrarian University Arkady Soghomonyan and former Askeran district executive staff member Valeri Khachatryan.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

New multifunctional Europe business center was opened in Stepanakert. The center will accommodate business offices, hotel and bank.

Artsakh continues developing energy sphere. The ongoing investment programs and development of hydro energy is expected to turn the republic into energy exporter within years.

SOCIETY

NKR Statistical Service says Artsakh's population has increased in January – March 2012 by 276 persons.

President Sahakian awarded art workers on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Stepanakert Musical College.

Eleven individuals were granted amnesty by the decree of the NKR president on the occasion of the Triple holiday in Artsakh.

HISTORICAL REFERENCES

1991 Ethnic Cleansing Campaign Against Armenians: Operation "Ring"

The spring of 1991 marked a new, violent phase in Azerbaijan's policy of ethnic cleansing against Armenians from their historic land and homes both within Nagorno Karabakh and outside its then administrative borders. As a result of this operation encouraged by Azerbaijan and conducted primarily by Soviet internal security forces tens of thousands of Armenians were deported from their homes, dozens of Armenian settlements were completely devastated, destroyed and depopulated. This aggression marked an escalation of the Karabakh conflict into an open military confrontation.

1992 Liberation of Shushi

The liberation of Shushi on May 9, 1992 was one of the major successes of the Armenian forces in Artsakh during the 1991-1994 war. This military victory also symbolized the rebirth of the Armenian spirit that resonated far beyond Artsakh, to all corners of the world. In the following days Artsakh Defense Forces established a vital land-link with Armenia proper. Fierce battles continued throughout 1992-1994, but the Shushi operation made all subsequent victories possible.

1994 Cease Fire Agreement

May 12 marks an anniversary of the cease fire agreement signed by Azerbaijan, Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia. Azerbaijan, having sustained major military reversals and with its armed units pushed out of most of Artsakh and adjacent territories, was forced to sign a cease-fire agreement. Despite frequent violations of this agreement, the document remains one of the key achievements of the Karabakh peace process that helped re-establish stability in the South Caucasus region.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh, was established in 1991 basing on a declaration of the local legislature, and results of a subsequent nation-wide referendum. The people of Artsakh defended their choice in a war unleashed by Azerbaijan. The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh has emerged as a democratic, rule-of-law state with capable armed forces, a growing market economy, and an independent foreign policy.

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ARTSAKH NEWSLETTER

May 15- June 15, 2012

Artsakh Newsletter summarizes key developments in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh and is prepared by the NKR Office in the United States.

SECURITY & POLITICS

Azerbaijan has intensified its violations of the cease-fire agreement. From June 4-6, 2012 Azerbaijani forces attacked and shelled positions of Armenian Army in the Chinar, Berdavan, Koti and Chambarak villages in Tavush and Gegharkunik regions of Armenia resulted three off-duty Armenian army servicemen killed and six wounded. Later, on the same period of time, Azeri military forces attacked positions of Karabakh army that killed one soldier and wounded two. In each case, Armenian forces undertook retaliatory punitive actions against the aggressor. Azerbaijan had to admit its six casualties, however according to no official sources Azeri casualties reached 25 servicemen.

The attacks were condemned by international mediators, including the United States. This provocation took place during the visit of U.S. State Secretary Hillary Clinton to the South Caucasus region. In Yerevan Secretary Clinton ruled out military solution of Karabakh conflict and restated that there is no alternative to a peacefully negotiated settlement.

Members of U.S. Congress condemned Azeri aggression on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and urged State Secretary Clinton to deliver strong message to Aliev's regime on the incidents.

Armenian diplomatic missions in New York and Vienna informed the UN and the OSCE about the Azerbaijani provocations against Armenia and Artsakh. In their statements Armenian Ambassadors laid the whole responsibility on Azerbaijan for the recent incidents by emphasizing that Azeri side blocked the initiative of OSCE to create mechanisms for incidents' tracing.

The Rhode Island House of Representatives passed a resolution 8180 that calls on the U.S. President and Congress to recognize the independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. NKR parliament saluted the adoption of the resolution by the State.

The City of Providence marked the 20th anniversary of Shushi's liberation. The Mayor of the Providence Angel Taveras issued the resolution in support of this victory. Later, Mayor of Shushi Garen Avakimyan sent a thank you letter to Mayor Taveras for his stance on this issue.

NKR parliamentary delegation, headed by the Speaker Ashot Ghulyan, has visited the United Kingdom to meet members of UK parliament and academia as well as local Armenian Diaspora representatives.

NKR Central Electoral Committee has registered four candidates for presidential elections in Artsakh set on July 19. The candidates are the incumbent President Bako Sahakyan; deputy of the NKR National Assembly, former deputy minister of defense Vitaliy Balasanyan; deputy rector of the Stepanakert branch of the Armenian State Agrarian University Arkady Soghomonyan and former Askeran district executive staff member Valeri Khachatryan.

Member of the British House of Lords Baroness Caroline Cox head the delegation during their visit to Artsakh where the Baroness and other members of the delegation met Artsakh president Bako Sahakyan.

French Senators Philippe Marini, Sophie Jouasen and Bernard Fournie hold a three day visit to NKR where they met President Bako Sahakyan, parliament speaker Ashot Ghulyan and other members of the parliament, as well as Pargev Archbishop Martirosyan, head of Artsakh Diocese. During their visit, they emphasized the right of Artsakh people for their self-determination. They disregarded Azerbaijan's blacklisting of the French Senators.

U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Democrat Howard Berman (D-CA) urged U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to stop a proposed sale of military hardware to Azerbaijan due to this country's continued war rhetoric and attacks against neighboring Armenia and Artsakh.

U.S. House Appropriations Committee proposed sharply increasing aid from \$2 to "at least" \$5 million for assistance to Nagorno Karabakh in its Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. Around a week later, U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee also included Nagorno Karabakh in its version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill.

The Independent published a letter of Dr. Adrian C. Pont about continuing provocative sniper-shooting of the Armenian borders from Azeri side. The author urged not closing eyes on the aggressive attitude of Azerbaijan against Armenia and expressed the hope that "democratic choice and the rule of law will prevail."

The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Irish FM Eamon Gilmore called the Karabakh conflict parties to remove snipers from the contact line. Unlike Azerbaijan, Armenia and NKR continues agreeing to remove snipers from Contact Line.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

The Stepanakert Airport will begin operations this summer, said NKR Civil Aviation Department.

Along with a number of other decisions, NKR government determined the requirements for alienation of public transport vehicles during its regular session.

On the eve of the harvest season, issues related to the agricultural sphere were discussed during the meeting of the NKR prime minister Ara Harutyunyan with sphere responsible agencies and heads of regional administrations.

IT service provider Synergy International Systems and the NKR Ministry of Economic Development agreed on future cooperation and the company's further activity in Artsakh.

SOCIETY

Artsakh president Bako Sahakyan addressed its nation on the occasion of International Children's Day.

A group of American doctors have visited Artsakh to perform more than one hundred of surgeries in Stepanakert and Shushi.

Construction of the rural community centers will be included in the Armenian Fund's program for 2012.

About the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

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

Ստեփանակերտ
Степанакерт
Stepanakert

19 December 2011

N _____

**The Vice President of the United States
The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500**

Dear Mr. Biden,

Warmest greetings from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We highly appreciate the US government efforts aimed at the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, as well as post-war rehabilitation and development of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh.

With best wishes of peace and prosperity to you and your great country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Atajanyan'.

Vasili Atajanyan
Acting Minister



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FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC**

Ստեփանակերտ
Степанакерт
Stepanakert

19 December 2011թ.

N _____

**U.S. Secretary of State
The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
2201 C St NW 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20520**

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Warmest greetings from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We highly appreciate the US government efforts aimed at the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, as well as post-war rehabilitation and development of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh.

With best wishes of peace and prosperity to you and your great country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Atajanyan', written in a cursive style.

Vasili Atajanyan
Acting Minister



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FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC**

Ստեփանակերտ
Степанакерт
Stepanakert

19 December 2011

N _____

**U.S. Department of State
Assistant Secretary
Dr. Philip H. Gordon
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520**

Dear Mr. Gordon,

Warmest greetings from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We highly appreciate the US government efforts aimed at the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, as well as post-war rehabilitation and development of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh.

With best wishes of peace and prosperity to you and your great country.

Sincerely,

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**Vasili Atajanyan
Acting Minister**



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FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH REPUBLIC**

Ստեփանակերտ
Степанакерт
Stepanakert

19 December 2011թ.

N _____

**U.S. OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair
Ambassador Robert Bradtke
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520**

Dear Mr. Bradtke,

Greetings to you and your family for a festive Holiday Season!

We appreciate your efforts aimed at the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, as well as post-war rehabilitation and development of Nagorno Karabakh, Artsakh. We look forward to our continued and expanded cooperation for peace and prosperity in South Caucasus.

Best wishes for a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Atajanyan', written over a white background.

**Vasili Atajanyan
Acting Minister**



**ԼԵՈՆԱՅԻՆ ԴԱՐԱԲԱԴԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ
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FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC**

Ստեփանակերտ
Степанакерт
Stepanakert

19 December 2011թ.

N _____

U.S. Department of State
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Mr. Eric Rubin
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Rubin,

Greetings to you and your family for a festive Holiday Season!

We appreciate your efforts aimed at the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, as well as post-war rehabilitation and development of Nagorno Karabakh, Artsakh. We look forward to our continued and expanded cooperation for peace and prosperity in South Caucasus.

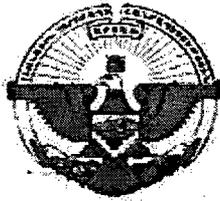
Best wishes for a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Atajanyan', written over a horizontal line.

Vasili Atajanyan
Acting Minister

**ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
НАГОРНО-КАРАБАХСКОЙ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ**



**THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH**

**ԼԵՆԻՆԱՅԻՆ ԳՍՐՈՐԾԳԻ ՀՍԵՐԱԳԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ
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Tel: (374 47) 943507; (374 47) 943214; Fax: (374 47) 971253; E-mail: comp.staff@gov.nkr.am; URL: www.gov.nkr.am

N 9-ՊԱ-123

16. December 2011 p.

**Dr. Rajiv Shah
Administrator, USAID
Ronald Reagan Building
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20523**

Dear Dr. Shah,

Warmest greetings from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We highly appreciate the US government efforts to reach final peace and strengthen stability in the South Caucasus by bringing about a fair solution to the azerbaijani-karabakh conflict. People of Artsakh are also grateful to American people for the ongoing economic assistance, which has helped to rebuild our lives and restore Artsakh's war-devastated social infrastructure.

With best wishes of peace and prosperity to you and your great country.

Sincerely,

Araik Haroutyunyan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Araik Haroutyunyan'.



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel / Fax: (+374) 943221

19. December 2011

**The Honorable Steven Rothman
United States House of Representatives
2303 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Rothman

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2011 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2012 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2012.

Sincerely,


Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel / Fax (+374) 943221

19 December 2011

**The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
SH-522
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Mr. Reid

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2011 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2012 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ghulyan'.

Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st, Stepanakert, NKR

Tel / Fax: (+374) 943221

19 December 2011

**The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
SH-728
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Mr. Reed

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2011 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2012 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2012.

Sincerely,

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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel / Fax: (+374) 943221

« 19 » December 2011

**The Honorable Frank Pallone
United States House of Representatives
237 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Pallone

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2011 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2012 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2012.

Sincerely,


Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel / Fax: (+374) 943221

« 19 » December 2011

**The Honorable Devin Nunes
United States House of Representatives
1013 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Nunes

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

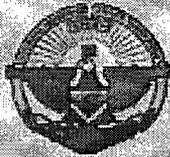
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With best wishes for the New 2012.

Sincerely,

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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepantskert, NKR

Tel / Fax (+374) 943221

19 December 2011

**The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Mr. McConnell

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The year of 2011 has been full of challenges and achievements. We hope that the coming 2012 will bring further success, peace and prosperity to our countries.

With best wishes for the New 2012.

Sincerely,


Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel./Fax: (+374) 943221

19 December 2011

**The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States Senate
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Mr. Kirk

Please accept warmest wishes from Artsakh to you and your family for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel./Fax: (+374) 943221

19 December 2011

**The Honorable Steny Hoyer
United States House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Hoyer

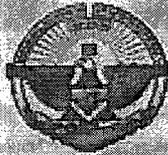
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2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

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19 December 2011

**The Honorable Eliot Engel
United States House of Representatives
2161 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Engel

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2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel / Fax: (+374) 943221

19 • *December* 2011

**The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
United States House of Representatives
201 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Doggett

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Ashot GHULYAN



CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

19, *December* 2011

**The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Ms. Boxer

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19 December 2011

**The Honorable Howard Berman
United States House of Representatives
2221 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Berman

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2. February 20 st, Stepanakert, NKR

Tel / Fax: (+374) 943221

19 *December* 2011

**The Honorable Jackie Speier
United States House of Representatives
211 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

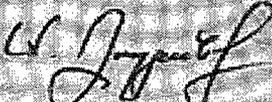
Dear Representative Speier

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CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

1. February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel / Fax: (+374) 943221

19 December 2011

**The Honorable Brad Sherman
United States House of Representatives
2242 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Sherman

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2411 RHOB
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2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

19 » *December* 2011

**The Honorable Ed Royce
United States House of Representatives
2185 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Representative Royce

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

Azerbaijan Continues to Manipulate with the Events in Khojalu

Firstname	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

Firtsname	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

February 2012

AZERBAIJAN CONTINUES TO MANIPULATE WITH THE EVENTS OF KHOJALY

The material contains reference to Azeri sources

Decades after the events in Khojaly in February 1992, official Baku has been obstinately fanning anti-Armenian hysteria with the aim of falsifying the events and discrediting the Armenian people in the eyes of the international community.

The events in Khojaly during 1991-1994 Azerbaijan's aggression against Nagorno Karabakh, which led to the death of civilians, were the results of political intrigues and a struggle for power in the oil-rich country.

The reasons for the tragedy are most convincingly reflected in the records of Azerbaijanis, both participants and eyewitnesses of what had happened, as well as of those who recall the whole inside story of the situation in Baku those days.

According to Azerbaijani journalist M. Safarogly, "Khojaly occupied an important strategic position. The loss of Khojaly was a political fiasco for Mutalibov".¹ Khojaly was one of the main strongholds of the Azeri army from which Stepanakert, the capital and the largest town of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, was shelled continuously and mercilessly for months. Suppressing firing positions in Khojaly and unblocking the only airport became a must for preventing a complete physical extermination of Stepanakert's population.

Former **President of Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mutalibov, has emphasized that "... the assault on Khojaly was not a surprise attack"**². In his interview to "Nezavisimaya gazeta" newspaper, Mutalibov has confirmed that "a corridor was kept open by the Armenians for people to leave"³. However, civilians who tried to escape were murdered Azeri Popular Front's troops near Agdham, 7 miles away from Khojaly. This fact was later also confirmed by Mutalibov, who linked this crime with **attempts by the opposition to dethrone him from presidency**, which they eventually did. In his more recent interview with the "Novoye vremya" magazine, Mutalibov has confirmed his earlier statement: "The shooting of the Khojaly residents was obviously organized by someone to take control in Azerbaijan"⁴.

Similar comments and views concerning the events in Khojaly are known to have been made by several other highly-placed Azerbaijani officials and journalists.

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info@nkrusa.org • www.nkrusa.org

What resulted from the betrayal of the inhabitants of Khojaly by their own highly placed compatriots is well known. Azerbaijani propaganda has railed to the whole world about the "atrocities of the Armenians", supplying television stations with horrendous pictures of a field strewn with mutilated bodies. Khojaly is claimed to have been the "Armenians' revenge for Sumgait".

Tamerlan Karayev, former Chairman of Azerbaijan's Supreme Council, said: "The tragedy was committed by the (current) authorities of Azerbaijan"; specifically by "someone very high-ranking"⁶.

The Czech journalist Jana Mazalova, who by an oversight of the Azerbaijanis was included in both of the groups of press representatives to be shown the "bodies mutilated by the Armenians", noted a substantial difference in the two cases. When she went to the scene immediately after the events, Mazalova did not see any traces of barbarous treatment of the bodies. Yet a couple of days later the journalists were shown disfigured bodies already "ready" for filming.

Questions that can shed light on this tragedy:

1. Who killed the peaceful inhabitants of Khojaly and maimed their bodies, if the events occurred near Agdam – on territory fully controlled by the Popular Front of Azerbaijan?
2. Why everyone in Azerbaijan, who tried to find truth about Khojaly was either murdered, or imprisoned?

The independent **Azerbaijani cameraman Chingiz Mustafayev**, who worked in Khojaly those days, began to ask too many questions around the official Azerbaijani version of the events. Mustafayev **was murdered** near Agdam under unknown circumstances soon after he openly declared through the "D-press" news-agency about his intention to investigate the degree of Azerbaijan's responsibility for the events in Khojaly.

More recently, in 2005, Azeri independent journalist Ejnulla Fatullayev has also carelessly stated in an interview to the "Monitor" Azeri agency that he had **"met with Khojaly inhabitants, who confirmed that Armenians were using loudspeakers to warn about the forthcoming operation, and offered to leave the settlement through a corridor along river"**. According to Fatullayev, without corridor, no one would have been survived. Several days after his interview, The Mnistor's editor-in-chief Elmar Huseynov was murdered near his apartment, and Fatullayev was imprisoned and accused of treason and drug smuggling.

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The previous President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, has recognized that Azerbaijan's "former leadership was also guilty" of the events in Khojaly. Already in April 1992, according to the agency "Bilik-Dunyasy", he had commented as follows: "The bloodshed will be to our advantage. We should not interfere in the course of events".

"Megapolis-Express" newspaper wrote: "It cannot be denied that if the Popular Front of Azerbaijan actually set far-reaching objectives, they have been achieved. Motalibov has been compromised and overthrown, public opinion worldwide has been shaken, and the Azerbaijanis and their Turkish brethren have believed in the so-called "genocide of the Azerbaijani people in Khojaly"⁷.

-
1. "Nezavisimaya gazeta" newspaper, February 1993
 2. "Ogonek" magazine, Nos. 14-15, 1992
 3. "Nezavisimaya gazeta" newspaper, 2 April 1992
 4. "Novoye vremya" magazine, 6 March 2001
 5. "Mukhalifat" newspaper, 28 April 1992
 6. "Megapolis-Express", No. 17, 1992

Please, do not hesitate to contact the NKR Office for additional information

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Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Adam Schiff
House of Representatives
2411 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schiff:

I am writing to express a profound gratitude for your steadfast support to the freedom and security of the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Your statement commemorating the victims of the 1988 Armenian pogroms, when dozens of innocent civilians were tortured to death just for being Armenians, is sending another signal to the perpetrators of those crimes that the racism and genocidal actions do not have time limitation. Azerbaijan must consider that Nagorno Karabakh's security remains in the focus of the American Congress.

The people and authorities of Artsakh are grateful for your continued support of our rights and freedoms. We remain committed to continue developing as an open and democratic society, which will contribute to our shared vision of a stable and prosperous South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

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Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Gary Peters
House of Representatives
1609 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Peters:

I am writing to express a profound gratitude for your steadfast support to the freedom and security of the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

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Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
House of Representatives
237 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Pallone:

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Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
House of Representatives
205 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Eshoo:

I am writing to express a profound gratitude for your steadfast support to the freedom and security of the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Your statement commemorating the victims of the 1988 Armenian pogroms, when dozens of innocent civilians were tortured to death just for being Armenians, is sending another signal to the perpetrators of those crimes that the racism and genocidal actions do not have time limitation. Azerbaijan must consider that Nagorno Karabakh's security remains in the focus of the American Congress.

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Robert Avetisyan
Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh



Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Robert J. Dold
House of Representatives
212 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dold:

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Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

The Honorable David Cicilline
House of Representatives
128 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cicilline:

I am writing to express a profound gratitude for your steadfast support to the freedom and security of the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

Your statement commemorating the victims of the 1988 Armenian pogroms, when dozens of innocent civilians were tortured to death just for being Armenians, is sending another signal to the perpetrators of those crimes that the racism and genocidal actions do not have time limitation. Azerbaijan must consider that Nagorno Karabakh's security remains in the focus of the American Congress.

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Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Judy Chu
House of Representatives
1520 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Chu:

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Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Howard Berman
House of Representatives
2221 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Berman:

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Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Frank Wolf
House of Representatives
241 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wolf:

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Office of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

March 7, 2012

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House of Representatives
2242 RHOB
Washington, DC 20515

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Your statement commemorating the victims of the 1988 Armenian pogroms, when dozens of innocent civilians were tortured to death just for being Armenians, is sending another signal to the perpetrators of those crimes that the racism and genocidal actions do not have time limitation. Azerbaijan must consider that Nagorno Karabakh's security remains in the focus of the American Congress.

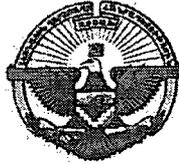
The people and authorities of Artsakh are grateful for your continued support of our rights and freedoms. We remain committed to continue developing as an open and democratic society, which will contribute to our shared vision of a stable and prosperous South Caucasus.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh

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CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

E-mail: parliament@ktsurf.net

No 02-114

« 31 » May 2012

Dear Representative Corvese:

I am writing to thank you for adopting the Resolution in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace. Rhode Island was the first American colony to declare independence from British rule and it is all too fitting for your state to be among the first American states to publicly support Artsakh's independence.

The support you have shown is very encouraging as Artsakh remains committed to developing as a free, open and democratic society. Since our state's independence in 1991, we have been committed to values of human rights and personal liberties.

Adoption of the Resolution H8180 by Rhode Island's House of Representative that recommends to the federal government to recognize NKR's sovereignty sends a strong message in support of Artsakh's aspirations.

In Artsakh, we remain convinced that international recognition of our republic's rights is the path to establishing lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

On behalf of the National Assembly of the free Artsakh, I want to thank you for your leadership and support for our independence. As Armenians, we are honored to have you, Mr. Corvese, and the great State of Rhode Island among our friends.

We look forward to continued cooperation between our legislatures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ghulyan'.

Ashot Ghulyan



CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR.

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

E-mail: parliament@ktsurf.net

№ 02-113

« 31 » May 2012

Dear Representative Bennett:

I am writing to thank you for adopting the Resolution in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace. Rhode Island was the first American colony to declare independence from British rule and it is all too fitting for your state to be among the first American states to publicly support Artsakh's independence.

The support you have shown is very encouraging as Artsakh remains committed to developing as a free, open and democratic society. Since our state's independence in 1991, we have been committed to values of human rights and personal liberties.

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In Artsakh, we remain convinced that international recognition of our republic's rights is the path to establishing lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

On behalf of the National Assembly of the free Artsakh, I want to thank you for your leadership and support for our independence. As Armenians, we are honored to have you, Mr. Bennett, and the great State of Rhode Island among our friends.

We look forward to continued cooperation between our legislatures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Ghulyan'.

Ashot Ghulyan



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2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

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№ 02-112

« 31 » May 2012

Dear Minority Leader Newberry:

I am writing to thank you for adopting the Resolution in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace. Rhode Island was the first American colony to declare independence from British rule and it is all too fitting for your state to be among the first American states to publicly support Artsakh's independence.

The support you have shown is very encouraging as Artsakh remains committed to developing as a free, open and democratic society. Since our state's independence in 1991, we have been committed to values of human rights and personal liberties.

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In Artsakh, we remain convinced that international recognition of our republic's rights is the path to establishing lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

On behalf of the National Assembly of the free Artsakh, I want to thank you for your leadership and support for our independence. As Armenians, we are honored to have you, Mr. Newberry, and the great State of Rhode Island among our friends.

We look forward to continued cooperation between our legislatures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Ghulyan".

Ashot Ghulyan



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2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

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№ 02-111

« 31 » May 2012

Dear Speaker Fox:

I am writing to thank you for adopting the Resolution in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace. Rhode Island was the first American colony to declare independence from British rule and it is all too fitting for your state to be among the first American states to publicly support Artsakh's independence.

The support you have shown is very encouraging as Artsakh remains committed to developing as a free, open and democratic society. Since our state's independence in 1991, we have been committed to values of human rights and personal liberties.

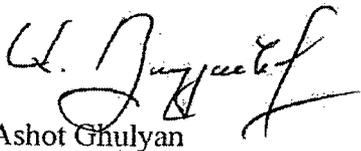
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In Artsakh, we remain convinced that international recognition of our republic's rights is the path to establishing lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

On behalf of the National Assembly of the free Artsakh, I want to thank you for your leadership and support for our independence. As Armenians, we are honored to have you, Mr. Speaker, and the great State of Rhode Island among our friends.

We look forward to continued cooperation between our legislatures.

Sincerely,


Ashot Ghulyan



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2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

Tel. / Fax: (+374) 943221

E-mail: parliament@ktsurf.net

№ 02-110

« 31 » May 2012

Dear Majority Leader Mattiello:

I am writing to thank you for adopting the Resolution in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace. Rhode Island was the first American colony to declare independence from British rule and it is all too fitting for your state to be among the first American states to publicly support Artsakh's independence.

The support you have shown is very encouraging as Artsakh remains committed to developing as a free, open and democratic society. Since our state's independence in 1991, we have been committed to values of human rights and personal liberties.

Adoption of the Resolution H8180 by Rhode Island's House of Representative that recommends to the federal government to recognize NKR's sovereignty sends a strong message in support of Artsakh's aspirations.

In Artsakh, we remain convinced that international recognition of our republic's rights is the path to establishing lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

On behalf of the National Assembly of the free Artsakh, I want to thank you for your leadership and support for our independence. As Armenians, we are honored to have you, Mr. Mattiello, and the great State of Rhode Island among our friends.

We look forward to continued cooperation between our legislatures.

Sincerely,


Ashot Ghulyan



CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAGORNO - KARABAKH

2, February 20 st., Stepanakert, NKR

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E-mail: parliament@ktsurf.net

№ 02-109

« 31 » May 2012

Dear Representative McNamara:

I am writing to thank you for adopting the Resolution in support of Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspirations for freedom and peace. Rhode Island was the first American colony to declare independence from British rule and it is all too fitting for your state to be among the first American states to publicly support Artsakh's independence.

The support you have shown is very encouraging as Artsakh remains committed to developing as a free, open and democratic society. Since our state's independence in 1991, we have been committed to values of human rights and personal liberties.

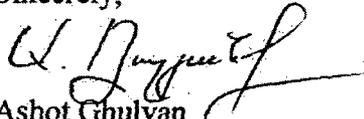
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In Artsakh, we remain convinced that international recognition of our republic's rights is the path to establishing lasting peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

On behalf of the National Assembly of the free Artsakh, I want to thank you for your leadership and support for our independence. As Armenians, we are honored to have you, Mr. McNamara, and the great State of Rhode Island among our friends.

We look forward to continued cooperation between our legislatures.

Sincerely,


Ashot Ghulyan



OFFICE OF THE NAGORNO KARABAKH REPUBLIC IN THE USA

ԿԱՆ-ՈՒՄ ԼՂՐ մշտական ներկայացուցչություն

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

I am writing to thank you for issuing statement in support for Nagorno Karabakh's freedom and sovereignty.

In Artsakh, we remain committed to continue developing as an open and democratic society, which provides all our shared universal values of the human rights and liberties. And our determination becomes even stronger when we receive the crucial support in the United States' legislature.

We hope that the republic's independence will be recognized without further violence. For that, the NKR authorities will continue the constructive involvement with the international community for finding a positive and lasting solution to the existing regional problems.

As Armenians, we are proud to have you, Mr. Whitehouse, among our friends.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
NKR Representative in the United States

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ԱՄՆ-ում ԼՂՐ մշտական ներկայացուցչություն

Dear Representative Langevin:

I am writing to thank you for making the floor statements in support for Nagorno Karabakh's freedom and sovereignty.

In Artsakh, we remain committed to continue developing as an open and democratic society, which provides all our shared universal values of the human rights and liberties. And our determination becomes even stronger when we receive the crucial support in the United States' legislature.

As you have mentioned in your statement, we also share the hope that the republic's independence will be recognized without further violence. For that, the NKR authorities will continue the constructive involvement with the international community for finding a positive and lasting solution to the existing regional problems.

As Armenians, we are proud to have you, Mr. Langevin, among our friends.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
NKR Representative in the United States

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Dear Senator Reed:

I am writing to thank you for issuing statement in support for Nagorno Karabakh's freedom and sovereignty.

In Artsakh, we remain committed to continue developing as an open and democratic society, which provides all our shared universal values of the human rights and liberties. And our determination becomes even stronger when we receive the crucial support in the United States' legislature.

We hope that the republic's independence will be recognized without further violence. For that, the NKR authorities will continue the constructive involvement with the international community for finding a positive and lasting solution to the existing regional problems.

As Armenians, we are proud to have you, Mr. Reed, among our friends.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
NKR Representative in the United States.

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Dear Representative Cicilline:

I am writing to thank you for making the strong floor statements in connection with the Triple Holiday in Artsakh, as well as in support for Nagorno Karabakh's freedom and sovereignty. It was a true pleasure seeing you in Providence during the Shushi Commemoration event.

In Artsakh, we remain committed to continue developing as an open and democratic society, which provides all our shared universal values of the human rights and liberties. And our determination becomes even stronger when we receive the crucial support in the United States' legislature.

We hope that the republic's independence will be recognized without further violence. For that, the NKR authorities will continue the constructive involvement with the international community for finding a positive and lasting solution to the existing regional problems.

As Armenians, we are proud to have you, Mr. Cicilline, among our friends.

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
NKR Representative in the United States

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List of think tanks, which received invitation to attend the Presidential elections in Nagorno Karabakh

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation
Kenneth	Wollack	National Democratic Institute
Patrick	Merloe	National Democratic Institute
John B	Hardman	The Carter Center
David	Carroll	The Carter Center
Karin	Ryan	The Carter Center
Lorne W.	Craner	International Republican Institute
Stephen	Nix	International Republican Institute
Craig	Kennedy	German Marshall Fund
Dakota	Korth	German Marshall Fund
William "Bill"	Sweeney	IFES
Anthony	Bowyer	IFES
Nick	Larigakis	American Hellenic Institute
Edward P.	Djerejian	Baker Institute / Rice University
Richard H.	Solomon	United States Institute of Peace
Christopher	Walker	Freedom House
Jennifer L.	Windsor	Freedom House
Herbert I.	London	Hudson Institute
Jon	Greenwald	International Crisis Group
Glen	Howard	The Jamestown Foundation
Dimitri	Simes	The Nixon Center
Paul	Saunders	The Nixon Center
Bruce	Jackson	Project on Transition Democracies
Fred	Starr	Central Asia and Caucasus Institute
Angela	Stent	Georgetown University
James	Denton	Freedom House
Ariel	Cohen	Heritage Foundation
Lyuda	Andriyevska	InterMedia
Fiona	Hill	The Brookings Institution
Nadia	Diuk	National Endowment for Democracy
Ian	Bremmer	World Policy Institute/ Eurasia Group
Ellen	Bork	Project for New American Century
Michael	Lemmon	National Defense University
Martha	Brill Olcott	Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Charles	King	Georgetown University
Laura	Jewett	National Democratic Institute
Hrair	Balian	The Carter Center
Sam	Patten	Freedom House
Rodger	Potocki	National Endowment for Democracy



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May 31, 2012

Mr. Kenneth Wollack
National Democratic Institute
2030 M Street NW, Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20036-3306

Dear Mr. Wollack:

The Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Artsakh will be holding regular presidential elections on July 19, 2012. We regard the elections to be another significant step forward in our efforts to continue developing as an open and democratic society.

Since the establishment of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic in 1991, international observers, including members of the U.S. Congress, have monitored five parliamentary, four presidential elections and two referenda. In so doing, they have assisted Karabakh's fledging democracy in upholding the universal values of the human rights and the rule of law.

In an effort to enhance a constructive cooperation with the international community, particularly with regard to the democracy-strengthening initiatives, we have the pleasure to invite your organization to delegate representatives for attending the elections as independent observers. As always, the NKR authorities will provide full access to the election officials, polling sites, ballot-counting facilities, and whatever additional access may be required for a successful implementation of the mission.

Should your organization accept the invitation to take part in the monitoring mission, or should any other questions arise, please, do not hesitate to contact the NKR Office in the USA.

We would appreciate if you could inform about your decision no later than July 9th, 2012

Sincerely,

Robert Avetisyan
Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic to the United States

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