

Caucasus Edition

Journal of Conflict Transformation

In this issue:

Analysis:

8 Most popular analytical articles of 2010

By various

8 Most popular blog posts of 2010

By various

News Digest:

Digest of Armenian Media for Dec 15- 31, 2010

By News Digest

Digest of Azerbaijani Media for Dec 15- 30, 2010

By News Digest

The Neutral Zone

Read more at: www.caucasusedition.net Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

8 Most popular blog posts of 2010 *By Caucasus Edition*

- [Shut up! The enemy might hear you!](#) by Anahit Shirinyan
- [Good Mourning](#) by Fatalin
- [Measurements for Patriotism](#) by Edgar Khachatryan
- [Between Amnesia and Vengeance: A Path to Reconciliation](#) by Afa Alizada
- [Freedom of Choice](#) by Veronika Agajanyan
- [Key Chain](#) by Jamila Mammadova
- [Social Media for Social Lynching? Facebook as a Platform for Xenophobia Following the Announcement of an Azerbaijani Film Festival in Yerevan](#) by Phil Gamaghelyan
- [Art has no nationality](#) by Gulara Azimzadeh

8 Most popular analytical articles of 2010 *By Caucasus Edition*

- [Clash of Narratives: The under-appreciated role of identity in non-resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict](#) by Phil Gamaghelyan
- [Warmongering as State Propaganda and its Effect on the Eventual Resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict](#) by Hashim Gafarov
- [Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: War, Humanitarian Challenge and Peacekeeping](#) by Margarita Tadevosyan
- [Opening Borders, Preserving Walls: Opportunities to Support the Karabakh Peace Process](#) by Laurence Broers
- [Madrid Principles: Basis for Conflict Settlement or War?](#) by Artak Ayunts
- [Karabakh: A Long and Winding Road to Distant and Difficult Peace](#) by Humay Guliyeva
- [No Exit in the South Caucasus](#) by Asbed Kotchikian
- ["My enemy, my friend"](#) by Arzu Geybullayeva

News Digest

Digest of Armenian Media for Dec 15- 31, 2010

By News Digest

Tert.am [Authorities take primitive stance on Nagorno Karabakh recognition – opposition MP](#) (Eng) The Armenian authorities have adopted a very primitive stance on the recognition of Nagorno Karabakh, Larisa Alaverdyan of the opposition Heritage party said, as she spoke about the draft bill proposed by Heritage to recognize Karabakh... **Read more on Page 3**

Digest of Azerbaijani Media for Dec 15- 31, 2010

By News Digest

NEWS.az ["We should hardly expect a breakthrough in the negotiation process"](#) [ENG] This excerpt is from an interview with Ruslan Kharabua, expert of the Caucasus Department at the CIS institute. It is an interesting overview of OSCE and recent Astana summit as well as future prospects of the conflict... **Read more on Page 12**

The Neutral Zone

Video survey: What do you think Azerbaijani/ Armenian youth thinks of you?

By Reshad Aliyev and Sasun Khachatryan

This is a video survey by Neutral Zone conducted in October 2010 simultaneously in Yerevan and Baku. We interviewed ten women and ten men from both sides in an attempt to find out what the Armenian and Azerbaijani youth thinks and knows of each other or they know about each other's attitudes and culture. The maximum age of the respondents did exceed 35. Most of the respondents were chosen randomly on the street and were asked three questions... **To read more proceed to the site.**

Marriage in Armenia- tradition, values and ceremonies

By Anna Poghosyan

The Soviet period had a significant influence on the position of women in Armenia. The regime sought to emancipate women in many ways. While it prompted equal education and work opportunities, the Soviet period also had its impact on domestic life of people. Marriage for instance became the result of mutual consent rather an obligation on one side or the other. This also had affected the average marriage age... **To read more proceed to the site.**

Marriage in Azerbaijan- tradition, values, and ceremonies

By Lala Jumayeva

To meet an interesting, nice, smart, polite, and a handsome guy, to fall in love with him, accept his marriage proposal and wear a beautiful white dress is each girl's dream. However, things are not exactly the same if you live in a country like Azerbaijan. Firstly, there is marriage age rule. If you do not have a fiancé and do not get married till certain age, you become the target for your family and relatives who will ask you every time they see you, whether you have married or not... **To read more proceed to the site.**

News Digest

Digest of Armenian Media for Dec 15- 31, 2010

By News Digest

12.15.2010

Tert.am

[Authorities take primitive stance on Nagorno Karabakh recognition – opposition MP](#) (Eng)

The Armenian authorities have adopted a very primitive stance on the recognition of Nagorno Karabakh, Larisa Alaverdyan of the opposition Heritage party said, as she spoke about the draft bill proposed by Heritage to recognize Karabakh. “The authorities have very plainly stated that they cannot recognize Karabakh unless Azerbaijan launches an aggression. I regret to say that this is a very poor manifestation of political thought. Why shouldn’t we consider Artsakh a legitimate state?” she told a press conference.

[No significant changes took place over Karabakh issue. Azerbaijan’s expectations didn’t come true: political expert](#) (Arm)

No significant changes took place in 2010 when it comes to the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh issue. At the same time Azerbaijan’s expectations over Karabakh did not come true as the Armenian-Turkish normalization – which Azerbaijan expected to use exerting pressure at Armenia and using it the benefit of the resolution of the Karabakh conflict – were halted, according to political analyst Alexander Iskandaryan.

Lragir.am

[Euphemism over Karabakh](#) (Arm)

Citing British conflict resolution expert Thomas de Waal, who said the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is a “sleeping” one Germany’s ambassador to Armenia Hans-Jochen Schmidt told a news conference that the word “frozen” is actually a euphemism for Karabakh. Further he said that the incidents that happen on the line of contact are supportive of the fact that the Nagorno Karabakh is not frozen.

[Berlin is in favor of self-determination](#) (Arm)

The article says that Germany’s ambassador to Armenia, Hans-Jochen Schmidt, said at a press conference that he does accept Armenia’s viewpoint that the Karabakh issue should be resolved through the principle of peoples’ right to self-determination.

“I absolutely understand Armenia’s approach that all the three principles should be accentuated – territorial integrity, self-determination and non-use of force – and that they all should be applied together,” said he.

Epress.am

[Karabakh conflict resolution and what’s actually happening are two different concepts: Iskandaryan](#) (Eng)

Caucasus Institute Director Alexander Iskandaryan says in this article that the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and the efforts made to resolve it are quite different concepts. He also points to Russia’s efforts in the

conflict as an attempt aimed at stressing Moscow's position, maintaining the status-quo and securing the ongoing activities of the Minsk Group.

"The Karabakh issue, in light of the settlement of the conflict, and that which is happening around Karabakh are two different concepts. I am referring to such a settlement process that has its logic which doesn't coincide with the reality that currently exists in Karabakh."

12.15.2010

RFEL

[New revelations by WikiLeaks: Deputy US Secretary of State Philip Gordon about Karabakh](#) (Eng)

According to this article, the whistle-blower website WikiLeaks has unveiled another secret US diplomatic cable, according to which, US Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Philip Gordon, said at a July 3, 2009 meeting with EU officials that the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the key to the normalization of the Armenian-Turkish relations and would be an important step toward facilitating regional energy supplies. "Resolving Nagorno-Karabakh is the key to unlocking Turkish-Armenian relations," Gordon was quoted as saying. 12.16.2010

Tert.am

[Recognition of Karabakh should have been discussed at a narrow circle before bringing it to a vote](#) (Arm)

The proposal to recognize Karabakh should have been discussed within the Heritage party before bringing it to a vote at the parliament, said Grigor Harutyunyan of the Armenian Peoples' Party. According to him the move was a wrong one which was proved by the fact that the parliamentary majority just boycotted it, and the draft law was not adopted as a result. In such matters, Grigoryan went on to say, the initiators should first of all take into account how the international community's reaction will be to that.

12.17.2010

News.am

[Nagorno-Karabakh international entity, Armenian Deputy FM says](#) (Eng)

The article says that Armenia's parliament introduced draft amendments to the Law on International Agreements which allow Armenia establishing legal relationship and signing agreements with unrecognized national entities. Further it says that Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan said in parliament that the amendments were necessitated by Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan's statement at the OSCE Summit in Astana. Further Kocharyan said that the concept of "entity" stipulated in the document has a collective meaning of "republic, organization, state" and that it will facilitate the "international recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as it makes Karabakh an international entity".

12.18.2010

Tert.am

[Azerbaijan continues its destructive policy, says Armenian FM](#) (Eng)

According to this article, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan said at a meeting in Spain that "despite the statement made at the OSCE Summit in Astana and the declaration adopted after the summit, Azerbaijan continues its destructive policy." "At least it raises doubts that just hours after the five-party statement in Astana the Azerbaijani delegation would reject to include and even make a reference to it in the final document of the summit," said Nalbandyan.

12.18.2010

News.am

[Astana declaration registered certain progress. Polish Ambassador says](#) (Eng)

Speaking to the source, Polish Ambassador to Armenia Zdzislaw Raczynski said that the Astana declaration is not a new step and that repetition of certain rules and commitments under new circumstances is considered, however, something new in diplomacy. According to him, the declaration confirms the inviolability of the three principles for Karabakh conflict resolution is positive. "The declaration does not contain new elements, but it registered certain progress in the current situation," the diplomat said.

12.20.2010

Tert.am

[Talks over Karabakh will be more active without ensuring progress: Giro Manoyan](#) (Arm)

The negotiations over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be more active next year, Giro Manoyan, a senior Dashnaksutyun party official said, adding that the talks will however not ensure progress as long as Azerbaijan does not agree to the idea that Karabakh can be given a status not under Azerbaijani rule.

"The talks will be more active because the mediators do not want the conflict to turn into a war again. But there will be no progress in the negotiation process due to both Azerbaijan's and Turkey's attitudes," said he.

12.20.2010

Epress.am

[US will propose fresh ideas over the Karabakh conflict: Star](#) (Arm)

The US does not consider the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a priority for its foreign policy, but it will, however, review this approach in the near future, said Frederik Star, a US political analyst. He also criticized the OSCE Minsk Group, pointing to the fact that none of the Minsk Group states is deeply interested in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

"But I think that next year the US will propose fresh ideas over the Caucasus, over the Karabakh issue in particular," said he.

[Why can't a film on friendship between Armenians and Azerbaijanis be made?](#) (Eng)

The article refers to a small debate between the deputy chief editor of Ekho Moskvyy radio Sergei Buntman and journalist Matvey Ganapolsky sparked by a question by a Baku-based listener who asked whether any films were produced in the last 10 years on friendship between Armenians and Azerbaijanis or between Russians and Georgians.

[Armenia's reorientation toward the US will allow Karabakh conflict resolution](#) (Eng)

Senior Heritage Foundation researcher Ariel Cohen said that only Armenia's reorientation towards the US will make the settlement of the Karabakh conflict possible.

"It is obvious that Azerbaijan is ready for serious concessions to achieve progress. On the other hand, the historical ties between Armenia and Russia can not be shaken by the readiness of Azerbaijan to resolve the

conflict. Nothing but a major reorientation of Armenia to the US, which incidentally is possible in the future, can change the balance of power,” concluded Cohen.

12.20.2010

RFEL

[MP of European parliament is planning to refer to the issue of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan in his report](#) (Arm)

The article says that Tomash Poreba, an MP of the European Parliament, visited the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, and held meetings with senior Karabakhi officials. Meeting the members of Karabakh’s Union of Refugees, he said he was going to refer also to the issue of the Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan in his forthcoming report.

12.20.2010

Hetq.am

[Website of Armenia’s Prosecutor General’s Offices launches section “Sumgait”](#) (Arm)

The article says that the website of Armenia’s Prosecutor General’s Office has launched a page that includes the materials of the criminal cases filed over the incidents in Sumgait in 1980 and in Karabakh in 1990. The page can be reached at www.genproc.am/sumgait.

12.21.2010

Epress.am

[Nagorno Karabakh, South Ossetia and Abkhazia have much in common – Patriarch of All Georgia](#) (Eng)

Speaking to Azerbaijani journalists, Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II said that regional and ethnic confrontations in Azerbaijan and Georgia had much in common.

“I think this conflicts should be settled jointly and peacefully,” said he, adding that the conflict should be resolved in the nearest future, otherwise the situation could turn into a more serious and dangerous confrontation.

12.21.2010

RFEL

[Report about S-300 is a ‘message to Azerbaijan’](#) (Arm)

Following Armenia’s official acknowledgement that it has Russian-made S-300 defense systems, expert Ruben Mehrabyan, according to this article, said that it was a message addressed to Azerbaijan.

“Because this is the first time that it was officially spoken about their existence, I think, however, that there is a certain message, first of all addressed to Azerbaijan”

[US ambassador to Armenia hopes for ‘great progress’ over Karabakh in 2011](#) (Arm)

US Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch said that the statement adopted at the OSCE Summit in Astana will positively affect the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents agreed on the importance of the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

“The current situation in the Karabakh conflict zone is obviously very serious, given the incidents that take place on the line of contact. But we think that the five-party statement adopted by presidents Sargsyan, Aliyev and by the representatives of the three co-chair countries at the OSCE Summit in Astana, will positively affect the settlement,” said she.

12.22.2010

Tert.am

[Armenia fixed progress in Karabakh peace process – parliament vice speaker](#) (Eng)

Deputy Chairman of Armenia’s National Assembly Samvel Nikoyan said that Armenia succeeded in maintaining peace in Karabakh, and that was a positive achievement for Armenia in 2010.

“We are more confident and more positively disposed in this matter because the international community realized that a settlement of the conflict is possible only through the maintenance of three principles ... We didn’t simply beg peace; we demanded it,” Nikoyan said.

12.22.2010

Epress.am

[Armenia and Azerbaijan bracing for a war: interview](#) (Arm)

The lack of negotiations over Nagorno Karabakh testify to the fact that Azerbaijan and Armenia are getting ready for a fresh a war, Georgi Vanyan, the head of an Armenian NGO, said in an interview with Azerbaijan news website 1news.az. Further, he said the Karabakh conflict does not exists any more: it has instead turned into a Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict where the process referred to as “negotiations” is moving ahead itself.

[Karabakh shouldn’t be made into bargaining chip to mask Armenia, Azerbaijan failures](#) (Eng)

Karabakh shouldn’t be made into a bargaining chip in order to mask the shortcomings in both Armenia and Azerbaijan when it comes to the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, said Ara Sargsyan, Deputy Chair of Russian Academy for Geopolitical Affairs. If Karabakh is “left alone,” it will become clear who is “interested in fuelling the conflict.”

“In this case it might become clear that interested in this are the British, the United States of America and some Russian forces that are associated with Gazprom or the energy bloc, who always want tension in Karabakh so that Nabucco [gas pipeline project] would not be built,” said he.

12.22.2010

RFEL

[Azerbaijan and Turkey will help each other in case of war](#) (Arm)

The article says that Azerbaijan’s parliament ratified a treaty – signed yet in summer – with Turkey about strategic and military cooperation, which stipulates that should any of the two countries be attacked by a third one, the other country must come to help. Further, it says that the this agreement is meant to be a counter response to the agreement signed between Armenia and Russia this summer, which extended

Russia's lease of its military base in the Armenian city of Gyumri and widened the cooperation between the two countries.

12.23.2010

Lragir.am

[Deputy Chairman of Azerbaijan's Mejlis hopes to win the war](#) (Arm)

Deputy Chairman of Azerbaijan's parliament Ziafat Askarov said that the "day when Azerbaijan's occupied territories will be returned is very close" as the political situation over Karabakh is changing in the world, but the bad thing about the Karabakh conflict is that "Russia continues to arm Armenia".

"Unfortunately, Russia being an OSCE Minsk Group co-chair, continues to arm Armenia, which is the number one obstacle to the settlement of the Karabakh conflict," said he.

12.24.2010

Tert.am

[Armenia has always said it is the guarantor of Karabakh's people, says MP](#) (Eng)

According to this article, Artak Zakaryan of the Republican Party, referring to the fact that Azerbaijan's representative to UN Tofiq Musayev sent a letter to UN secretary general over Karabakh, said that Armenia has for several times made it clear for Azerbaijan that it is the guarantor of the security of Karabakh's population. "Azerbaijan's representative to US had better mention in his letter for whom exactly is Azerbaijan's military budget – which is increasing year by year – meant for and to whose security and peace it will be posing a threat," said Zakaryan.

[No stability in Caucasus unless Karabakh conflict is settled – Abdullah Gul](#) (Eng)

Turkish president Abdullah Gul said that establishing stability in the Caucasus will not be possible unless the Karabakh conflict is settled, and Turkey attaches utmost importance to the normalization of ties with Armenia. "We attach much importance to the normalization of ties with Armenia. In that sense, we have undertaken certain steps. We are hopeful such complicated issues will be resolved, and we will finally be able to consider the possibility of establishing peace in the Caucasus. And to achieve that, it is necessary to cease the occupation of the Azerbaijani areas," Gul said.

12.24.2010

Lragir.am

[Armenia's authorities ignore the will of Artsakh people](#) (Arm)

Pointing to the statement signed by Armenia's president at the OSCE Summit in Astana and the fact that the Armenian parliament voted against the bill by Heritage party proposing to recognize Nagorno Karabakh, a group of NGOs said in a statement that Armenia's ruling authorities ignore Karabakhi people's will. Further they said that Armenia has mistakenly considered it an achievement that Azerbaijan agreed to grant Nagorno Karabakh the former status of the Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh.

[Ahmadinejad about Karabakh](#) (Arm)

Addressing a summit in Turkey Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Iran maintains good-friendly relations with both Armenia and Azerbaijan and that Iran is ready to assist with the resolution of the Karabakh conflict based on the law and justice.

“The good relations both with Azerbaijan and Armenia is a good chance to solve any conflict based on the principle of the law and justice,” said he.

12.24.2010

RFEL

[Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran put accent on the importance of territorial integrity](#) (Arm)

Speaking at a summit in Istanbul, Turkey’s Foreign Minister Ahmed Davutoglu said that Ankara is in favour of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict only within Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity. Asked whether Turkey could change its stance on Karabakh if pressured, Davutoglu said that would be impossible.

“Turkey is for the settlement of the Karabakh conflict with Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity,” said he.

12.25.2010Tert.am

[Armenia’s military doctrine enables it to ensure Karabakhi people’s security, says expert](#) (Arm)

Armenia is authorized to ensure Artsakhi people’s security by its military doctrine as Armenia’s military doctrine clearly says that Armenia can be the guarantor of the Karabakhi people’s security, Armenian military psychologist David Jamalyan said.

“We have the doctrine, which predetermines the military policy, the defense policy of our country, and it also clearly stipulates that RA [the Republic of Armenia] can become the guarantor of Artsakhi people’s security,” said Jamalyan. 12.28.2010

RFEL

[“Nagorno Karabakh: status without status”](#) (Arm)

A group of Azerbaijani experts discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at a meeting in Baku’s Press Center. The participants discussed the possibilities of the resolution of the Karabakh conflict and the possible status of Karabakh, based on the international practice. Also a book written by Elhan Shahinoglu, the head of the research centre Atlas, and proposing 10 models of the Karabakh conflict, was presented to the participants.

[Azerbaijan ‘doesn’t cooperate even in terms of providing information’](#) (Arm)

Armen Kaprielyan, the head of the Armenian working group at the committee that deals with issues of prisoners, hostages and those considered lost, said that Azerbaijan does not cooperate at all when it comes to returning prisoners of war, hostages and the bodies of those killed, as well as exchanging information.

“Unfortunately, only the body of Manvel Saribekyan – kidnapped by the Azerbaijanis and allegedly having committed suicide – was returned to Armenia after the Astrakhan declaration,” said he, adding that Armenia is going to comply with the provisions of the Astrakhan declaration.

12.28.2010Epress.am

[No more risk of war, says expert, having visited Baku](#) (Arm)

The unilateral recognition of Karabakh will pave the way for a fresh war, Stepan Grigoryan, an Armenian analyst, said in an interview with Vesti Kavkaza. Grigoryan, however, said that he sees clear and positive

steps by Azerbaijan aimed at solving the Karabakh conflict peacefully. To prove his point, Grigoryan said that while visiting Baku recently he saw that an Armenian church located in the center of Baku is being renovated – something that makes him think that there is no risk of a fresh war.

12.29.2010

Lragir.am

[I am looking forward to war](#) (Arm)

Movses Hakobyan, the Defense Minister of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, said at a press conference that he is not waiting for provocations, but rather for a war. Hakobyan also said that Karabakh's army was created to war and is ready and is waiting to do so any moment. Further he said that in 2010 Karabakh's army was able to carry out its duties – to ensure the security of Karabakh's population.

12.29.2010FRFL

[Azerbaijan turned to UN Secretary General](#) (Arm)

The articles says that a recent statement by Armenia's president about Nagorno Karabakh caused serious concern among Azerbaijani authorities and it is for that reason that Azerbaijan's temporary representative to UN Tofiq Musayev has sent a letter to the UN Secretary General. In his letter Musayev particularly referred to a statement Serzh Sargsyan made at the end of military drills near the Azerbaijani border, where he said that "when time comes, we will be able to achieve more serious success than in 1992-1994, by resolving this issue once and for all". Musayev said in the letter that such "rhetoric runs counter the international obligations Armenia has assumed".

12.30.2010

Tert.am

[UN Office in Armenia concerned over increased violations of ceasefire on contact line](#) (Eng)

The UN Office in Armenia sent a letter to UN secretary general expressing concerns about the fact that "Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire accord on the contact line from November 1 and December 30 in 2010. The authors stated that "Azerbaijan continuously takes advantage of of being a UN member-state, not missing the occasion to compromise Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh". The letter also said that "running counter the letter and spirit of the negotiations within the Minsk Group (MG) format, as well as the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, the Azerbaijani leadership has launched a wide-range xenophobia campaign against Armenia and the Armenians worldwide, posing a serious threat to peace and stability in the region".

12.30.2010

RFEL

[Russia's Foreign Ministry considers Karabakh process an important event in 2010](#) (Arm)

According to a document on the Russian Foreign Ministry's website Russia's mediating efforts aimed at the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, have been highly appreciated by the international community. The document also refers to the meetings that Moscow has brokered between Armenian and Azerbaijani and Russian presidents.

12.30.2010

Epress

[Obama Bypasses Senate to Name New US ambassador to Azerbaijan](#) (Eng)

US President Barack Obama has bypassed the Senate and directly appointed four new U.S. ambassadors, including former chief Karabakh negotiator Matthew Bryza for Azerbaijan. Bryza's appointment was opposed by Armenian-American community and his nomination was previously blocked by a specific senator.

12.31.2010

Lragir.am

[The modernization of the Karabakh issue in 2010](#) (Arm)

According to this article the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was drawn into oblivion against the backdrop of the Armenia-Turkey normalization. But overall, the Karabakh issue was actively discussed and was in the international level. It also says that given the "Azerbaijan's destructive policy in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, the international recognition of Karabakh becomes vital".12.31.2010RFEL[Edward Nalbandyan: international community's approaches over NK were in line with Armenia's stance](#) (Arm)

Speaking at program Armenia's Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan said that the international community's approach over the Karabakh conflict was in line with Armenia's stance. Nalbandyan also said that in terms of the Nagorno Karabakh settlement "Azerbaijan's destructive and Armenia's constructive stance became crystal-clear for the international community". "I can say once again that all these statements and approaches stipulated in them are in line with Armenia's stance," explained he.

Digest of Azerbaijani Media for Dec 15- 30, 2010

By News Digest

16.12.2010

NEWS.az

[‘We should hardly expect a breakthrough in the negotiation process’](#) [ENG]

This excerpt is from an interview with Ruslan Kharabua, expert of the Caucasus Department at the CIS institute. It is an interesting overview of OSCE and recent Astana summit as well as future prospects of the conflict. Kharabua argues that while he hopes that 2011 becomes crucial in attaining a breakthrough in conflict, it won't be the case. And so won't be the coming years, especially as OSCE Minsk Group continues to persistently fail at getting to anything close as peaceful resolution of NK.

17.12.2010

TREND.az

[Azerbaijani MPs call Armenian president's maneuvers unsuccessful](#) [ENG]

As Armenian parliament adopted draft amendments to the law on “international agreements”, Azerbaijani MPs called this step as a weak maneuver to simply sustain Armenia's current leadership in power. According to the new amendments, “the law would regulate relations with the unrecognized subjects of international law in the matters of ensuring peace, human rights, humanitarian, economic or financial aid”.

This nuisance is merely an indication of Sargsyan's team in actually not being able to recognize the separatist regime of NK commented Azerbaijani parliament member Rasim Musabeyov.

20.12.2010

TREND.az

[Azerbaijani Defense Ministry accuses Armenia of violating ceasefire](#) [ENG]

As a result of recent ceasefire violation by the Armenian Armed Forces on December 17th, Azerbaijan's Defense ministry warned Armenia that if such acts continue to occur, the country will be facing some harsh consequences. A shell that fell near a settlement controlled by the local military forces resulted in no casualties.

[Ariel Cohen: United States will pay less attention to unresolved territorial conflicts](#) [ENG]

The article looks at recent Astana Summit organized by the OSCE and the institution's capacity as a peace broker in the region. Ariel Sharon, leading expert on Eurasia at the Heritage Foundation said in an interview with Trend, that the summit was a disappointment in terms of seeing any feasible results on the NK conflict. In fact, the current prospects are bleak especially as both countries missed such an opportunity during the OSCE summit. Adding, that in 2011, NK won't be on top of the US agenda and its priority list, especially as this is going to be a year crucial for operations of coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Contrary to Cohen, Kazakh Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Serik Primbetov saw Astana Summit [\[December 15th, ENG\]](#) and the statement adopted by the heads of state (calling for an early resolution of the conflict) as a breakthrough in the conflict over NK.

NEWS.az

[‘Armenia should declare joining Nagorno- Karabakh in case of war resumes’ \[ENG\]](#)

Head of the Hay Dat (Armenian Cause) office Giro Manoyan comments on the prospects of NK status in case there is a war and recent statement made by Sargysan on recognizing NK if Azerbaijan begins a war. Manoyan argues that Armenia should in fact join NK rather than de jure recognize the territory. And yet, he believes there wont be recognition of NK on 2011 agenda.

[Our goal is not to win the war- Sargysan \[ENG\]](#)

These were the words from Sargysan’s speech during the 20th anniversary of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA). The article sums up some parts of the president’s speech focusing on NK. The president refers to Azerbaijan’s rhetoric as propaganda balloon undermining Armenia’s power and to explode any moment. However, President noted that the goal is not to win the war as Armenia already done it but to actually reach solution through just means.

21.12.2010

TREND.az

[Political analyst: Azerbaijan is insured against defeat in possible war in Nagorno- Karabakh \[ENG\]](#)

This is what director of the Center for Political Innovation and Technologies, Mubariz Ahmedoglu said at a press conference while commenting on any possible war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Ahmedoglu, also emphasized few developments that took place this year with regards to the conflict and its resolution process. According to him, OSCE was among those few organizations that took bold steps- “demonstrated courage”- in a number of issues related to NK, for instance, using the phrase “occupied territories” or using Khankendi instead of Stepanakert.

In addition, special attention was paid to military build up in Azerbaijan with intensive military exercises, and growing expenditure allocated to the country’s military force.

[Baku: Nagorno- Karabakh conflict has not been resolved this year due to Armenia’s non- constructive position \[ENG\]](#)

Ali Hasanov, head of the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration Social and Political Department, called Armenia unconstructive and unwilling to resolve the conflict in an interview with Trend newspaper.

Hasanov put two choices in front of Armenia- either continuing its current status quo or actually going forward with the peaceful resolution.

He also placed emphasis on Azerbaijan’s regional influence, while speaking on the failure of the Zurich agreement between Turkey and Armenia in 2009 as Azerbaijan’s decisive influence in any of the regional initiatives or interstate projects. Once again, the head of the department stressed Azerbaijan’s growing strength and dynamic development and Armenia’s continuing stagnation as a comparison for who is who in the region.

NEWS.az

[Situation in Karabakh conflict very serious \[ENG\]](#)

US Ambassador to Armenia, Marie Jovanovich believes that recent OSCE summit and the declaration reached there by the presidents of conflicting countries and the Minks Group co- chairs is an important step

taken towards positive direction and will only affect the resolution process positively. The ambassador also positively assessed commitment of the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan during this summit.

Jovanovich while noting on possibility of an outbreak of hostilities between the two countries, she said she was convinced that the two countries fully understand that this wont be a solution especially as both presidents agreed “that the only path for reconciliation is through peace talks”.

22.12.2010

TREND.az

[LINKS publishes part of report on Nagorno- Karabakh, reflecting views of Azerbaijani side](#) [ENG]

UK- based LINKS published second part of its “Karabakh: the big debate” report where it covers views of Azerbaijani political parties on the question of NK. Based on the report, majority of Azerbaijani political parties unite in seeking a solution to the conflict based on the territorial integrity factor. This in return means that NK must be returned to Azerbaijan together with other currently under occupation territories. The report also notes of a widespread recognition that Nagorno Karabakh should be given extensive autonomy within Azerbaijan with some parties emphasizing deployment of international peacekeeping forces.

23.12.2010

(RFE/RL) Radio Liberty Azerbaijan Service

[Ziyafet Asgerov criticizes Russia](#) [AZ]

The first vice speaker of the Azerbaijani parliament criticized Russia for selling arms to Armenia therefore impeding the resolution process of the conflict. However Asgerov added, no matter how many arms Russia sells to Armenia, Azerbaijan has twice as much. Adding that today, it has become clear that the resolution of the conflict is nearing and that the day when the occupied territories are returned to Azerbaijan is not that far away.

[“Is it true that Haydar Aliyev was ready to give Nagorno Karabakh away?”](#) [AZ]

This is a summary of a radio program on Azadliq waves that was covering the current status of NK conflict, its resolution process and internal dynamics happening in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The guest of the program, political analyst- Elda Namazov, looked at internal debate in Armenia and gave few historical facts to his argument whereby he said that the reason why Ter- Petrosyan was brought down was because back in 1997, when Minsk group brought a set of proposals to both presidents, they both accepted it, however, when Ter- Petrosyan wrote an open letter to the Armenian public telling them that one day Azerbaijan will get stronger and so we must accept current proposals now and resolve this conflict peacefully.

According to the political analyst, 13 years later, after Armenia saw two more presidents (Sarkysyan is still in power) the prospects for peace are getting bleaker.

TREND.az

[Deputy Speaker: Sargysan’s bellicose statements are evidence of oppressive situation in Armenia](#) [ENG]

Deputy speaker of Azerbaijan’s Nationali Parliament Bahar Muradova, called President Sargysan’s recent statements as bellicose adding that statements of this nature are intended for internal debate only, i.e., Armenian society and to suppress pressure of internal forces on the country’s current leadership. Referring to Armenian president’s war rhetoric, deputy speaker called these statements as an obstacle to the

principles of peaceful resolution of the conflict adopted during Astana Summit 3+2 format (Azerbaijan and Armenian presidents, and heads of delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group co- chair states).

Muradova, also stressed the current situation whereby Armenia might have won the war but that Azerbaijan still poses full right to liberate its lands from occupation according to international norms and will take advantage of this sooner than later.

[Trend commentator: Nagorno- Karabakh conflict: 2010- 2011 \[ENG\]](#)

An opinion peace, the author of this article looks at NK in 2010 and the prospects for peace in the upcoming year. According to the author, Armenia's current leadership prefers to continue in keeping the conflict unresolved as a means to maintain its current status quo. More so, author argues, if any progress is achieved Sargsyan's current status will be severely undermined.

The unsuccessful Astana summit proves this argument if not makes overall process of the resolution of NK conflict depressing even though some joint statements were made.

What might play more into the overall process of the conflict is EU's more active role in 2011, perhaps even a possible partnership with the OSCE Minsk Group.

NEWS.az

['Nagorno- Karabakh conflict won't be resolved next year' \[ENG\]](#)

Ara Sahakhan, Vice- President of the Russian Academy of Geopolitical Problems speaks of possible prospects of resolution in this article. According to Sahakyan, the conflict will retain its current status quo in the new year as well given both leaders of the conflicting countries benefit from the current status quo for individual political means, i.e., to retain power.

24.12.2010

TREND.az

[Presidential administration department head: statements by international organizations on Azerbaijan's territorial integrity are already insufficient \[ENG\]](#)

In his press statement, Elnur Aslanov, head of the Azerbaijani presidential administration's political analysis and information provision department called on international institutions to take more concrete steps on NK question, demonstration more political will as Azerbaijan might resort to other means of conflict resolution if current situation does not change.

This call for action, comes right after another [article \[December 23rd, ENG\]](#) that was published a day earlier on Trend.az where Deputy Prime Minister and head of the State Refugees and IDP Committee, Ali Hasaov accused international organizations for absence of interest when it comes to the resolution of the NK question. Hasanov doesn't mention any specific names, nor does he refer to any specific institutions in his statement.

[FM: Armenia should prepare people for inevitability of restoring territorial integrity of Azerbaijan \[ENG\]](#)

In this article, Elkhan Polukhov, Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry's Spokesman, responds to Armenian Parliament Vice Speaker's Samvel Nikoyan's statemtns on UN resolutions and Astana Summit. Claiming that while internationally Azerbaijan is recognized as a victim in this war, Polukhov says that Armenia and its political leaders for some reason are in search to prove it otherwise to its people.

Polukhov calls on the Armenian authorities to prepare for justice and an end to the occupation, advising that much could change in Armenia by doing so, starting from the country's economic recovery.

DAY.az

[MP Tair Rzayev: 'Armenia was planning to pull Azerbaijan into a big provocation'](#) [RUS]

Commenting on recent attacks by the Armenian forces on Azerbaijan Rzayev, said that all of this is due to the fact that Armenia never got what it deserved previously when it got involved in similar actions. And this is why he believes Armenia has become insolent. And the recent meeting in Astana, also showed that OSCE as well has no concrete position towards Armenia either said Rzayev. According to the MP, if back in the day, Armenia was required to fulfill UN's four resolutions then none of this would have been happening, and Armenia wouldn't be showcasing its "strength". Rzayev also noted that he does not dismiss the fact that by shooting, Armenia was trying to provoke Azerbaijani forces.

25.12.2010

NEWS.az

[Lithuania sees 'red lights' in the case of Nagorno Karabakh](#) [ENG]

Answering questions posed by the OSCE's magazine, the Lithuanian Foreign Minister, said that much needs to be done in terms of resolving the NK conflict and it needs to be done quick as the process is hitting some deadends.

27.12.2010

[Eldar Namazov: 'this is the only way to resolve Karabakh conflict'](#) [RUS]

Namazov's solution is based on European institutions calling on Armenia to come to its senses, adopt proposal put forward by the OSCE Minks Group and move towards peaceful resolution of the conflict. The political scientist doesn't see any other way. And so if in 2011, there are no concrete steps taken by the European institutions to convince Yerevan then all means for peaceful resolution will be depleted.

28.12.2010

DAY.az

[Elmar Mammadyarov: 'Armenia is trying to prolong the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict'](#) [RUS]

In an interview with Lebanese journal 'Al Havadis' Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, called Armenia unconstructive in its stance towards resolution of the NK conflict while adding that the country is only trying to prolong the conflict for several more years, which is totally unacceptable by Azerbaijan.

The "unconstructive behavior" argument seem to persist in many other statements made by parliament members or political scientists in Azerbaijan. One of these statements was made by Fazail Ibrahimli [[December 27th, RUS](#)]- Parliament Member, who argued that Armenia was holding to unconstructive approach regarding NK for the whole year. More so, the MP also argued that Armenia is busy with spreading unsubstantiated information on the conflict. However, this in return only damages Armenia as its Armenia that will be living in a state on of constant fear as long as the conflict remains unresolved.

[American political scientist: 'Minsk Group format was doomed for failure from the very beginning'](#) [RUS]

This is from an interview with Vladimir Socor, member of the Jamestown Foundation. Socor argues that failure at Astana summit to meet any concrete steps was not something to be surprised of, given that

everyone knows that OSCE as an institution is not an effective one. OSCE is not even involved directly in the regulation of the conflict said Socor in his interview, which means that its role is only symbolic.

Socor also answers questions about US lessened involvement in this conflict in 2010 and looks at some of the reasons behind such move. Nothing much should be expected of US involvement in this conflict either for as long as US is dealing with Afghanistan and Iran.

29.12.2010

TREND.az

[EU's response to Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry's protest note publicized](#) [ENG]

It looks like the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry was deeply unhappy when Tomasz Poreba, member of the European Parliament visited NK. While the Azerbaijani foreign ministry claims that if Mr. Poreba went to NK to acquaint himself with the region and internal political debate he must have consulted with Azerbaijani government first. To which, the Delegation of the EU and the Polish Embassy responded with a note, saying that the EU respects the international principles of territorial integrity and that any visit to a territory of any state should be done in accordance with the international law in cooperation with the country at stake.

Mr. Poreba's visit to NK (who is also the keynote speaker on Armenia in the parliament,) was followed with a protest note sent to the head of the EU delegation in Azerbaijan and the Polish ambassador by the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry. As a result, while Mr. Poreba explained his reasons for visit, he was declared as a persona non grata by the local authorities.

In another article published earlier that [week \[December 22nd, ENG\]](#), Azerbaijani political scientist Fikret Sadikhov, went as far as to call the EU institution "authoritative" and uneducated, sarcastically adding that its members "should receive a diploma in geography" as they surely are aware that NK is an integral part of Azerbaijan. Sadikhov called decision of MEP to visit NK as disrespecting Azerbaijani interests and overall being indifferent to what is going on, on the territory of Azerbaijan.

In a much harsher [note \[December 21st, ENG\]](#), Azerbaijan's MP, Ganira Pashayeva called on adoption of a law that would declare persons visiting Azerbaijan's occupied territories without permission.

[Turkish FM: Nagorno- Karabakh conflict must be resolved to normalize Turkey- Armenia relations](#) [ENG]

Turkey's foreign minister, calls for resolution of the NK conflict as it poses long- term implications to the overall relations between Armenia and Turkey. According to Davutoglu any progress in relations between these two countries rests on the resolution of the NK conflict as well as Genocide debate. Davutoglu was quoted saying: "people in Congress" do not know any substance and history, are trying to put pressure on Turkey.

Similarly, in article that appeared on Trend.az on [December 12th \[ENG\]](#), writes of recent statements made by Turkey's President Abdullah Gul on the status of NK and its soon resolution. According to the president, Turkey looks for having good relations with all of its neighbors, including Armenia, however, for this to happen, Karabakh must be resolved, lands must be liberated from occupation and all of the displaced people must return to their homes.

DAY.az

[Political scientist Samir Hamidov: "US can warn Armenia"](#) [RUS]

Samir Hamidov told DAY.az in his interview that the US and Armenia relations will follow its current pace and won't hit any dead ends resulting in negative setbacks. Armenian lobby is pretty strong in the US, not to mention Obama's close ties with the Armenian lobby and the role it played during the elections. And while commenting on NK conflict, Hamidov said that he doesn't think that any concrete steps will be taken while negotiations will continue at its current pace.

About The Journal of Conflict Transformation

The Journal of Conflict Transformation is an independent online publication that provides a forum for scholars, practitioners, policy analysts, starting researchers and bloggers to analyze as well as discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and issues related to it. The purpose of the publication is to contribute to sustainable resolution of the conflict by expanding scholarship on the subject and encouraging diverse perspectives and analysis.

The Journal welcomes contributions from established researchers and is also committed to include the voices of emerging analysts and writers within the peace process. This inter-disciplinary online publication accepts scholarly and analytical articles, as well as reflective writings, that contribute to the better understanding of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Armenian-Azerbaijani relations and suggestions for improvement of the peace process and positive transformation of inter-societal relations. The articles can analyze the conflict as a whole or any factor that potentially has implication for the conflict and/or its resolution from the perspective of political science, economy, sociology, anthropology, social psychology, collective memory studies, comparative history, ethnic conflict, identity-conflict, conflict resolution, peace studies, mediation and facilitation, conflict transformation and comparative case studies.

The publication is supported by grants from the Democracy Commissions of the U.S. Embassy to Armenia and the U.S. Embassy to Azerbaijan and the Norwegian Atlantic Committee. Views expressed in the publication are those of its authors. The publication is established and managed by the Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation.

Featured next on January 15:

Analytical issue:

Adopt a new approach to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution or prepare for disaster

By **Armen Grigoryan**

Nagorno- Karabakh: Not yet "ripe" for resolution

By **Peter Roethike**

Bi- weekly News Digest of Azerbaijan and Armenian media on Nagorno- Karabakh and Armenian- Azerbaijani relations

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://caucasusedition.net>

Follow us on:

[Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

If you wish to Unsubscribe, please email us at editor@caucasusedition.net, and have 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.