

Caucasus Edition

Journal of Conflict Transformation

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PACE subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh: an opportunity for multi-track diplomacy

By Afa Alizada

Since brokering a ceasefire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1994, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been the sole official platform for negotiations between the warring parties. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group — Russia, France, and the United States — have mediated the peace process for the past 17 years with no real progress in sight. The OSCE Minsk Group's stated objectives are to provide an appropriate framework for conflict resolution; obtain an agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict; and promote the peace process by deploying OSCE multinational peacekeeping forces... **Read more on Page 3**

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Digest of Armenian Media for March 1-14 2011

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03.01.2011News.am [Armenian pogroms commemorated at US Congress](#) (ENG) This news item says that the Armenian Embassy in the United States, in cooperation with the US Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Representative Office of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) and Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) organized an official event on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the Armenian pogroms in Sumgait and Baku... **Read more on Page 9**

A question for the field of conflict resolution: who decides?

By Tamar Palandjian

The parties to the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh maintain that the principles of international law justify the basis of their positions. Armenia and Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh claim the right to self-determination of its peoples. Azerbaijan claims its right to territorial integrity of its land. If the parties are justified in claiming international law as the foundation of their positions — how will the outcome be decided upon? When considering the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, how were the borders of Nagorno Karabakh determined in the first place... **Read more on Page 6**

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By News Digest

04.03.2011 DAY.az [Adil Aliyev: "Sargysan will approve of return of occupied territories"](#) [RUS] While commenting on renewed meetings among the leaders of the two countries, Parliament member said the process might be seeing a breakthrough. However, noted parliamentarian this is going to be done with official Yerevan, finally realizing that something must be done if it wants to stay in power. And so, according to Aliyev, Armenian is going to try and convince the US through all unofficial channels that it is ready to accept any kind of circumstances, as long as they guarantee grip on power... **Read more on Page 21**

The Neutral Zone

Can Georgia play an active role in the settlement of the Nagorno- Karabakh conflict?

By Sasun Khachatryan

With the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) achieving little progress, if any, in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for several years now, a new idea seems to be promoted — Georgia’s possible role in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict — with practical steps already being taken at the civil society level... **To read more please proceed to the site.**

Interview with writer Ali Akbar *By Tehmine Pashayeva and Gunel Safarova*

How would you introduce yourself as a writer to Armenian readers?

I have already introduced myself to Armenian readers. I have been to Armenia three time in total. My first visit was in 2005. Armenian media, its non-governmental organizations recognize me as a writer. Even their students know me ... Because together with composer Elmir Mirzayev, we gave a master class for ten days at the Yerevan Slavonic University. This was the project financed by the UK government... **To read more place proceed to the site.**

Interview with Vahram Martirosyan

By Ani Matevosyan

How would you describe your work to Azerbaijani readers? What are you writing about? What is the core message in your writing?

I am probably the only Armenian writer in the last 20 years who the Azerbaijani public had a chance to read. My novel “Landslides” has been published in the newspaper “Senet.” I am writing about what interests me. And what interests me today might differ from what interested me yesterday... **To read more please proceed to the site.**

ANALYSIS

PACE Subcommittee on Nagorno- Karabakh: An Opportunity for Multi- track Diplomacy

By Afa Alizada

Since brokering a ceasefire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 1994, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been the sole official platform for negotiations between the warring parties. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group — Russia, France, and the United States — have mediated the peace process for the past 17 years with no real progress in sight. The OSCE Minsk Group's stated objectives are to provide an appropriate framework for conflict resolution; obtain an agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict; and promote the peace process by deploying OSCE multinational peacekeeping forces. Needless to say, the Minsk Group has not been successful in even getting the parties to agree on the basic principles.

The lack of success can be attributed to the intransigence of the conflicting parties as much as it can be attributed to the complex geopolitical interests of the mediators involved. Despite its shortcomings, however, the OSCE Minsk Group still remains the best option for official negotiations for several reasons. It is recognized by both parties to be fairly balanced and, therefore, has legitimacy. It has been there almost since day one (1992, then as CSCE) and this ensures continuity and cohesion of the process. Finally, the individuals involved are closely familiar with the conflict's history and dynamics, which is an important prerequisite for a successful mediation.

This does not mean, however, that peace process cannot benefit from dialogue on more sub-official levels. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, like any other protracted conflict, has affected every segment of Azerbaijani and Armenian societies, including domestic and foreign policies, commerce and development, human security, education, media, and so on. As a result, finding a solution to this conflict cannot be limited to only high-level diplomacy. This article explores whether the Subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh, first established in 2005 and currently in the process of resumption, by the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE) can serve as a launching pad for multi-track diplomacy.

Multi-track Diplomacy

There has long been recognition in the field of conflict resolution that protracted conflicts require a complex and multilayered approach. The concept of multi-track diplomacy — which builds on the original distinction made by Joseph Montville in 1982, between track I (official, governmental action) and track II (unofficial, nongovernmental action) approaches to conflict resolution — was developed by Louise Diamond and John W. McDonald (Notter & Diamond, 1996). The concept of multi-track diplomacy rests on the principle that different actors and different segments of society affected by violent conflict can and should play a role in the peace process. Different “tracks” identified by Diamond and McDonald are: 1. governments; 2. professional conflict resolution; 3. business; 4. private citizens; 5. research, training and education; 6. activism; 7. religious; 8. Funding; and 9. public opinion and communication. Each of these “tracks” has its own resources and values, and if coordinated and exploited simultaneously, together they can transform the entire social system from conflict to lasting peace.

The need for this kind of holistic approach to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is apparent, especially given the stalemate on the official governmental level of negotiations. Civil society groups and other nongovernmental entities have been excluded from the negotiation table and the peace process in general. Especially since the official talks have been taking place behind the closed doors, a gap has formed between public perception and the realities of what a peace agreement can or cannot achieve. As a result, the absence of these voices from the peace process can negatively impact the implementation of a peace agreement, even if it is achieved on paper. By surveying a variety of different peace processes, Wanis-St John and Kew (2008) have found a strong correlation between active civil society participation in peace

processes and the sustainability of peace: “Cases in which civil society groups actively engaged in peace negotiations seemed to enjoy more sustained peace in the peace building phase” (pp. 11–36).

There have been commendable efforts by organizations like Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation to bridge some of these gaps in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process, by establishing human contact and bringing young people together from both sides to share their grievances and ideas. However, such people-to-people diplomacy is only one piece of the puzzle. To be successful in conflict transformation, people-to-people diplomacy should be supported by and coordinated with other levels of diplomacy. Only in this coordinated and linked fashion can the impact of such initiatives be amplified and meaningful. The impetus and encouragement for such multilayered approach to peacebuilding, however, should come from the top. Both the Azerbaijani and Armenian governments, therefore, should use the PACE Subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh as an opportunity to involve a wider range of actors in the peace process and facilitate coordination and linkages among these different segments of society.

PACE Subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh and Its Potential

PACE has numerous standing committees and subcommittees dealing with a range of issues, such as legal affairs and human rights, conflict prevention, economic affairs and development, refugees and migration, gender equality, and so on. The Subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh was set up under PACE Resolution 1416, approved in 2005. In this resolution, the Assembly asked its Bureau to create an ad hoc committee comprising, inter alia, the heads of national delegations of the Minsk Group countries, with the intent of stepping up the efforts in achieving a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The Subcommittee was led by former chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly, British parliamentarian Lord Russell Johnston and functioned until 2008, when it was suspended due to Lord Russell Johnston’s death (Ghazinyan, 2011). The efforts to revive the committee began in early 2010. On January 28, 2010, the PACE Bureau agreed on reforming the subcommittee and elected Spanish parliamentarian Jordi Xuclà i Costa as the subcommittee chairman. Mr. Costa has said he intended to “establish cooperation with politicians, ambassadors and academic circles” in Armenian and Azerbaijan before formally launching the activities of the subcommittee this April (News.am, 2011).

Reactions to reviving the subcommittee have been mixed. Armenian officials, including the head of the Armenian delegation to PACE David Harutyunyan, have expressed concern that the subcommittee will “thwart the peace process” and become a “platform for recriminations” (News.am, 2011). This negative reaction has been partly due to the perception that the subcommittee was revived under the leadership of PACE’s current President Mevlut Cavusoglu, a Turkish parliamentarian, which Armenian officials claim indicates the subcommittee will be biased in favor of Azerbaijan (Ghazinyan, 2011). Cavusoglu, however, has pointed out that the decision to resume the subcommittee’s activities was made by PACE months before he was elected and there was no Turk involved in the initiative (Huriyyet, 2010). The Armenian officials have also expressed their discontent with PACE as a platform for Nagorno-Karabakh talks, because of PACE’s refusal to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent side in the talks (News.am, 2011).

Azerbaijani officials have welcomed the initiative, stating that the resumption of the subcommittee’s activities “will play an important role in settling the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict... [and] ... presenting to the world the truth about Azerbaijan” (Maharramli, 2011). The OSCE Minsk Group has not issued an official statement in response to the resumption of the subcommittee.

The concerns expressed about the subcommittee potentially becoming a platform for recriminations and interfering with the official OSCE negotiations are not ungrounded. However, this in itself should not stop the resumption of the subcommittee and its activities. The subcommittee chair can set clear objectives and ground rules to prevent this subcommittee from becoming another stage for rhetoric wars and hindering the overall peace process. First and foremost, the subcommittee should clearly state that it recognizes the OSCE Minsk Group negotiations as the official track of the peace process and that subcommittee’s activities will complement, not rival or attempt to substitute those efforts.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, the subcommittee should set itself apart from the already existing channel of official negotiations and bring fresh ideas to the table. In the Action Plan adopted at the

3rd Summit (2005), the Council of Europe expressed its commitment to “enhance the participation of NGOs in Council of Europe activities,” while recognizing that civil society organizations, “especially those that focus on issues that most concern citizens,” can play an important role in policymaking. The PACE Subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh should uphold this commitment by involving a wide range of actors, including NGOs and other civil society groups from Azerbaijan and Armenia in its activities. This format of the subcommittee will provide a platform not only for government officials to interact with educators, researchers, conflict resolution professionals, members of the business community and engage in discussions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but it will also help connect those actors among themselves, thus contributing to the coordination of efforts. As a result, the subcommittee would act as a testing ground or a model for fostering multi-track diplomacy and opening a way to the voices and ideas that have so far been sidelined in the peace process.

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A Question for the Field of Conflict Resolution: Who Decides?

By Tamar Palandjian

The parties to the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh maintain that the principles of international law justify the basis of their positions. Armenia and Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh claim the right to self-determination of its peoples. Azerbaijan claims its right to territorial integrity of its land. If the parties are justified in claiming international law as the foundation of their positions – how will the outcome be decided upon?

When considering the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, how were the borders of Nagorno Karabakh determined in the first place? When considering self-determination of Nagorno Karabakh, who is considered to be a part of “the people of Nagorno Karabakh”? In reality, the parties have used the legal principles to justify why they are more entitled to Nagorno Karabakh than the other party, and this has led to each side further continuing to insist on their positions rather than thinking creatively about the conflict’s resolution.

Alternatively, the field of conflict resolution rejects the notion that it should be one or the other. Most importantly, conflict resolution is not the same as finding a compromise solution. In fact, proponents within the field argue compromise solutions are not sustainable (Pruitt & Kim, 2004; Fisher et al., 1991). Conflict resolution seeks to take into account humans’ interests and needs that they want satisfied, or as John Burton referred to as Basic Human Needs (Burton, 1979). Therefore, in order to resolve conflict and prevent violence, it is necessary to identify and address the root causes of human grievance and dissatisfaction (Jeong, 2008). All parties’ interests and needs have to be taken into account in order to reach a resolution that is sustainable. Without a sustainable resolution to conflict, the conflict will continue to re-emerge.

In the case of the conflict over Nagorno Karabakh, there are proponents within the field that would argue resolution could be achieved by incorporating both self-determination and territorial integrity (Crowley, 1998; Kelman, 1997). In other words, the people of Nagorno Karabakh would have self-determination and the highest form of autonomy, while remaining officially within Azerbaijan’s borders and maintaining its territorial integrity. According to this particular approach^[1], this type of resolution would satisfy all of the parties’ interests and basic human needs.

After considering the issues of how the parties use international legal principles to resolve the conflict, there is a question regarding who will help to determine the outcome of the resolution. Prior to delving into the latter question, the article will first seek to address how the parties advocate their positions and to question and point out that there are weaknesses within their positions. One might also question how one of the approaches within conflict resolution, which advocates the combination of both self-determination and territorial integrity, might actually lead to a more “outside of the box” thinking when it comes to the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. If, as the article will seek to describe, there are contradictions within the argumentation of each of positions separately, then how might the combination of the international legal principles actually offer an alternative? Finally, the article will then proceed to ask, who will be involved in determining the outcome and ultimately, how the resolution might come about.

Questioning the borders and status of Nagorno Karabakh determined under the Soviet Union

Conflict over the question of the status of Nagorno Karabakh emerged between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as the two independent states fought a war over the region between 1918-1920. In July 1921, Stalin and the Bolsheviks equivocated over the decision of how to draw the borders of Nagorno Karabakh and whether it would be placed under Soviet Armenia or Soviet Azerbaijan. As Thomas de Waal (2010) elaborates, one day the decision about the status of Nagorno Karabakh was decided in favor of Soviet Armenia and then the next day, the decision was reversed and Nagorno Karabakh became a part of Soviet Azerbaijan. “Two years later, the new Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous region was founded, with its borders

drawn so as to give it a population that was 94 percent Armenian... Armenians say that Stalin 'gave' Karabakh to Azerbaijanis, while Azerbaijanis maintain that the decision merely recognize pre-existing reality." (de Waal 2010 Ch 4: Location 1815-1828) All throughout the Soviet era, Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh demonstrated on several occasions proclaiming their dissatisfaction with being under Soviet Azerbaijan and advocated for their autonomy and self-determination (Mooradian and Druckman, 1999).

By placing large populations of one under the rule of another, the Bolsheviks sought to experiment in the Caucasus on the nationalities question (de Waal 2010). The experiment, at the very least, proved to be disastrous and what emerged as a result of the colonial power's meddling is the basis for the emergence of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

As the colonial power determined the borders and the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, the legitimacy of who has the right to draw these borders can be questioned. Especially since the Soviet system has collapsed, one can question why these borders continue to remain legitimate? Moreover, for the Nagorno Karabakh Armenians, the way in which the borders were drawn and the status was determined was unfair in the first place. Technically, the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh were not determined by its people and were imposed by the colonialist power. Since then, the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh claim they have pursued and obtained their self-determination and thus, that should be the basis in which the conflict is resolved. Any solution otherwise might seem to be unfair to the people on the ground living on that land.

Determining who are the "People of Nagorno Karabakh"

Upon further consideration of Armenians' claim to self-determination by the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, one can also question the basis of this argument as well. More often than not, when Armenians refer to the "people of Nagorno-Karabakh," there is an underlying assumption that they are all Armenian. Yet there are also 50,000 Azerbaijani displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh (Gamaghelyan, 2010: 42) who claim the right to return to their homes and land. When considering the status question, how does the Armenian position define "the people of Nagorno-Karabakh"? Do they take into account that the Nagorno-Karabakh Azerbaijanis would also be considered a part of this population?

Furthermore, there is another concern when considering this question of who is considered to be "the people of Nagorno-Karabakh." The Armenian government is actively pursuing a policy to encourage Armenians to live in Nagorno-Karabakh and to cultivate the lands and economy there. The government of Armenia is also taking steps to provide incentives for Armenians to live in Nagorno-Karabakh by implementing policies such as subsidizing the cost of products and groceries so that it is only half the amount they would pay in comparison to living in Yerevan.

It is clear that there is a settlement policy in place to ensure a stronghold of the Armenian population within Nagorno-Karabakh. When considering this and the prospect of Azerbaijani displaced persons being allowed to return to their homes based on the basic principles within the OSCE Minsk Group negotiations, one can begin to wonder whether or not co-existence between Armenians and Azerbaijanis of Nagorno-Karabakh would even be possible. If the structural conditions in Nagorno Karabakh are clearly favoring the power of one ethnic group over another, how can there be any guarantee that the rights of Nagorno-Karabakh Azerbaijanis will be respected and upheld as well?

Who decides?

The question should not be about whether or not the resolution of the conflict will be based on territorial integrity or self-determination nor a combination of both. Alternatively, the conflict resolution approach described earlier -which advocates for the combination of both self-determination and territorial integrity – is not different either as it accepts that the combination of these two will somehow determine the outcome of the resolution. The question that really should be asked is – how and who will determine the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict? While the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk group seeks to remain "impartial" mediators in this process, it will be virtually impossible for the OSCE to do so.^[2]

According to the parties, both of their legal claims to international law are justified. This article has sought to show otherwise and there are loopholes within the positions' claims. The outcome can only be determined by the negotiation process and by the parties involved in the process. There is a shift that will take place when the decision is no longer in the hands of the conflicting parties themselves but rather the OSCE will influence the outcome. In other words, if the current format of negotiations and way of resolving the format with OSCE mediation continues, Armenia and Azerbaijan will not have much influence on the determination of the future of Nagorno-Karabakh. The fate of the resolution of the conflict lies in the hands of the OSCE Minsk Group and the national interests of United States, France and Russia as actors within the negotiation process will influence the outcome of the peace talks. Turkey may also become a key actor in this process, as the OSCE is considering its role within this process. Given the current conflict between Turkey and Armenia and its alliance with Azerbaijan, this would certainly go against the interests and wishes of the Armenians, as they believe Turkey will only be involved to uphold the position of Azerbaijan.

While the OSCE Minsk Group seeks to mediate this negotiation, the reality is that these countries, which have different interests in the region, will seek to satisfy their own geo-political interests in the region during the process. Therefore, the mediation efforts and process is tainted and not impartial. In other words, neither of the international legal principles of self-determination or territorial integrity will be the basis of the outcome of the resolution. Nor will the conflicting parties themselves decide upon the resolution. The outcome of the resolution will be influenced by the interests of the OSCE Minsk group countries themselves.

Upon considering the viewpoint presented in this article, one might consider it to be from a "Realist" perspective, which considers national interests as the basis of all international politics. As opposed to the Realist worldview, however, the argument presented here does not wish to dismiss international legal principles as the basis of the outcome of the resolution of the Karabakh conflict. In fact, these international legal principles will be fundamental to the conflict's outcome. It does, however, seek to raise questions about how the OSCE utilizes and couches the language of international law as the basis of the Karabakh conflict's resolution.

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[1] While this might be one approach, there are a variety of approaches within the conflict resolution field that would disagree with this particular formulation of the resolution.

[2] OSCE mediators' lack of impartiality regarding the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict has also been suggested by Wendy Betts in the article, "Third party mediation: an obstacle to peace in Nagorno Karabakh," *SAIS Review*, v. 19 no. 2 (Summer/Fall 1999) p. 161-83.

NEWS DIGEST

Digest of Armenian Media for March 1- 14, 2011

By News Digest

03.01.2011

News.am

[Armenian pogroms commemorated at US Congress](#) (ENG)

This news item says that the Armenian Embassy in the United States, in cooperation with the US Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, Representative Office of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) and Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) organized an official event on the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the Armenian pogroms in Sumgait and Baku.

It also says that Frank Pallone, Chairman of the US Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues denounced the Armenian massacres and designated them as genocide. He called on US Congressmen to continue supporting Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

03.02.2011

Tert.am

[Azerbaijan 'takes steps to strengthen autocracy,' says Armenian FM Nalbandyan](#) (ENG)

In an interview with the Austrian newspaper Der Standard the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan said that "while Armenia is taking steps to strengthen democracy, Azerbaijan is taking steps to develop autocracy, adding that this stance will not contribute to the settlement of the Karabakh conflict. "And the poisoning the brains of the youth this way [Azerbaijan] is hindering the future settlement [of the conflict]," said Nalbandyan, adding that "generally the spirit of mutual concessions and peace is far less in potential autocratic countries".

Lragir.am

[NKR FM delivers speech in CSIS](#) (ENG)

The article says that Georgi Petrosyan, the Foreign Minister of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno Karabakh delivered a speech at the Washington-based Centre of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), elaborating Karabakh's position over the conflict. He also spoke about the future of the process taking place in the region.

[German radio station refers to Karabakh issue](#) (ARM)

The article says that German radio station SWR 2 broadcast a program about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, presenting the positions of Armenia, Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The program also quoted an officer of Karabakh's army saying that the conflict is over and that it is the Azerbaijani side that does not simply want to reconcile itself with that reality. It also quoted Armenia's Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan saying that the conflict can be resolved only through compromises. Hetq.am

[Final settlement of Karabakh issue depends on the will of Armenians](#)

According to the article the Prime Minister of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, Ara Harutyunyan, said at a press conference in Lebanon that the final resolution of the Karabakh conflict depends on the will of the Karabakhi people and the entire Armenian population. "Whatever negotiations are held, the last word is not only with Artsakh, but also with all the Armenians," said he.

News.am

[U.S. Congressman calls on Clinton to address Azerbaijani government's threats](#) (ENG)

According to the article, US House Foreign Affairs Committee member Brad Sherman asked Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to address the "Azerbaijani government's threats and aggression against Armenia and Karabakh" and, more specifically, to identify the "serious repercussions" that Azerbaijan would face from the U.S. if it renewed its aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh. Secretary Clinton is expected to respond in writing to this and other questions posed by members of the Committee.

[Vienna backs Minsk Group efforts to resolve Karabakh problem, Austrian FM says](#) (ENG)

The article says that Armenia Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan held a meeting with his Austrian counterpart Michael Spindelegger and among other things discussed also the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Nalbandyan elaborated on the recent developments and expectations over the conflict, and Spindelegger, in turn, reiterated Austria's support to the talks within OSCE Minsk Group and a mere peaceful resolution to the conflict.

03.03.11

Tert.am

[Armenians in Netherlands submit petition on Nagorno Karabakh to Dutch parliament](#) (ENG)

The articles says that joint Armenian organizations in The Hague conducted a rally on 28 February in support of the Nagorno Karabakh peace process and commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the Sumgait Pogroms of Armenians, reported Abovian Armenian Cultural Association in the Netherlands.

After the rally a petition on Nagorno-Karabakh was submitted to the Chairwoman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Dutch Parliament by a delegation of the Armenian Organisations in the Netherlands on 1 March 2011. The meeting was also attended by members of the Standing Committee from most parliamentary factions

Lragir.am

[Baku is advocating war](#) (ARM)

According to this news piece, Armenia's Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan delivered a speech at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna where he said that while Armenia speaks about peace, Azerbaijan is advocating war.

"While we are proposing to agree on the non-use of force, Azerbaijan is refusing those proposals and is boasting over the doubling of its military spending. While the international community is calling strengthening the ceasefire and withdraw the snipers from the Line of Contact, Azerbaijan is violating the ceasefire accord for hundreds of time during a week ..." said Nalbandyan.

Hetq.am

[No declaration will be signed at the Sochi meeting](#) (ARM)

The article says that the Director of Scientific-Educational Centre Noravank, Gagik Harutyunyan said that no declaration will be signed at the upcoming meeting of the Armenian, Azerbaijan and Russian presidents in Sochi. He also said that of the regional countries both Armenia and Georgia have already called for the peaceful resolution of the existing conflicts.

“It is difficult to say what will happen, but it looks like it was urged during the recent meeting to withdraw the snipers, to ease the situation,” said he.

[Waiting for another war](#) (ARM)

The article says that during the March 5 meeting in Sochi the Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian presidents will not so much speak about the ways of settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but rather about the ways how to delay the resolution – one that will be acceptable for both Armenian and Azerbaijan. It also says that against the backdrop of the bellicose statements from both sides and the violations of the ceasefire accord during 2010, it is time for parties to remember that there are written statements on non-use of forces and guarantees on excluding threats of the use of force.

03.04.2011

Tert.am

[Progress in Karabakh talks depends on Azerbaijan, says ruling party representative](#)

According to this article, Armenian MP Artak Zakaryan said that Azerbaijan’s statements on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict have proven so far that the country is not ready to continue the peace talks. Zakaryan also said he did not have many expectations from the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents’ meeting in Sochi.

“If Azerbaijan proves strong enough to reiterate its commitment to the agreements reached so far, the process will move forward, otherwise we’ll have to admit that that country is again attempting to kill the negotiation process, posing a threat to security and stability in the region,” he said.

[Azeri front troops violated ceasefire, killing an Armenian conscript](#) (ENG)

The article says that the Azerbaijani front troops violated the ceasefire accord on the Line of Contact with Nagorno Karabakh, killing one Armenian conscript. It also says that the incident took place in the vicinity of the Upper Chailu settlement at 2:30 pm on March 4.

[Due to some wrong calculations the Karabakh conflict may turn from frozen into a warm one: Philip Gordon](#) (ARM)

US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon said at a conference in Slovakia that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which is considered to be frozen, may because of some wrong calculations turn into a “warm” one.

“The conflict is considered frozen, but often times there are violations of ceasefire accord on the Line of Contact, claiming lives. The conflict may due to some wrong calculations turn from frozen into a warm one, and it is necessary to prevent this scenario,” said he...

Lragir.am

[European Friends of Armenia Concerned by Azerbaijan’s calls](#) (ARM)

The article says that European Friends of Armenia organization welcomed the tripartite meeting of the Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian presidents in Sochi and hold talks over Karabakh. It also reminded that the international community should perceive what its interests in the region are, interests that will be at risk

in case there is no peace in the region. The organization's Secretary General Michael Camebeck said that the OSCE Minsk Group should spare no efforts this time so that to have the snipers withdrawn from the Line of Contact.

Epress.am

[Collapse of Russian Empire will resolve Karabakh: Opinion](#) (ENG)

The collapse of the Russian colonial state is the main and necessary condition for genuinely resolving all ethnic and territorial conflicts in Nagorno Karabakh, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the leader of the socio-political movement "Free Caucasus" Ilyas Musayev said in an interview with Newcaucasus.com. According to him, Russia's withdrawal from the Caucasus is the key to the peaceful democratic development of all Caucasian nations, since these nations "share a common history, culture, customs and traditions."

News.am

[Baku expects Armenia to step back from its "non-constructive" position](#) (ENG)

The article says that Elnur Aslanov, the chief of the Political Analysis and Information Provision Department of Azerbaijan's Presidential Administration said that Baku expects Armenia to step back from its "non-constructive" stance over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"We expect from the Sochi meeting of the presidents that Armenia will step back from its non-constructive, irrational position and release Azerbaijan's territories," he said, adding that Azerbaijani president's position is that the peace talks must be continued, but every peace talk has its limit.

[Dashnaksutyun: No breakthrough in talks until Stepanakert is involved](#) (ENG)

According to this news item, no progress should be expected from the trilateral meeting of Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian presidents in Sochi, leader of ARF Dashnaksutyun Vahan Hovhannisyan said. He stressed that there would be no steps forward until Yerevan resolutely declares Stepanakert should be directly involved in the talks. "Until Stepanakert is not directly involved, each Sargsyan-Aliyev meeting will be traditional, nothing more," he said, adding he cherishes no hopes that the conflict would be settled in the near future.

03.05.2011

Tert.am

[Armenia should extort concessions from Azerbaijan – oppositionist](#) (ENG)

Oppositionist Vladimir Karapetyan said that Armenia has to extort concessions from Azerbaijan in terms of setting a clear date for a referendum in Karabakh, as was done at the January 25 meeting [between the presidents in 2010] in Sochi, and the fact was even documented in the WikiLeaks disclosures. "The toughening of Armenia's positions in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement talks means Armenia should firmly stand its grounds, not making any concessions. Any backpedaling from the Madrid principles is concession," he said.

[Azerbaijan seeks to maintain pre-war situation in Karabakh – oppositionist](#) (ENG)

Armenian opposition activist David Shahnazaryan said, according to this news item, that by launching aggression on the Line of Contact, Azerbaijan is attempting to return to the pre-war situation in the region. "By provoking such tensions, Azerbaijan is attempting to exacerbate the situation. I have stated numerously that Armenia fails to take advantage of Azerbaijan's mistakes. Moreover, it seems to be taking sides with Azerbaijan, reiterating its belligerent statements, instead of profiting by the occasion," he said.

[Azerbaijan attempting to pressure Armenia ahead of presidents' meeting – MP \(ENG\)](#)

Aram Safaryan, MP of the Prosperous Armenian party, said that for the past two years, “Azerbaijan has been provoking clashes on the Line of Contact ahead of the meetings between the Armenian and Azeri presidents, and it has become a kind of a tradition”.

“For the past two years, Azerbaijan has been escalating the situation on the contact line ahead of the meetings. I regret to note that this time too Azerbaijan is escalating the situation in order to fail the negotiations and pressure Armenia,” Aram Safaryan said.

News.am

[International community should give tough response to Azerbaijan's provocations, ARFD member says \(ENG\)](#)

According to the article, Dashnaktsutyun MP Hrayr Karapetyan, said that “Azerbaijan’s provocations have become a tradition prior to or following Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani Presidents meeting or other meetings in the format of Karabakh conflict resolution, as he commented on the ceasefire violation ahead of the presidents meeting in Sochi on March 5.

“It is high time the international community gave tough response to Azerbaijan’s behaviour,” he said, adding “Baku’s provocations should be discussed during the Presidents’ trilateral meeting in Sochi.”

03.06.2011

Tert.am

[Sargsyan, Aliyev agreed to complete POW swap and solve disputed issues peacefully \(ENG\)](#)

The article says that Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents adopted a joint statement at their meeting mediated by their Russian counterpart in Sochi on March 5. The statement said that they agreed to “complete the swapping process of prisoners of war,” as well as “to seek to resolve all the disputed issues by peaceful means, and to investigate possible incidents along the ceasefire line, with the participation of the parties under the aegis of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen with the assistance of the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman,” read the statement.

03.07.2011

Tert.am

[Pro-Armenian organization comments on Sochi meeting of presidents \(ENG\)](#)

The article says that following the meeting of the Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani presidents in Sochi, Russia, the European Friends of Armenia, issued a statement on March 7, calling for the Sochi agreement to be fully implemented.

“Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan should be congratulated, as this is another concrete achievement of the peace negotiations in recent years, following in particular the presentation of the so-called Madrid Principles and the L’Aquila declaration on July 2009,” read the statement.

[Sochi meeting made it clear that there is no alternative to peaceful settlement of Karabakh conflict – Artak Zakaryan \(ARM\)](#)

According to MP Artak Zakaryan, the importance of the March 5 meeting of the Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian presidents in Sochi on March 5 was that the statement adopted there made it clear that there is no alternative to the peaceful negotiation process over the Karabakh conflict.

“This is a process accompanying the negotiations process and is aimed at shaping some atmosphere inside the societies of the two countries, to change the mood, and create a situation that the readiness [of the parties] to solve the issue peacefully will be more favourable,” said Zakaryan.

[Prolongation of status quo over Karabakh main achievement of Sochi meeting – analyst \(ARM\)](#)

According to this article, political analyst Sergey Minasyan said that an essential achievement of the Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani presidents’ meeting in Sochi on March 5 was the agreement to continue the peace talks over Nagorno Karabakh and to prolong the current status quo.

“The step is really important, though it doesn’t imply a long-term agreement,” said he adding, that “if snipers were the issue, that would have been a serious concession. “ This was an undesirable development for Azerbaijan,” he added.

RFEL

[Armenian experts think Moscow tries to create new format in Karabakh settlement \(ENG\)](#)

The article says that some Armenian experts think that Moscow is attempting to create a new format in the settlement of the Nagorno- Karabakh conflict. Deputy Director of the Caucasus Institute Sergey Minasyan said that if it is only Russia that is taking the upper hand in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, that it will be more difficult for Armenia to pursue that “policy of maneuvers”. He also said that, should there be a fresh war; Russia will have to choose between Armenia, a Russian ally within the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and Azerbaijan, an important energy partner of Russia.

[New Format Appeared at Presidents’ Sochi Meeting: Analyst \(ENG\)](#)

Yerevan-based political analyst Manvel Sargsyan said that the meeting of the presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia in Sochi on March 5 cannot be considered a usual or regular meeting, because each meeting has its own clear purpose. According to him, the process was hanging in the air since the OSCE Summit in early Dec. 2010 in Astana, and the presidents’ meetings have been reinstated, while the matter discussed in Sochi was not related to war prevention measures. “The main agreements were related to increasing monitoring of the Line of Contact,” he said.

Epress.am

[Film Depicting Armenians in ‘Positive Light’ Banned in Azerbaijan \(ENG\)](#)

The article says that Eldar Guliyev’s film “Hostage,” which in addressing the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict depicts Armenians in a positive light, has been banned in Azerbaijan. One possible explanation, the article says, is that the country’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism banned the film, or it is the country’s leadership that did not like the plot, since “in a country where there is continuing Armenian aggression, representing Armenians in a positive light could not be unequivocally accepted.”

News.am

[ICRC ready to assist repatriation of Armenian citizens \(ENG\)](#)

Representative of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) Ashot Astabatsyan said that the ICRC is ready to assist in repatriation of Armenian war prisoners and civilians. “We always expressed our

readiness for repatriation of Armenian citizens. We are ready to assist the parties, if they want us to act mediators,” Astabatsyan said.

[Azerbaijan using civilized militant rhetoric](#) (ENG)

According to the article, MP of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia Artak Zakaryan said that Azerbaijan “has found a new way of using its militant rhetoric” as it states that no international legal norm can prevent Azerbaijan from restoring its territorial integrity which is part of “Azerbaijan’s militant rhetoric, that has become ‘more civilized’.”

“After the Azeri commando’s body was handed over to Azerbaijan following the Astrakhan meeting, Azerbaijan organized a funeral... That step was aimed at keeping tensions high in society. The Azeri side’s actions are evidence that Azerbaijan is not acting in the spirit of peace talks,” Zakaryan said.

[Frequent meetings of Armenian, Azerbaijani Presidents positive move in Karabakh negotiation process. RPA MP says](#) (ENG)

MP of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia, Karen Avagyan, said that the frequent meetings of Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents is a positive move in the Karabakh negotiation process and creates prerequisites to seek solutions. Referring to the Presidents’ joint statement made after the talks in Sochi on March 5, Avagyan said. “In fact, this is progress in the peace process, as many problems arise due to violation of ceasefire by Azerbaijani snipers. This point will create prerequisites for an unbiased investigation of those responsible for the frequent skirmishes in the line of contact.”

[Azerbaijan fails to honour its commitments, Armenian MP says](#) (ENG)

Republican MP Artak Zakaryan said that the main aim of the Armenian-Azerbaijani-Russian presidential meeting in Sochi on March 5 was to discuss and agree on further steps in implementing the trilateral statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict approved in Astrakhan, October 27, 2010. He also said that after each presidential meeting the Azeri side continues its anti-Armenian propaganda and militant rhetoric intended for the domestic audience.

[Expert says Yerevan should boycott talks if Azerbaijan continues killing Armenian soldiers](#) (ENG)

According to the article, political analyst Manvel Sargsyan said that Armenia should boycott the peace talks over Nagorno Karabakh as long as Armenian soldiers are being killed by Azerbaijani front troops on the Line of Contact. In his words, Azerbaijan not only practices blackmail but kills Armenian soldiers to make blackmail convincing.

“If an Armenian soldier is killed while date for talks is proposed, certain moves should be made. For instance, Armenia can recognize Karabakh’s independence or at least boycott the talks. It will persuade Azerbaijan to give up its wrongdoings,” Sargsyan added

03.08.2011

Tert.am

[Karabakh conflict still just about frozen but has warmed up](#) (ENG)

The article says that Armenia and Azerbaijan are committed to resolve their differences peacefully, and to implement fully an agreement on the exchange of prisoners of war and investigate ceasefire violations, under the aegis of the OSCE. Such measures, it comments, could restore some confidence, but will do little more as often described as “frozen”, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been warming up. Last year alone the ceasefire violations rose by 53% and at least 25 soldiers were killed in skirmishes.

News.am

[Azerbaijan should assume a really constructive position, Armenian Deputy FM says](#) (ENG)

According to this news item, Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan said “it is time for Baku to change its constructive position into a really constructive one.” “A couple of weeks ago the Co-Chairs, speaking at the OSCE Political Council, called on the sides to say a clear ‘yes’ to the latest proposals, without any reservations or amendments. Since Armenia had said ‘yes’ to the proposals, the Co-Chairs had obviously been expecting Azerbaijan to change its position and say a clear ‘yes,’” Sh. Kocharyan said.

[Cutting Gordian knot of Karabakh conflict unacceptable, Russian MP says](#) (ENG)

Russian MP Dmitry Vyatkin said that as CIS members Armenia and Azerbaijan must definitely reach an agreement over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

“The Nagorno-Karabakh problem is the most sensitive issue for both Armenia and Azerbaijan. No doubt, the countries must reach an agreement. Russia, in the person of President Dmitry Medvedev, acts as mediator. It is a dialogue at the level of heads of state,” Vyatkin said.

[Trilateral presidential statement deterrent to Azerbaijan’s military plans, Armenian expert says](#)

Armenian political analyst Yervand Bozoyan, according to this item, said that as it was expected, no serious progress was achieved at the Armenian-Azerbaijani-Russian presidential meeting in Sochi on March 5. He stressed that each presidential meeting is a step forward, which proves the negotiations are going on.

“Each meeting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani leaders relieves tension in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, which can be considered progress ... I think the statement will deter Azerbaijan from putting its military rhetoric into practice,” Bozoyan said.

[Speedy decisions on Nagorno-Karabakh naive, expert says](#) (ENG)

According to this article Russian political analyst Kiril Tanayev said that the Armenian-Azerbaijani-Russian President meeting in Sochi on March 5 is one more opportunity for Russia to show its significance in the international arena. According to him, Russia is thus resolving a number of problems that hardly have anything in common with Nagorno-Karabakh, and also Russia maintains relations both with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“However, we can see that neither side is yet ready for the bargain. It may be a matter of time – Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed to the preamble to the principles and promised to make their proposals. Now it is the international mediators, particularly Russia, that have to encourage the sides to start the bargain, without worsening its relations with either of them,” Tanayev said.

03.09.2011

Tert.am

[Sochi statement result of OSCE co-chairs’ pressure on Azerbaijan – analyst](#) (ENG)

Political analyst Alexander Iskandaryan said that the statement reached by Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian presidents in Sochi on March 5 was the result of consolidated pressure by the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs on Azerbaijan. Asked about the resolution of the Karabakh conflict, he said that “the resolution of the issue is impossible today given the logic existing in Armenia and Azerbaijan.”

[OSCE MG co-chairs concerned over ceasefire violations and will conduct immediate investigation](#) (ENG)

The article said that the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group issued a statement in which expressed their deep concern over the reports about the ceasefire violation and called on the parties to exercise restraint, respect the 1994 cease-fire. They also said that they asked Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Office, to carry out an immediate investigation with the participation of all sides, as agreed in the March 5 joint statement issued in Sochi by Presidents Dmitry Medvedev, Ilham Aliyev, and Serzh Sargsyan.

“Such senseless acts, if confirmed, would contravene the commitment of the parties to refrain from the use of force and to seek a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict,” read the statement.

Lragir.am

[Nations' right to self-determination is fundamental for Karabakh: French foreign minister](#) (ARM)

According to this article, asked to comment on the Karabakh conflict the French Foreign Minister Bernard Kuchner said at the French parliament that the principle of nations' right to self-determination is the fundamental principle for the Karabakh conflict.

Hetq.am

[“Formation of Artsakh state is fully in line with the principles and norms of international law”](#) (ARM)

The article says that the President of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, Bako Sahakyan, said at a speech in Paris that Karabakh is for the peaceful resolution of the conflict with Azerbaijan, adding that it does not, however, mean that Karabakh is not ready to defend its independence and security if needed. Sahakyan also said that the “formation of the independent state of Artsakh, that has independence, sovereignty and democratic principles at its core, is fully in line with the fundamentals principals and norms of the international law.

News.am

[No “soon” or “shortly” in Nagorno-Karabakh peace process, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office says](#) (ENG)

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, who is also the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, said at a meeting with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs that the terms such as “soon” or “shortly” are not relevant to the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process as it requires consistent and strenuous efforts. Azubalis discussed with the OSCE co0chairs issues related to building of confidence between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the military field and the countries' honouring of the ceasefire agreement.

03.10.2011

Tert.am

[Aliyev seeks to add fuel to Karabakh conflict to avoid Arab scenario – Turkish media](#) (ENG)

According to the article the Turkish media have been recently casting analyses on the possible developments in the Armenian-Azerbaijani relations in the light of the revolutions in the Middle East. The pro-government website Qoynar.info published the list of the young rebels' Armenian friends on Facebook in an attempt to describe them as people collaborating with the enemies. But the opposition-run media outlets say the authorities have deployed troops in Baku while the Interior Ministry offers contractual work to anyone wishing to assist [in the government's efforts], the Turkish publication says, adding that the Azeri leader is attempting to add fuel to the Karabakh conflict in an attempt to change his country's internal political situation.

[Negotiations are only way to Karabakh settlement – France Foreign Ministry \(ENG\)](#)

The article says that the Foreign Ministry of France issued a statement and expressed its concerns over the deaths caused by the ceasefire violation along the Line of Contact between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan. “We have noted with concern the recent incidents occurred on the contact line in Nagorno-Karabakh, which resulted in loss of human lives,” read the statement.

[Armenia’s Foreign Ministry welcomes co-chairs initiative to conduct immediate monitoring \(ARM\)](#)

According to this article, Spokesperson of Armenia’s Foreign Ministry, Tigran Balayan, welcomed the decision of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs to conduct an immediate monitoring over the reports of ceasefire violations on the Line of Contact between Karabakh and Azerbaijan. He also said that Armenia has always positively reacted to all the calls for withdrawing the snipers from the Line of Contact.

Lragir.am

[Will Bako Sahakyan take a step? \(ARM\)](#)

The article says that if the President of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno Karabakh would previously make only statements that Karabakh is not taking part in the talks and that the last word is with Karabakh when it comes to the settlement of the conflict, now Bako Sahakyan is stating at the French Senate that Karabakh’s international recognition should occur simultaneously with the peace process. The article also comments that is not clear whether Sahakyan’s statements now are indicative of a change in Karabakh’s policy or some kind of intensification.

News.am

[Expert says Sochi statement not worth a bean as Armenian soldier is killed \(ENG\)](#)

Head of the European Integration analytic centre Karen Bekaryan said that the Statement adopted by Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian leaders in Sochi is not worth a bean if there is no confidence between the sides and Armenian soldier is killed in the line of contact 24 hours prior to the meeting. In his words, that statement solves no problem if it is not signed by Nagorno-Karabakh. “It is very difficult to implement an agreement which is not signed by Nagorno-Karabakh,” he said.

03.11.2011

Tert.am

[Karabakhi youth calling on OSCE chairman to visit Karabakh \(ARM\)](#)

The article says that a dozen of youth NGOs sent a letter to the OSCE Chairperson Andronious Azudalis in which they welcome his statement that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is a very tough one to resolve as a new generation has now grown there. The Karabakh NGOs called on him to visit Karabakh and listen to the voices of that new generation right there in Karabakh.

[Investigation of border ceasefire violations will be some progress: Vahan Hovhannisyan \(ARM\)](#)

According to Vahan Hovhannisyan of the Dashnaksutyun party, the only thing new in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at the Sochi meeting in March 5 was the agreement to conduct investigation of the ceasefire violations. “It itself is interesting, as no such investigation will be possible to conduct without Karabakh’s participation because those events took place in Karabakh, on the border of Karabakh. Should there really be such an investigation, it will then be a positive progress,” said he.

[Serzh Sargsyan: There is some shift in Azerbaijan’s position \(ARM\)](#)

The article says that Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan said at a meeting with the Latvian-Armenian community that there is a possibility to reach a consensus with Azerbaijan over the principles of the settlement of the Karabakh conflict in the visible future. Sargsyan also said that if asked before the Sochi meeting on March 5 whether there was any progress in the peace talks over Karabakh he would have told that there was none. "But after the meeting in Sochi on March 5 it can be said that there is some shift in the position of Azerbaijan," said Sargsyan. News.am

[Conflicting parties unready for drastic steps in peace process, expert says](#) (ENG)

Political analyst Alexander Markarov said that the results of trilateral meeting between Armenian, Russian and Azerbaijani leaders in Sochi on March 5 are insignificant but certain movement is observed, the sides are moving to peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict. He also said 2011 is a pre-election year for both Armenia and Azerbaijan and therefore the peace process will advance slower and will go ahead by small steps. Markarov, further, said that the sides are not ready for drastic steps. "Armenia never wanted war but is always ready for it. In its turn Baku acknowledges war will harm not only Armenia but Azerbaijan as well," he added.

03.12.2011

Epress.am

[Four EU filmmakers, journalists locked in Yerevan airport](#)

The article says that on March 10 an international group of journalists and film producers heading to Armenia for an international documentary project on Khojalu was stopped at Yerevan's Zvartnots International Airport by Armenian border security guards with no explanations. Later, all members of the group were denied entry visas to Armenia.

03.14.2011

Lragir.am

[Why does Aliyev not want the territories?](#) (ENG)

Speaking about the meeting by Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian presidents in Sochi on March 5, political analyst Aram Karapetyan said that the parties have reached an agreement on the basic principles of the conflict. According to him, if Azerbaijan has agreed to the joint use of the principles of territorial integrity and nations' right to self-determination, then it means that Karabakh will remain under Azerbaijani rule and will have a wide autonomy. Further, Karapetyan says that there is no other version of the joint application of those two principles.

Epress.am

[In Nagorno-Karabakh issue, Armenia can't wait: Analyst](#) (ENG)

Tbilisi-based analyst Mamuka Areshidze, according to this news item said, that the status quo in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is most disadvantageous for Armenia, while Azerbaijan is wealthy country and can dictate terms.

"Armenia is in a blockade, it's in a very difficult economic situation. Having a favourable geographical position, Armenia is left out of large regional projects. Add to this the ghost of future war, in which Russia will provide political, but not military aid," he said.

News.am

[OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to arrive in Yerevan on March 16 \(ENG\)](#)

The article says that the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs Robert Bradtke (U.S.), Bernard Fassier (France) and Igor Popov (Russia) will arrive in Yerevan on March 16 and will meet with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan and Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan and discuss issues related to the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh dispute.

[Turkey has nothing to do in Karabakh peace process, Armenian Foreign Ministry says \(ENG\)](#)

According to the article, the Spokesman for Armenian Foreign Ministry Tigran Balayan said that Turkey should not interfere in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace talks. Balayan commented on the Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov's statement in an interview in which he said that "a multi-staged plan on Nagorno-Karabakh problem is being proposed by Turkey and Azerbaijan to resolve the dispute.

"Turkey has nothing to do in the Karabakh conflict resolution. If Turkey wishes not to damage the peace process, it should not interfere in the Karabakh conflict settlement," he said.

Digest of Azerbaijani Media for March 1- 14, 2011

By News Digest

04.03.2011

DAY.az

[Adil Aliyev: "Sargysan will approve of return of occupied territories"](#) [RUS]

While commenting on renewed meetings among the leaders of the two countries, Parliament member said the process might be seeing a breakthrough. However, noted parliamentarian this is going to be done with official Yerevan, finally realizing that something must be done if it wants to stay in power. And so, according to Aliyev, Armenian is going to try and convince the US through all unofficial channels that it is ready to accept any kind of circumstances, as long as they guarantee grip on power.

[Bayran Safarov: "Nagorno Karabakh Armenians will support Azerbaijan"](#) [RUS]

Bayram Safarov, director of an association "Azerbaijan community of the Nagorno Karabakh" believes, Karabakh Armenians will support Azerbaijan and in fact regret splitting from Azerbaijan in the early years of the conflict once there is a breakthrough in the resolution process of the conflict. Safarov claimed that official Yerevan is refusing in creating conditions for Karabakh Armenians to express themselves.

06.03.2011

DAY.az

[Presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia signed a statement on the resolution of the Karabakh conflict](#) [RUS]

During the meeting the leaders discussed the practical sides of the realization of the three party statement signed during previous meeting in Astrakhan. The leaders discussed immediate exchange of political prisoners too. The presidents noted importance of keeping the discussions within the framework of peaceful negotiations and importance of regular contacts among the leaders.

07.03.2011

DAY.az

[Azerbaijani administration commented on the recent meetings in Sochi](#) [RUS]

Official Baku said the meetings in Sochi went well, and that certain progress was achieved as a result of the change in the Armenia's position. Official Baku noted that the change could have been the result of Armenian authorities finally realizing that their current position will bear no fruits in this negotiation process. The article also noted that it is possible that recent change could also be the result of Russia's active role in this process.

Commenting on further constructive steps taken at the negotiation table, Azerbaijan's administration said, it will too depend on Armenia and the following steps it decides to take.

In response [[TREND.az, 09.03.2011, ENG](#)], Armenian officials dismissed any of such 'changes'. According to Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan, Armenian doesn't need to change its position,

as it's been constructive throughout the negotiation process. Kocharyan called on the Azerbaijani authorities "to change its 'constructive' position" instead.

09.03.2011

DAY.az

[Aydin Mirzazade: "Armenia will be forced to change its position with regard to the Karabakh conflict"](#) [RUS]

Parliament member and deputy chair of the committee on security and defense, Mirzazade while commenting on the future negotiation process believes that the very forces supporting official Yerevan will be key in changing its position. Calling Armenia a "cork" in the negotiation process recognized internationally, parliament member concluded that it is Armenia that is responsible for failing to meet peace in this region.

NEWS.az

[Possibility of war in Karabakh not removed from agenda](#) [ENG]

Russian military expert, Pavel Felgenhauzer, believes that the agreement signed in Sochi carries no value. According to the expert no improvements taken place in the negotiation process not to mention the possibility of war still being out there. Therefore, the expert calls on real steps taken otherwise, resumption of war is inevitable.

10.03.2011

NEWS.az

['It is important that leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan continue talking'](#) [ENG]

Dennis Summit, executive director at LINKS- UK-based NGO commented on the recent meeting of the presidents characterizing it as an important factor in keeping the two leaders talking. While welcome the agreement on the exchange of prisoners, Summit noted however that this and other similar promises, can and wont replace the actually peace treaty. Speaking with regard to Lithuanian Chairmanship of OSCE, Summit stated that change can happen, it Lithuania is ready to take some bold steps.

11.03.2011

DAY.az

[Political scientist Mubariz Ahmedoglu, talks about new way to approach the resolution of the Karabakh conflict](#) [RUS]

Director of the center of innovation and technology, political scientist Mubariz Ahmedoglu believes that following meetings in Sochi, finally OSCE Minks Group co-chairs realized that the only obstacle to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict is Armenia itself. Ahmedoglu believes, that the document signed in Sochi is the follow up to the earlier signed Maendorf Process. During these discussions, Karabakh was excluded as a political side in the discussions on the resolution of the conflict and with Sochi, it will now be excluded as a military side too, said Ahmedoglu.

[Azerbaijan's Ministry of Security denied Armenian allegations of a murder](#) [RUS]

The response came following accusations from Armenian side of Azerbaijani military forces killing an Armenian soldier during the violation of ceasefire on the front line. It is likely that the soldier lost his life during an internal Army incident concluded the Azerbaijani side.

NEWS.az

[Armenian leader sees 'changes' in Azerbaijani position](#) [ENG]

Armenian President, Serj Sargsyan was quoted saying following the meeting in Sochi of three leaders- Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia – that he has sensed certain 'changes' in Azerbaijan's approach to the conflict. The president noted of a possible rapprochement being reached with regard to the three basic principles for negotiations proposed by the OSCE.

14.03.2011

DAY.az

[Geydar Jamal: "its an attempt to provoke Azerbaijan on sudden and unplanned response"](#) [RUS]

The newspaper interviewed Geydar Jamal, political scientist living in Moscow and who also represents Islamic Committee of Russia. In his interview much of the discussion centered on recent murder of a 9-year-old boy by Armenian forces. Jamal, while describing the incident as nothing extraordinary, given Armenians' old habits of killing women and children said this could be seen as an attempt of provoking Azerbaijan to take unexpected move. This would only play in the hands of the Armenian authorities says Jamal, as in this case, Azerbaijan would be portrayed as an aggressor.

Jamal however, noted that it is probably that the decision to shoot the kid wasn't made on higher echelons but rather by a random army officer who is trained to do one thing only – provoke.

In his interview, political scientists while answering the question on the never- ending resolution of Karabakh conflict said the continuing situation was beneficial for the US, Russia and France and that resolving the conflict, would basically end their spheres of influence in this region.

[Political scientist Rasim Agayev speaks about how the top of the Armenian ruling coalition will try to avoid revolution](#) [RUS]

Agayev accused Armenia of missing political will to resolve Karabakh conflict while referring to statement made following the meetings in Sochi by the Armenian leadership. According to Agayev, Armenia is not ready for a resolution of the conflict, and even if it was, its so-called "strategic partners" won't let it do anything. In addition, Agayev noted that internal situation in Armenia- dissatisfaction with the ruling regime, not to mention the country's weakening economy – Sargsyan will soon face serious opposition.

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.

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