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Analysis

**Youth in South Caucasus: agents of
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By [Jale Sultanli](#)

The year 2010 has been a troublesome year for the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and with the public on both sides increasingly seeing war as the only way out of the stalemate – South Caucasus is starting to feel like a time bomb waiting to explode. Youth in Armenia and Azerbaijan stand to inherit the conflict and possibly be the determinants of the direction the conflict will take. They have a potential to become catalysts for peace and reconciliation or continue the cycle of hatred, blame and intolerance that prevails in the region. Whatever the direction – young people are the ones who will determine and implement it... **Read more on Page 3**

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02.01.2011 Tert.am □ PACE biased in Armenian-Azerbaijani relations – head of delegation (ENG) □ The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) demonstrates an apparent biased approach in the Armenian-Azerbaijani relations, the head of the Armenian delegation to PACE, David Harutyunyan said. □ “The process is suspicious to us, and it’s yet unclear whether the committee can be impartial,” he said... **Read more on Page 9**

**Back to basics: preventing a new war over
Nagorno- Karabakh**

By [Richard Giragosian](#)

Since a 1994 ceasefire suspended hostilities over Nagorno-Karabakh, this unresolved or “frozen” conflict has been subject to an international mediation effort aimed at forging a daunting negotiated resolution between Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The mediation effort is led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – through its so-called Minsk Group, a tripartite body co-chaired by France, Russia and the United States, working in close and effective cooperation with the parties to the conflict... **Read more on Page 6**

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04.02.2011 DAY.az Russian political scientists does not dismiss a transfer from the negotiation table on Karabakh to open conflict [RUS] The newspaper interviews Vasili Kolmashov, head of the Center on Economic Research at the Institute of Globalization and Social Movements. Kolmashov argues that Russia doesn’t have much of a say in the negotiation process and wont have much impact on the resolution. This is because Russia is currently occupied with its own domestic problems... **Read more on Page 19**

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Degradation of a society or what is there on TV?

By Ayan Rahbarli

Television is probably the most widespread and easily accessed type of the mass media. It is hard to imagine our daily life without it. So, I won't hesitate while saying that society is being influenced by TV and its content, the most popular of which are TV shows... **To read more please proceed to the site.**

Music theft or mutual accusations by Armenians and Azerbaijanis

By Ulvi Telmansoy

Every time there is a debate on current relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, mutual accusations ignite. And more recently, the topic of discussions has been music. But not world music, mind you, I am talking about Armenian and Azerbaijani music. It is near to impossible to find someone among Azerbaijani youth who would not claim that Armenians stole Azerbaijani music... **To read more please proceed to the site.**

ANALYSIS

Youth in South Caucasus: Agents of Peace or Future Soldiers?

By Jale Sultanli

The year 2010 has been a troublesome year for the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and with the public on both sides increasingly seeing war as the only way out of the stalemate – South Caucasus is starting to feel like a time bomb waiting to explode. Youth in Armenia and Azerbaijan stand to inherit the conflict and possibly be the determinants of the direction the conflict will take. They have a potential to become catalysts for peace and reconciliation or continue the cycle of hatred, blame and intolerance that prevails in the region. Whatever the direction – young people are the ones who will determine and implement it. Yet today, they sit in the sidelines without a voice and watch their governments and ‘elders’ make decisions that will determine their future.

Youth make up a significant portion of the population, accounting for approximately 30 percent in Armenia[1] and 35.6 percent in Azerbaijan[2]. This means that one out of every three persons in these countries is under the age of 35. Having such a sizable population of youth constitutes both an enormous potential as well as challenge for the region both in the context of social, economic and political development as well as when considering implications for the existing conflicts.

The growing population of youth in developing world has motivated researchers to study various factors surrounding youth participation in violence. While not one factor was found to be a single determinant of youth violence, some studies found that a combination of factors such as large youth cohorts, autocratic environments, economic stagnation, unemployment and others create fertile ground for youth’s engagement in conflict and violence[3]. Research shows that youth who are rebellious and ideological by nature, when unemployed are more likely to engage in violent activity while being employed makes it more risky and costly (considering the cost of job and income loss, etc.) for young people to engage in violent conflict[4]. Interestingly, higher level of educational attainment does not necessarily alleviate the risk of violent conflict as youth with higher level of education also have high expectations for employment[5]. Two other factors: strong collective identity[6] (for example, ethnic identity) and lack of peaceful avenues to express frustrations and grievances were also found to be preconditions for young people to act violently[7].

This scenario concerning the youth population is not foreign to the South Caucasus. Youth in Armenia and Azerbaijan are facing many challenges in all areas of life, among which are access to quality education, transitioning to the job market and finding employment and opportunities in becoming active and engaged citizens in the society and community. Attitudinal surveys show that young people are not satisfied with life in their countries with 76.8% of Armenians[8] and 66% of Azerbaijani youth saying they want to go abroad in search of better opportunities[9]. High unemployment rate is a contributing factor with 51% of youth unemployed in Armenia[10] and 69% of those under 35 unemployed in Azerbaijan[11]. Many among unemployed youth have high level education, which points to the long term unemployment problems stemming from flawed educational and labor policies. Youth unemployment alone do not warrant a new war but the environment of economic stagnation and dissatisfaction among youth will decrease the cost of violent conflict for youth who will have less to lose. Cohorts of idle youth especially in the current environment of hostility are more likely to support war or at least resist it.

Two other factors mentioned in current youth and conflict research must also be considered in Armenia-Azerbaijan context. First, in both countries strong ethnic identities exist in relation to Nagorno Karabakh conflict and the negative attitudes prevail as a result of fruitless peace process, propaganda and lack of communication between societies. Second, both countries are ruled by undemocratic regimes and lack free avenues for engagement of youth and expression of grievances. The latter continues to enforce the negative attitudes.

Many experts have noted the predominance of negative attitudes and enemy image between Azerbaijani and Armenian people not only as a factor that continuously fuels the conflict but also the one

that will become a roadblock once the peace settlement is reached. Youth opinions are not only easier to influence but they are also being targeted doubly in two countries – not only youth are routinely exposed to propaganda pumped through media but they are also recipients of information in schools and universities that further reinforces the enemy image through history classes and discourse on ethnic cleansing. A recent attitudinal study in the Caucasus showed the level of intolerance that exists in the societies. One question concerning approval of friendships by each other showed how strongly they disapprove of friendships with the “other”, Armenians disapproving at 70% and Azerbaijanis at 97%^[12]. Recent video interviews done by a project of Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation showed that young people in Armenia and Azerbaijan have either no knowledge about each other’s culture and literature or consider it false and stolen (from their own)^[13]. Perhaps the most disturbing is the fact that hostile discourse in two countries has created a belief among young people that the conflict can only be solved through resuming war and peaceful options are no longer viable.

In the environment where the enemy image and inevitability of war is reinforced, there are limited opportunities for internal dialogue within each society and scarce mechanisms for engagement in cross-border and solution-oriented initiatives. This has a two-fold impact: first, lack of dialogue about different ways to resolve the conflict prevents exposure to diverse opinions and reinforces the idea that war is the only way out of the conflict; secondly, it prevents young people from engaging in finding peaceful solutions to the problem. Some who do face the stigma of a ‘traitor’ befriend the enemy and receive pressure from their parents, friends, universities and jobs to stop. With low levels of social and political participation (for example, in Azerbaijan, only 5 percent of youth are enrolled in civic or youth organizations), youth are not likely to have opportunities to shape their own opinions about the conflict and will blindly inherit the opinions of current politicians and opinion-makers^[14].

Examining of factors, which have been linked to youth violence in the context of South Caucasus illustrates that preconditions exist for youth in Azerbaijan and Armenia to view war as the only ‘solution’ to the conflict. Current economic environment and high unemployment rates among youth show that young people do not and in the near future will not be living in economic prosperity that might serve as a motivation to shy away from disruptions a war may cause. If the current situation of hostilities and negative attitudes continues, youth which live in undemocratic environment are not likely to engage in peace-oriented pursuits but choose a military intervention as a way out of current deadlock. At the very least, they will stay passive in the face of status quo that is hindering progress and security in the region.

Despite the challenges facing youth, it is important to also note the enormous potential and resilience youth have to become the generation that could find a peaceful solution to the conflict. Studies done on youth all over the world show that early investments in youth in the areas of education, employment, life skills and citizen participation pay off by enabling them to grow and fulfill their full potentials making them into productive and active citizens.^[15] As recent events in Egypt have shown us, youth can become a powerful force for change. In South Caucasus, young people have been among the few groups of citizens engaging in cross-border projects and dialogues, embracing technology and new media to contribute to change both on human rights and conflict related issues. Even with decreased number of public diplomacy projects in the last five years – young people: students, professionals, NGO activists continued meeting and working across conflict line and have formed a cross-border group of individuals committed to dialogue, communication and peaceful solution to the conflict. Smaller groups of youth have also become active in human rights and political life staging demonstrations in Armenia, holding protests and mobilizing with the use of social media as in the case of bloggers’ arrest in Azerbaijan.

The current situation affecting youth and youth demographics must be carefully considered by policy-makers, international development agencies, as well as local and international civil society organizations. Governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia have already recognized the importance of addressing youth issues by developing youth policies and in the case of Azerbaijan carefully monitoring and ‘managing’ youth activism through a controlled structures in universities. Projects organized by international and local organizations are beneficial, but their limited resources and outreach is not enough for significant and large-scale impact on youth. If the deliberate targeting of youth with messages of intolerance, hatred and war is not stopped – Azerbaijan and Armenia might find themselves dealing with powerful force but one that is calling for violence not peace.

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Back to Basics: Prevent a New War over Nagorno- Karabakh

By Richard Giragosian

Since a 1994 ceasefire suspended hostilities over Nagorno-Karabakh, this unresolved or “frozen” conflict has been subject to an international mediation effort aimed at forging a daunting negotiated resolution between Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The mediation effort is led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – through its so-called Minsk Group, a tripartite body co-chaired by France, Russia and the United States, working in close and effective cooperation with the parties to the conflict.

Over the past six months, however, tension has increased, attacks have escalated, and violations of the ceasefire have culminated into a real threat of a fresh war. Thus, the main focus of this diplomatic engagement has now gone “back to the basics,” moving away from outright conflict resolution and returning to the more basic need for conflict prevention. But the outlook is not promising, as the Azerbaijani leadership has only threatened to resume hostilities, warning of a military option to force a resolution to the conflict. This also suggests that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict may quickly move from being a simmering, but manageable “frozen” conflict, into erupting as a new “hot” conflict.

For many people, the month of August is a time for summer vacation. For world leaders, August 2008 was also an opportunity to participate in the festivities of the Beijing Olympics. But for Georgia and Russia, August 2008 was a time of war. The sudden and surprising outbreak of war between Georgia and Russia caught most people completely off-guard. But there is a similar complacency that seems to ignore the warning signs of a possible renewed war in the South Caucasus- this time over Nagorno-Karabakh, the region’s sole remaining “frozen” conflict.

The warning signs of the possibility of renewed hostilities over Nagorno-Karabakh have been only too obvious over the past year, and have included an escalation of attacks and clashes along the line of contact separating Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan. Although there has been far too little appreciation of the danger of a return to armed conflict over Karabakh, some analysts have recently raised the alarm. In a January 2011 opinion piece in the Turkish daily newspaper “Today’s Zaman,” Amanda Paul, a Policy Analyst with the European Policy Centre (EPC), stressed that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict now “represents the biggest threat to security in the South Caucasus,” warning that given recent developments, “it would take only one cease-fire violation to spiral out of control and explode into a full-blown warfare-spreading catastrophe over the entire region, including key energy routes.”ⁱⁱ

The increasing tension and threat of war have also been driven by several factors. First, Azerbaijan has sparked a dangerous “arms race” in the region, steadily increasing its defense budget over the past several years, from \$175 million in 2004 to almost \$3.1 billion in 2010. To date, the impact of such substantial defense spending has been marginalized by the entrenched corruption within the Azerbaijani armed forces and ministry of defense. More recently, however, Azerbaijan has used a significant proportion

of its defense budget for the procurement of new, modern offensive weapon systems, presenting a serious new threat to the balance of power. In light of this virtual “arms race” of rising defense spending, matched by a new round of rearmament, there needs to be a serious move to curb any further deliveries of offensive weapons. By enforcing and possibly expanding the existing, but non-binding OSCE-UN arms embargoes now in place, the danger of renewed hostilities may be lessened. Such a move to restrain all sides from building up their arsenals may also send a significant message that there is no military solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. It would also help to “re-freeze” both the Karabakh conflict and the military balance of power itself.

Another important factor that has only exacerbated tension is Azerbaijan’s mounting frustration over the lack of progress in the Karabakh peace process. Since open hostilities were halted in 1994, the unresolved Nagorno Karabakh conflict has been the focus of an international mediation effort aimed at forging a negotiation resolution capable of solving the inherent contradiction between the principles of self-determination and territorial integrity. What makes this current situation much more serious than earlier rounds of increased spending and rhetoric is the fact that for the first time, there is now a direct correlation between stronger threats and greater capability for offensive military action.

But armed confrontation was replaced by an inherently fragile and self-enforcing ceasefire, suggesting that the war itself did not effectively end. In this way, Azerbaijan has repeatedly stressed that although the battle for Karabakh may have ended in 1994, the actual war was not over. At the very least, such a position necessitates a new attempt to strengthen and deepen the existing ceasefire agreement by expanding the mission and mandate for OSCE observers. Given the recent escalation of tension and sporadic clashes, the vulnerability of the current ceasefire regime should be an immediate imperative for the international community.

Hopefully, there is a growing recognition of this imperative. Recently, for example, the International Crisis Group (ICG) has also added a call for greater concern over the volatile situation, noting that “an arms race, escalating front-line clashes, vitriolic war rhetoric and a virtual breakdown in peace talks are increasing the chance” of war over Karabakh.ⁱⁱ In that report, the ICG also sought to draw greater attention, and more focused concern, among European Union officials and policymakers.

The ICG report also noted that Armenia was also contributing to rising tension, at times, matching the militant rhetoric emanating from Baku with its own threats and strong language. Armenia has also been spurred to do its part in the regional arms race, increasing its defense spending in an attempt to at least respond to the more serious spending surge in Azerbaijan. Additionally, Russia has also reportedly increased its weapons deliveries to Armenia, which is the only member of the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in the region.

Against this backdrop of a renewed threat of war, a stalemate in diplomatic mediation and a fragile ceasefire, there are some measures available to ease tension and “refreeze” the situation. The first step would be for the European Union to become more directly engaged, not as a replacement or rival for the OSCE, but to only strengthen and support

both the mediation effort and the ceasefire observer mission. Such a greater EU role is not only feasible, it is also desirable.

In September 2010, the Brussels-based European Friends of Armenia (EuFoA) released a survey of opinions among Members of the European Parliament regarding Europe's option in Nagorno-Karabakh. That survey, prepared by Sargis Ghazaryan, found that "the most relevant finding" was that "sending a permanent non-military EU observer mission to the region and upgrading the EU's commitment to a peaceful settlement in the region by contributing to democratic capability building are the best ways of avoiding military escalations in Nagorno-Karabakh."ⁱⁱⁱ

Second, an effort of "back to basics" is also needed, designed to address the underlying lack of trust among the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. These measures would include a strategy to create a new environment more conducive to fostering a more active round of negotiations among all parties to the conflict, including representatives from Nagorno-Karabakh. Such a measure would be buttressed by policies to build confidence and trust, on a basis of "bridging divides" and "spanning generational divisions."

More specifically, such an initiative would offer a new approach of forging a forward-looking strategy that would go beyond vested interest groups by engaging new stakeholders, including a younger emerging elite consisting of teachers, civic activists and even military officers perhaps; commercial and business leaders, especially those interested in opportunities beyond closed borders; and student groups and faculties, "bloggers" and Internet-based social media users.

Another aspect of this strategy would center on the concept that "all politics are local," in effect building on shared threats and common resources. More specifically, one of the more promising areas for pursuing new contacts and even cooperation between all sides to the conflict has been the most neglected. Specifically, the local level on all sides, including local village and municipal officials, school teachers and administrators and small local civic groups and non-government organizations, offers substantial opportunity for reaching beyond the confines of closed politics. For example, environmental and economic issues are predominantly local in nature and provide residents in border areas with a chance to explore shared interests with their counterparts across the border, albeit through a neutral third party at the outset.

An interesting approach would be based on a focus on shared threats, such as earthquakes and natural disasters, and shared resources, such as rivers, streams and watershed management. This approach was illustrated by the "wild fire" issue, for example, which arose in August 2006, when the OSCE responded to a series of brush fires that broke out in and near Nagorno-Karabakh. The largest areas affected were reportedly concentrated in uninhabited areas, which limited the damage and prevented the need to relocate inhabitants, but the fires spread into Azerbaijan.

The "wild fire" issue offers a significant precedent for several reasons. First, the brush fires revealed the shared nature of environmental threats, and confirmed the need for cooperation. Such shared environmental threats, including soil degradation, and air and water pollution, recognize neither borders nor military conflict zones and demonstrate that

environmental coordination is in each country's national interest. Finding solutions to these environmental problems also offers benefits to all sides and, in this case, also contributed to confidence-building by paving the way for eventual exchanges and cooperation among environmentalists, scientists and experts, and civil society groups. Moreover, such efforts may also encourage attempts at "track-two" diplomacy and "people-to-people" exchanges that may even be supplemented by ongoing efforts between Turkish and Armenian groups.

Thus, there is an obvious need for a new focus on Nagorno-Karabakh, to ease tension, prevent war and reinvigorate a seemingly stalled peace process. This requires a new, "back to basics" strategy, capable of ensuring that Nagorno-Karabakh does not move from being the region's sole frozen conflict to its most serious "hot" war.

¹ Paul, Amanda, "Nagorno-Karabakh: more dangerous than ever," *Today's Zaman*, 23 January 2011. www.todayszaman.com/columnistDetail_getNewsById.action?newsId=233227

² International Crisis Group Europe Briefing No. 60, *Armenia and Azerbaijan: Preventing War*, 8 February 2011. <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/europe/caucasus/B60-armenia-and-azerbaijan-preventing-war.aspx>

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NEWS DIGEST

Digest of Armenian Media for Feb 01- 15, 2011

By News Digest

02.01.2011

Tert.am□

[PACE biased in Armenian-Azerbaijani relations – head of delegation \(ENG\)](#)□

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) demonstrates an apparent biased approach in the Armenian-Azerbaijani relations, the head of the Armenian delegation to PACE, David Harutyunyan said.□“The process is suspicious to us, and it’s yet unclear whether the committee can be impartial,” he said. “I would like to state on behalf of the Armenian delegation that we are unwilling to take part in activities that are non-constructive in nature,” Harutyunyan added.

[Declaration on Artsakh adopted in PACE is a good start: Zaruhi Postanjyan \(ENG\)](#)

Zaruhi Postanjyan of the opposition Heritage party said that the non-binding written declaration on Karabakh, which was adopted due to her initiative during the winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe from January 24-28, is a good start. Further, she said that currently 30 delegates have already signed under the declaration.

“It is mentioned with that declaration that Artsakh is building a democracy and is ready for recognition,” said she, adding that the declaration also pursues advocacy purposes.□

[PACE disgraced itself by resuming sub-committee on Karabakh – Armenian delegation leader \(ENG\)](#)□

By its recent decision to re-establish the sub-committee on Nagorno Karabakh, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) actually disgraced itself, said, David Harutyunyan, the head of the Armenian delegation to PACE.

“The Assembly disgraced itself by demonstrating an apparently biased attitude towards the Armenian-Azerbaijani relations,” he said, adding that despite his disappointment with the decision, he still had certain positive expectations from the Assembly’s stance on human rights issues.□

02.01.2011

Lragir.am

[The statement of the European Movement of Artsakh \(ARM\)](#)

Following the adoption of the non-binding declaration on Artsakh during the winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which had been signed by 30 delegates of various countries, including French Senator Denis Badre, the European Movement of Artsakh sent a letter to Mr Badre, expressing its gratitude for his decision to sign the document. Further, the letter says that the today’s Europe was built also on the basis of people’s right to self-determination.

02.01.2011

News.am□

[Yerevan must recognize Nagorno-Karabakh, Russian expert says \(ENG\)](#)

According to this article, Prof. Vladimir Zakharov, Director of the Institute for Political and Social Research of the Black Sea and Caspian region, said that Armenia should decide on the recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh's independence.

"What is Armenia afraid of?" he asked, pointing out Russia, which recognized Abkhazia and South Ossetia despite the international "fuss". Further, he said that Yerevan should recognize Karabakh "before the possible resumption of hostilities by Azerbaijan" as in this case, Armenia will have a legal right to provide military aid to Karabakh.

[Azerbaijan unlikely to resume hostilities \(ENG\)](#)

The international community will view any of Azerbaijan's attempts to resume hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone as aggression, according to Russian expert Vladimir Zakharov, who does not believe in rumors about Azerbaijan's plans to resume hostilities April or May 2011. "Aliyev himself is well aware that a military operation is inadvisable," Zakharov said, adding talks about a final settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are too early.

[Re-establishment of PACE subcommittee on Karabakh was Chavushoglu's initiative, Postanjyan says \(ENG\)](#)

According to this article, Zaruhi Postanjyan, a member of the Armenian delegation to Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), said that the re-establishment of the PACE sub-committee on Nagorno Karabakh, was the result of the Armenian delegation's poor work. "Chavushoglu abused his position and influence. The subcommittee was set up on Chavushoglu's initiative and he succeeded in achieving his aims," she noted.

[PACE subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh may thwart peace process \(ENG\)](#)

The Armenian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has not yet decided on its involvement in the PACE sub-committee on Nagorno Karabakh, the head of the Armenian delegation to PACE David Harutyunyan said, adding that it will bring no progress to the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process and reversely thwart it. Further, he said he believed that the subcommittee will serve as a platform for recriminations. "Our task is to establish peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The sub-committee, however, rules it out," he said.

01/02/2011

Tert.am□

[American diplomat says fair settlement of Karabakh conflict a priority \(ENG\)□](#)

The newly-appointed US Ambassador to Azerbaijan and a former co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, Matthew Bryza, recently delivered a speech in Azerbaijan, saying that he attaches a major importance to the fair settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

"The fair settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is a priority for me," the American diplomat said.□

[PACE sub-committee will hinder OSCE's works – political analyst \(ARM\)](#)

According to this article, political analyst Alexander Markarov said that the re-establishment of the sub-committee on Karabakh at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) will hinder the efforts by the OSCE aimed at the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

“Presumably there will be Azerbaijani and Armenian MPs working there [in the sub-committee], and there will be also a presiding chairman, who will pay visits to the region. Meetings will be appointed, which will probably not take place, as the Armenian delegation is going to boycott it,” said he, adding that only format for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict is the OSCE Minsk Group.

01.02.2011

Hetq.am.am □

[“If Artsakh is being made a 3rd party, that doesn’t mean all issues are solved at once” \(ARM\)](#) □

According to Armenian political analyst Yervand Bozoyan, Armenia would have more room to maneuver, had Nagorno Karabakh been actively involved in the peace process. However, according to him, when Karabakh was a party in the talks there were problems that time too, as the mediators were trying to separate the approaches of Karabakh and Armenia and in that way find some discrepancies in them, given the Republic of Armenia is a recognized entity of the international law, which cannot be said about Karabakh. Further, he said that exclusion of Karabakh from the negotiations should be considered a matter of form of the talks, but rather that of content.

01.02.2011 □

News.am

[OSCE supports Russia’s efforts to resolve Karabakh conflict \(ENG\)](#)

OSCE supports the efforts of the Minsk Group Co-Chairs to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and promote confidence building between the parties to the conflict, said Audronius Azubalis, the Lithuanian Foreign Minister and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

“In this context, we support Russia’s efforts aimed at making progress towards a negotiated settlement,” he said.

01.03.2011

Tert.am □

[Authorities to blame for decision to create sub-committee on Karabakh – Armenian National Congress \(ENG\)](#) □

According to this article, the opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) said in a statement that it is the Armenian authorities to blame for the re-establishment of the sub-committee on Karabakh at the PACE.

”In reality, failures in the Karabakh conflict settlement and in foreign policies are hidden in the very nature of the regime and its political priorities. A major issue in this sense is the legitimization of the illegitimate regime, a problem that has a history of more than a decade,” read the statement. □

[Co-Chair countries are ‘discontent’ with re-establishment of sub-committee on Karabakh \(ENG\)](#) □

The representatives of the OSCE countries at the Council of Europe, according to this article, expressed discontent over the re-establishment of the sub-committee on Karabakh. The CoE officials mentioned that it is the PACE Bureau to be held responsible of the negative consequences that the sub-committee will cause due to its activities. They also urged on the PACE Bureau to show respect for the nature of the talks process and its format.

[It would be incorrect to boycott the works of NK sub-committee, thinks Alexander Iskandaryan \(ARM\)](#)

According to this article, political analyst and the director of the Caucasus Institute Alexander Iskandaryan said that it would not be correct to boycott the activities of the sub-committee on Karabakh at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. He also said that boycotting in general is not a good thing to do, and that the Armenian delegation should continue its work despite the circumstances. Further, Iskandaryan reminded that the sub-committee had not been closed or neutralized: it had stopped its activities simply because its chairman had passed away.

01.03.2011

Lragir.am

[What has Barroso in fact said? \(ARM\)](#)

The article says that following the meeting of Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and the President of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, in Baku, the website of Azerbaijan's president published the text of Barroso's speech, according to which, Barroso said that the Commission gives the preference to the principle of territorial integrity when it comes to the Karabakh issue. Further, it reminds that that information was denied. It also says that later the European Commission published the text of Barroso's speech where there is no mention of territorial integrity.

02.03.2011 □

RFEL

[“Interrupted Song” to be shown at the end of May \(ARM\)](#)

The article says that “Interrupted Song” – the film that refers to the Armenian-Azerbaijani relations – will be shown at the end of May. It also reminds that the film is being shot by a group of Moscow-based youth headed by Arik Manukyan and Ashot Poghosyan.

Ashot Poghosyan said that at first they did not care about the budget, and spent about \$10,000 from their own money, but following the scandal involving the Azerbaijan actor, some investor grew interested in the project.

02.03.2011 □

News.am

[Armenia should not boycott PACE subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh, MP says \(ENG\)](#)

Lernik Aleksanyan, a member of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) parliamentary faction, said that the works of the PACE sub-committee on Nagorno Karabakh should not be boycotted as there is no point in boycotting the subcommittee unless it impedes the subcommittee's work. A boycott, according to him can be effective, if declared by a great power. Since the committee has resumed its activities, Armenia had better be involved in it and try to present its approaches as subcommittee member.

[Re-formation of PACE Subcommittee on Karabakh is Chavushoglu's victory, expert says \(ENG\)](#)

The re-establishment of the PACE sub-committee on Nagorno Karabakh is PACE President Mevlut Chavushoglu's victory, an expert in Turkic studies Artak Shakaryan said. According to him, it will be good if a boycott by the Armenian delegation at CoE Parliamentary Assembly helps to dissolve the subcommittee on Karabakh. If it continues its activities, whether we like it or not, we have to join the game, he explained.

02.04.2011

[Will Europe's "weak circle" recognize Karabakh's independence? \(ARM\)](#)

According to this article, Ashot Grigoryan, the president of the Armenian Unions of Europe said that currently they are trying to have the first resolution on Karabakh's independence adopted by what he called the "weak circle" of Europe, without elaborating which countries exactly he means. He only said that in some countries the Union is making efforts for the purpose, and is doing it quite successfully.

02.04.2011 □

Epress.am □

[Pakistani ambassador to Azerbaijan compares Nagorno Karabakh to Kashmir \(ENG\) □](#)

Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Abdul Hamid said at press conference in Baku that Azerbaijan and Pakistan are facing similar problems as long as the Nagorno-Karabakh and Kashmir conflicts are concerned.

"These problems are the occupation of our territories by other countries, the abuse of human rights and non-fulfilment of UN Security Council resolutions," he said, adding that "there are great parallels and similarities between the Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh conflicts". □

[Armenia must boycott PACE decision on Karabakh subcommittee: Alaverdyan \(ENG\) □](#)

MP of the opposition Heritage party Larisa Alaverdyan said that the decision by the Parliamentary Assembly to the Council of Europe (PACE) to resume the works of the subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh is a violation of protocol. She also called the move as unprecedented, referring to the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group. Further, Alaverdyan noted the decision is a "result of policy based on lies by Azerbaijan," noting that, in this sense, the delegates from Azerbaijan are "very active."

02.02.2011 □

News.am □

[Subcommittee on Karabakh failure of Armenian diplomacy, ARFD member says \(ENG\)](#)

Decision of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) to resume the work of the subcommittee on Karabakh is a failure of the Armenian diplomacy, said Hrayr Karapetyan, member of the ARF Dashnaksutyun. According to him, subcommittee's work will hinder the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group, as PACE's Chairman Mevlut Chavushoglu, Turk by origin, will lobby for pro-Azerbaijani documents. "The reason is that the Armenian side failed to suppress anti-Armenian actions of Chavushoglu. The Armenian foreign ministry has not responded adequately to Chavushoglu's anti-Armenian statements" he said.

[OSCE Minsk Group pharisaic, Armenian former FM says \(ENG\)](#)

If the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs were discontent with the re-formation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) subcommittee on Nagorno-Karabakh, they should have voiced their concerns in PACE and hinder the re-establishment of the subcommittee, former Armenian Foreign Minister Alexander Arzumanyan said. "I feel some kind of pharisaism here," Arzumanyan said.

02.08.2011

Tert.am □

[‘Accidental war’ threat mounts in Armenia, Azerbaijan – ICG \(ENG\)](#)□

The article makes a reference to a recent report by the International Crisis Group on relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. According to the report, an arms race, escalating front-line clashes, vitriolic war rhetoric and a virtual breakdown in peace talks are increasing the chance Armenia and Azerbaijan will go back to war over Nagorno-Karabakh and that preventing this is urgent. It also said, that “increased military capabilities on both sides would make a new armed conflict in the South Caucasus far more deadly than the 1992-1994 one that ended with a shaky truce.

“Neither side would be likely to win easily or quickly. Regional alliances could pull in Russia, Turkey and Iran. Vital oil and gas pipelines near the front lines would be threatened, as would the cooperation between Russia and Turkey that is central to regional stability,” read the report.

02.09.2011 □

Tert.am

[Minsk Group won’t concede Karabakh settlement initiative to anyone – Turkologist \(ENG\)](#)

The OSCE will not concede the initiative of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to any other organization, Turkologist Hakob Chakryan said, adding that it will not allow Turkey to be involved in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict either. “The Minsk group will not allow Turkey or any other country to intervene ... The world powers aren’t in the habit of conceding their initiatives,” Chakryan said, adding that Currently, they are competing for influence in the South Caucasus, but don’t event want others to take initiatives and intervene in the region.□

[War unlikely to resume in Karabakh – Iranian ambassador \(ENG\)](#)□

The war in Nagorno Karabakh is very unlikely to resume, according to the Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Sayad Ali Saghayan. Addressing the Karabakh conflict at a news conference, the ambassador said there are no real threats or prerequisites for the resumption of the military operations in Karabakh.

“International experts put an equal sign between the principles of territorial integrity and peoples’ right to self-determination. But when it comes to human rights, I think it should take precedence over everything else. It is not something to be ignored. People should be given the right to master their own fate. It was this right that enabled the people in South Sudan to take part in a referendum and vote for independence,” he added.

[Status quo makes no sense, if we aren’t re-populating liberated territories: Ruben Hakobyan \(Arm\)](#)

Armenia has some omissions when it comes to the Karabakh conflict, said the head of the analytical centre Akunq, Ruben Hakobyan. According to him, Armenia should implement a policy of populating what he called the “liberated territories”. Otherwise, according to him, the status quo makes no sense.

“Unfortunately, the status quo is making no sense, if we aren’t re-settling the liberated territories. And not only we are not re-settling them, but to some extent there is emigration [from there],” said he, meaning the movement of officials from Karabakh to Armenia.□

[Karabakh Foreign Ministry slams Brussels event that tells Azerbaijani side of story only \(ENG\)](#)□

According to the article, the Foreign Minister of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, Georgy Petrosyan, sent messages to the Vice-Speaker of the European Parliament, Coordinator of the Human Rights Committee Laszlo Tokes and Human Rights Without Frontiers NGO in connection with the event titled “Internally Displaced Persons in Azerbaijan: from Khojalu (Nagorno-Karabakh) to Baku” scheduled for February 9, 2011, Brussels.

“We protest against such one-sided events, where an attempt is made to present only one side of the story to please the authorities of the state that spares no efforts to use the Khojalu tragedy as a propaganda tool for the sake of its political gains ...” read the message.□

[Sargsyan discussed Karabakh conflict with OSCE co-chairs \(ENG\)](#)□

The article says that Armenia’s President Serzh Sargsyan received Wednesday the Co-Chairpersons of the OSCE Minsk Group Robert and discussed with them issues related to the current phase of the peace talks around Nagorno Karabakh. It also says that earlier the co-chairpersons had been received by Armenia’s Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan and had highlighted the importance of the five-party declaration over Karabakh adopted in the OSCE Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, on December 1, 2010.

02.09.2011 □

RFEL □

[Armenian Armed Forces prepare large-scale anti-sniper operations \(ENG\)](#)□

According to this article, the armed forces of Armenia have launched large-scale anti-sniper trainings. The decision is presumably conditioned by the Azerbaijani-launched intensive sniper attacks on the Line of Contact. Further, it says that the Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan has reportedly acquired a large quantity of sniper guns and is organizing sniper trainings with the assistance of foreign contractors.

02.09.2011 □

Epress.am □

[Armenia-Azerbaijan dialogue must be developed between local authorities: Yeritsyan \(ENG\)](#)□

The parties in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must work harder to establish a dialogue between local authorities, the head of the Armenian delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities Emin Yeritsyan said.

“Such a dialogue already exists at the level of NGOs and it is necessary to develop this into a dialogue between local authorities... Our people have already seen war and do not want a repeat conflict,” he said.

02.10.2011 □

Tert.am □

[OSCE Minsk Group is doing its task well – analyst \(ENG\)](#)□

According to this article, political analyst Alexander Iskandaryan said that the OSCE Minsk Group is tasked with two things when it comes to the Karabakh conflict and it is doing them well. In his words, those tasks are preserving the peace talks between the conflicting parties and bringing the process to the international level. However, he said it would be naïve to expect the OSCE MG to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for the parties involved.

“I have said for thousands of times that it would be naïve of us to expect that the OSCE Minsk Group would solve the Nagorno-Karabakh instead of us,” he explained.□

[EU engagement in South Caucasus must continue to be visible, strong and consistent – Semneby](#)□(ENG)

The EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Peter Semneby, called for strengthened EU and OSCE engagement in the South, adding that the “unresolved conflicts in the South Caucasus continue to represent the primary threats to the region’s stability. Semneby also said that the security situation in Nagorno-Karabakh was of particular concern.

“International actors need to remain fully committed in efforts to stabilize, manage and resolve the conflicts. In particular this includes a strong engagement of the OSCE throughout the region.”□

[No spontaneous war to break out in region – former politician \(ENG\)](#)□

The possibility of a spontaneous war in Nagorno Karabakh is ruled out, former politician Ashot Manucharyan said, referring to the International Crisis Group’s (ICG) recent report on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. He also said that a war may break out in the region only if the sponsors of the ICG make such a decision, adding that the group’s interests are biased.

“I don’t see anything impartial about the activities. Such forces and their funding sources are to blame for the continuing hostilities between nations,” he stressed.□

[Facts contradict with conclusions in ICG report – expert \(ENG\)](#)□

There is an apparent contradiction between the facts and conclusions in the International Crisis Group’s (ICG) recent report on Karabakh conflict, Armenian expert Alexander Iskandaryan said. Iskandaryan said that he was under the impression the authors of the report had initially sought to justify the possibility of war resumption. “The facts are not complete but are rather informative,” he said. Further, he said he ruled out the possibility of a spontaneous war, adding that both Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh have regular armies with their leaders, whereas spontaneous wars break out in situations where armed forces in either side find themselves beyond any control.

02.10.2011□

Lragir.am□

[Seyran Ohanyan expressed concerns to the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs \(ARM\)](#)□

According to this article, the Armenian Defense Minister, Seyran Ohanyan, received the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and presented to them the current situation in the Karabakh conflict zone and stressed the Armenia is strictly committed to the ceasefire regime. The minister expressed his concern about the violations of the armistice by the Azerbaijani side, particularly the intensification of sniper activities.

02.10.2011□

Epress.am□

[Who asked for military aid from Israel – Baku or Yerevan? Iran could recognize Karabakh \(ENG\)](#)□

This articles makes a reference to Yevgeny Satanovsky, the President Russian-based Institute of Middle East Studies, who said that Iran is a very flexible state and if need be it can recognize Nagorno Karabakh, and that it will do that without considering Baku’s position.

“Of course, it’s clear that the remarks by the Iranian Ambassador to Armenia were calculated for an Armenian audience. Likewise, it is also clear that at any moment, this statement can stop being just a statement,” explained the expert.

02.10.2011□

News.am

[OSCE mediators fail to visit Karabakh due to wintry weather \(ENG\)](#)

This article says that following a visit to Yerevan, the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs did not visit Nagorno-Karabakh due to bad weather conditions. The OSCE mediators were to visit Stepanakert following their meetings with Armenian president and foreign minister.

02.11.2011 □

Tert.am □

[Expert assessments should be based on Minsk Group's opinion – Armenian FM \(ENG\) □](#)

Commenting on the International Crisis Group's recent report on Karabakh, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan said that "any expert conclusion regarding the Nagorno Karabakh conflict should be based on the opinion of the OSCE Minsk Group". He also characterized the document as an expert opinion which may not always reflect the real situation, therefore, according to him, before publicizing an expert opinion, it is necessary to take into consideration the existing situation to avoid adding fat to fire.

[Time for OSCE co-chairs to convey freshness in their actions and words – Arman Melikyan](#)

Former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh Arman Melikyan said that it is time for the co-chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to convey some "freshness" in what they are saying and doing. "It's already the sixth year round the co-chairs are saying approximately the same thing with this way or another," said Melikyan. "It is probably high time for them to bring some freshness in their actions and words, at last to pay more attention to the real political logic and the exact evaluation of the situation, rather than to their project which are not realizable," said Melikyan. □

[Armenia and Azerbaijan should prepare document beneficial for both parties: Alexander Markarov \(ARM\) □](#)

Political analyst Alexander Markarov, according to this article, hailed the OSCE co-chairs' recent visit to Yerevan and Baku. According to him, this once again reaffirmed that it is the OSCE that mediates the peace talks over the Karabakh conflict. Further, he said that it is necessary for Armenia and Azerbaijan to design a fundamental document that will make reference to those provisions over which the parties have already reached some preliminary agreement. □

02.11.2011 □

Lragir.am □

[Arman Melikyan: Armenia and Karabakh don't have comprehensive policy \(ARM\)](#)

According to the article, Former Foreign Minister of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, Arman Melikyan, said that Armenia does not have a "comprehensive, joint policy" when it comes to the events in Sumgait and to the Karabakh conflict. According to him, Armenia is using state funds to shoot a film about the events in Sumgait, but that does not have any continuation, and therefore does not make part of the state policy. Such steps, according to him, downplay the importance of the issue, while shooting such films becomes simply wasting state funds. Reversely, according to him, Azerbaijan has made the propaganda part of its policy.

02.11.2011 □ News.am

[Armenian FM says Baku trying to make fuss over Karabakh instead of acting \(ENG\)](#)

Azerbaijan is more interested in discussions over the Karabakh conflict in other formats rather than progress in talks within the OSCE Minsk Group, Armenian Foreign Minister said, commenting on sub-committee on Karabakh in PACE. He also said that Azerbaijan is trying to shift domestic propaganda to the international arena, to make a fuss over the conflict instead of being engaged in its resolution, Nalbandyan added.

“First of all opinion of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs should be taken into account, as they are familiar with evolution of the peace process and current situation,” Edward Nalbandyan said.

[ICG report on Nagorno-Karabakh failure of Armenian diplomacy, Heritage rep says \(ENG\)](#)

According to this article, MP for the opposition Armenian party Heritage Larisa Alaverdyan said that the report of the International Crisis Group on Nagorno-Karabakh is at least strange, and it the failure of Armenia’s passive and antinational diplomacy.

“Yerevan should realize the international community takes silence as a sign of agreement. It is time to refuse such tactics,” she said.

02.12.2011 □

Tert.am □

[‘Azerbaijan preparing for Karabakh war,’ says Defense Minister \(ENG\) □](#)

According to this article, Azerbaijan’s Defense Minsiter Safar Abiyev said that the country is seriously preparing for war with Armenia over Nagorno Karabakh. He also said that Armenia must end its “occupation policy” in Karabakh.

“Azerbaijan is seriously preparing to liberate its territories ... Only in this context is a peaceful settlement of the conflict possible,” he was quoted as saying.

02.14.2011 □

News.am

[Draft resolution on Karabakh likely to be discussed in Lithuania’s Seimas \(ENG\)](#)

This article says that a draft resolution on peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict was registered in Lithuanian Parliament signed by 48 MPs. The parliamentary spokesperson Jolanta Anskaitienė said if a resolution or any legal document is signed by 47 MPs (1/3 of parliament members), it is considered by the Seimas at the request of draft bill’s initiators. “It means the draft resolution is likely to be considered during the spring session which opens on March 10. Everything depends on the initiators of the project,” she said.

02.14.2011 □

Lragir.am

[Eurasia.net: Azerbaijan will be more vulnerable in case of war](#)

The article makes a reference to a publication by Eurasia.net, according to which Azerbaijani Defense Minsiter Safar Abiyev said that Azerbaijan is in serious preparations for war against Armenia over Nagorno Karabakh. However, the article said that Azerbaijan will be more vulnerable, should a new war be unleashed, because their homes will be closer to the Line of Contact with Karabakh, while the majority of settlements in Karabakh far from the Line of Contact with Azerbaijan.

Digest of Azerbaijani Media for Feb 04- 15, 2011

By News Digest

04.02.2011

DAY.az

[Russian political scientists does not dismiss a transfer from the negotiation table on Karabakh to open conflict \[RUS\]](#)

The newspaper interviews Vasili Kolmashov, head of the Center on Economic Research at the Institute of Globalization and Social Movements. Kolmashov argues that Russia doesn't have much of a say in the negotiation process and won't have much impact on the resolution. This is because Russia is currently occupied with its own domestic problems. Kolmashov also believes there is no mutual initiative taking place on neither sides and to expect that initiative come from Russia is impossible due to its internal problems.

On the other hand, Kolmashov also argues of another important factor and that Russia is benefiting from the status quo in the region, as it wants neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan become too strong.

07.02.2011

DAY.az

[Azerbaijani parliament member: "This move is to cover up Armenian aggression" \[RUS\]](#)

Recently, an Armenian "Heritage" political party, proposed a bill at the Armenian National Parliament to recognize Azerbaijani crimes committed towards Armenians between 1988 and 1994 as genocide. In Azerbaijan, a local parliament member, Musa Qasimli sees this move as a way to deviate international attention not to mention cover up for the actual genocide committed by the Armenians towards Azerbaijanis. In reality, it was Armenia who was the aggressor; it occupied its territories, committed a genocide against Azerbaijanis and turned Azerbaijanis into refugees says Qasimli.

08.02.2011

DAY.az

[Araz Alizade: "For Armenia, war will be quick and devastating" \[RUS\]](#)

Political scientists, speaks of the ethnic make of Karabakh and its settlement with Armenians referring to the events back 1913. He strongly criticized Armenia and its current position reminding him of a dog sleeping in the shadow or a rock, thinking that the shadow is its own. Alizade says that time has passed and that today is no longer the same as it was back in the day. Russia won't support Armenia in case of war outbreak says political scientists and that it will have to fight on its own.

09.02.2011

(RFE/RL) Radio Liberty Azerbaijan Service

[Policies carried out by international organizations do not satisfy Azerbaijan \[AZ\]](#)

This concern was raised by the head of the Presidential Apparatus' Political- Social issues department, Ali Hasanov during a press conference with journalists. Hasanov, while commenting on the involvement of international organizations in the resolution of NK, said, these institutions refuse to pressure Armenia

despite it being violator of international norms. According to Hasanov, while international organizations say they support Azerbaijan's territorial integrity they fail to demonstrate any will in helping Azerbaijan reach this premise.

DAY.az

[Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan accused International Crisis Group in the game of words \[RUS\]](#)

Eldar Sabiroglu, head of the press relations at the Ministry of Defense, said ICG's overall report was not objective. Sabiroglu accused the organization for speaking of results and perspectives rather than focusing on actual reasons that led to conflict. Adding, that Azerbaijan knows better of its future.

According to Sabirogly, the report contains game of words and that more efforts should be made by international organizations on calling occupant Armenia to free the occupied territories. Otherwise, dangerous situation in the region is inevitable and this will only lead to war.

[Armenian expert called on both sides of Karabakh conflict to work together over dialogue \[RUS\]](#)

Emin Eritsyanyan, head of the Armenian delegation at the Congress of Local and Regional Powers in EU, in a press statement he gave in Baku said that it's important for both sides to work together over dialogue. Eritsyanyan mentioned joint work carried out by the NGOs of both countries and emphasized creating such dialogue on government level.

[Russian expert: "Resumption of military activities for Karabakh are possible" \[RUS\]](#)

Day.az interviewed Aleksandr Karavayev, expert from the Russian Center on Learning Socio- political processes on post- Soviet spectrum.

According to the expert, the war is possible especially given how much its discussed publicly in the media including in Russia too. There are different variations of war scenarios that are out there. One of such scenarios involves Armenia starting the war and provoking Azerbaijan. However, whether its going to happen this year, that is something harder to say, perhaps in the course of the next few years is what makes more sense. Similarly Azerbaijan too could be the first one to start, provoking Armenia. To predict timing for this would be also impossible.

In his interview, Karavayev also speaks of the role OSCE Minks Group and its lack of effectiveness.

TREND.az

[France's position is clear: Armenia should return all occupied lands of Azerbaijan \[ENG\]](#)

This article reiterates the position of French Senate member, Nathalie Goulet, who in her interview with the newspaper, made it clear that France's position on NK conflict is clear- Armenia must return these lands in accordance with the international law. Senate member also mentioned the work carried out by the Armenian Diaspora especially in other state institutions in France. However she notes, this should not be a problem given the truth is on Azerbaijan's side and to increase awareness of NK Azerbaijan should voice its international declarations.

Another member of French Senate [[February 9, ENG](#)], Andre Ville stressed the importance of the resolution of the conflict through peaceful means, based on principles of international law, political negotiations, and not with violence. And much of the work rests on the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as OSCE MINSK GROUP is limited in its opportunities. They can only express one common position; none of the co- chairs can state their position individually. Senate member also mentioned Armenian Diaspora and active work carried out in France however, France's position remains unchanged.

10.02.2011

DAY.az

[Armenian political scientist talks about recent report released by International Crisis Group on Karabakh \[RUS\]](#)

Director of the Caucasus Institute Aleksandr Iskandaryan while on one hand expressing his appreciation for the recent report that came out on February 8th by ICG also notes its lack of analytical perspective. According to Iskandaryan, Armenia and Azerbaijan have armies and a war can only happen if these armies are ordered to do so. Iskandaryan says that he thought the report meant to justify currently popular rhetoric that war is possible. However he also added that such reports are important when it comes to keeping attention on NK in the world.

[Elnur Aslanov: "Without constructive approach from the Armenian side, its going to be very hard to talk about peace in the region" \[RUS\]](#)

In an interview to an online newspaper Trend.az, head of the Political Analysis and Information Center under Presidential Administration, Elnur Aslanov spoke of the successful report prepared by the International Crisis Group on Karabakh. Aslanov found it relatively sizeable and at times balanced. However, Aslanov also noted that unless Azerbaijani territories are not freed, peace and stability in this region won't be possible. Aslanov's criticism of the report was visible when he spoke of the territorial integrity notion, calling on the ICG in addition to a number of raised priority questions to include principles of international law, especially principal of territorial integrity. Aslanov found focus on just facts insufficient.

Aslanov also reiterated Azerbaijan's position- provide security of Karabakh Armenians within the territorial integrity framework and within the international guarantees; create conditions for economic well- being and cultural development. Unfortunately said Aslanov, for Armenian government, Karabakh is the reason it came to power, and resolution of this conflict, will result in eventual loss of power.

11.02.2011

(RFE/RL) Radio Liberty Azerbaijan Service

[Arif Yunus: "Report released by International Crisis Group is a message for us" \[AZ\]](#)

Arif Yunus, conflict specialist, says, recent report released by ICG is a message for us- Armenians and Azerbaijanis- that the West is concerned about Karabakh and that leaders from both states must carry certain reforms with regard to the negotiation and resolution process. However, Yunus notes, that is highly unlikely that the leaders would follow this line.

Yunus also spoke of certain compromises that already exist between the two countries- Armenia's purchasing oil via Georgia, or that Armenian flights use air corridor given over Ganja.

On the other hand, the likelihood of war is rather questionable. This argument was raised by the head of "Doktrina" Military Research Center, Cesur Surmerin. According to Sumerin while military spending might be growing, salaries of military servicemen only increased by 10%. And this is where Yunus and Surmerin agree, as the two believe that if there is a sense in carrying out successful military operation, then salaries of servicemen must be raised, a professional army created, reforms should be carried with military exercise.

DAY.az

[Armenian parliament member called on the policy of Armenian authorities antinationalist \[RUS\]](#)

This article refers to a statement made by parliament member and member of “Heritage” political party Larisa Alaverdyan with regard to recent report released by International Crisis Group on Karabakh. According to Alaverdyan, the report highlights that apart from antinationalist policy, Armenian authorities are also passive and its diplomatic mission is failing reaching any ground because of its silence, which based on Alaverdyan’s words are signals of acceptance. Parliament member is concerned that similar stance is followed in Turkey- Armenia protocols too.

[Safar Abiyev: “Azerbaijan is preparing for de-occupation of its territories” \[RUS\]](#)

In a meeting with OSCE co- chairs, minister of defense, Safar Abiyev, said Azerbaijan had a full right in preparing itself for de- occupation of its territories given that any country would have done the same. He also noted however, that Azerbaijan is still hopeful with regard to OSCE Minsk group involvement in this conflict even though no concrete results have been obtained. Abiyev, also gave few examples from recent past when conflicts were resolved though existing international measures unfortunately none of which been used in Azerbaijan’s case.

[The Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs not pleased with the results of the report on Karabakh prepared by the International Crisis Group \[RUS\]](#)

The article notes Edvard Nalbandyan’s statement made during a press conference dedicated to the recent report released by the International Crisis Group. During this press- conference, Minister, said that the report written in the form of expert opinion does not coincide what the reality of the situation. Nalbandyan voiced his concern that instead of the ICG, it’s the decision and an opinion of the OSCE Minsk Group that should be considered as they are the ones who are not only familiar with the evolution of the negotiation process but also are familiar with the current state of relations.

[Vafa Quluzade: “There will be no one left in Armenia soon” \[RUS\]](#)

Political scientists, Vafa Quluzade, in an interview with Day.az spoke of recent WikiLeaks document reporting on growing number of Armenians leaving their homes. According to Quluzade, this is normal, given serious economic implications affecting Armenia. Quluzade noted that unless Armenia starts co-operating with its neighbors- Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkey- its current tough conditions will continue. And Russia won’t help Armenia. Another option he says, is Iran, but he also adds, that Tehran right now is way over its head in international economic restraints.

In a more ironic statement, Quluzade says that if this continues- Armenians continue to leave Armenia- there will be no one left there and it will be easier to resolve NK by peaceful means.

TREND.az

[Minsk Group: Time arrived for decision action to resolve Nagorno- Karabakh conflict \[ENG\]](#)

Following their visits to Baku and Yerevan, OSCE Minks Group co- chairs came to the above-mentioned decision- take decision action in resolving NK. Co- chairs called on the parties to the conflict to make more progress in the negotiation process especially by restraining much of war rhetoric that is currently taking place in both countries.

[Azerbaijan Defense Ministry: Armenian Armed Forces violates ceasefire more than 20 times for 10 days \[ENG\]](#)

Refuting claims released by the Armenian Ministry of Defense that Azerbaijan too is violating the line of ceasefire, spokesman for Azerbaijan Defense Ministry said Armenia violated the ceasefire over 20 times in the past 10 days. The latter accused Armenian Minister of Defense with lying and making baseless statements not to mention Armenian Minister trying to deceive the co- chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group during their visit.

12.02.2011

(RFE/RL) Radio Liberty Azerbaijan Service

[Novruz Mammadov: "Increasing war rhetoric in Azerbaijan is natural" \[AZ\]](#)

Head of the International relations Department at the Presidential Administration, Nvoruz Mammadov says right now, Azerbaijan is waiting for Armenia to accept proposals laid out at the negotiation table. In fact, this is what OSCE Minsk Group is busy doing. Azerbaijan has been at the negotiation table for years now and given no concrete results, Mammadov says its natural for the country's President claim return of occupied territories through military means.

DAY.az

[Mubariz Qurbanli: "Evaluation mission by the OSCE must come up with objective report" \[RUS\]](#)

In an interview, parliament member and also YAP's (Ruling Azerbaijan Party) Deputy Secretary Mubariz Qurbanli, spoke about upcoming OSCE evaluation report. Qurbanli, noted importance of the report when talking about current re- settlement of occupied territories by Armenians and demolition of historically valuable monuments on these territories. Parliament member mentioned production of drugs on the occupied territories as well which contradicts international norms and laws.

[Armenian expert: "Politicians demanding removal of Karabakh Armenians from Armenia" \[RUS\]](#)

Viktor Yakubyan comments on recent statements made by the deputy of "Heritage" party, Ruben Akopyan. On February 9th, Akopyan called for all Karabakh Armenians holding high positions in Armenia to return to Karabakh. Such call for action, says Yakubyan, overshadows the actual problem- the conflict and its resolution- and deviates from reaching concrete results regarding the conflict. Division of Armenians based on their origin- Karabakh, Gyumri, Aparan- means initiating civil unrest and nothing more. This also means that Akopyan is holding against the idea of future integration of Armenians with separatist Nagorno-Karabakh.

What should be dealt with instead is corruption, clan- like system and nepotism rather than holding people against each other based on their language or place of birth.

According to Yakubyan, loyalty towards such orators like Akopyan is the first and most important sign of the weakening and future failure of Armenian state and the nation.

14.02.2011

NEWS.az

['Growing risk of accidental war' over Karabakh \[ENG\]](#)

The article is an interview with International Crisis Group Analyst, Tabib Huseynov on recent ICG report on Karabakh.

According to Huseynov, with little attention given to the conflict and further ignorance, it is likely that war may erupt. These conclusions were based on overall evaluation of recent developments with regard to the conflict. Clashes on the border intensified, negative rhetoric increased, new weapons, different tactics, all in one way or another negatively affects the resolution process of the conflict. While report notes that no fall out will take place in the immediate future, a likelihood of an accidental war is relatively high. The above-mentioned trends might have a triggering effect and an accidental spark on the front line might turn into a full- blow war.

Huseynov also noted that no solution imposed from an outside actor can hold unless it is accepted and supported by the sides to the conflict, which means that ultimately it is Azerbaijan and Armenia who will need to come to resolution not another third party.

Ideally, the sides would need to sign basic principles agreement according to which, the two sides would gradually begin public debate- shifting public opinion. This in fact, is one of immediate steps that should be taken, given further delay, implies further embodiment of radical voices within both of the communities.

[Baku 'has to take initiative' on Karabakh \[ENG\]](#)

Ilgar Mammadov, co- founder of Republican Alternative movement (AL) speaks of alternatives to current stalemate reached at the negotiation table between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

One of the first and considered to be most important alternatives says Mammadov is to propose placement of peacekeeping forces on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This would enable direct dialogue between Azerbaijan and Armenian without Azerbaijan's current demand to withdraw Armenian troops from the occupied territories.

Instead of Armenia, it is going to be the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of the former NK Autonomous Region sitting at a table of negotiations.

Mammadov, further suggests other propositions for the people of NK, regarding their transportation and etc.

[Karabakh mediators focus on 'preventing war' \[ENG\]](#)

Similarly with ICG report conclusions, Richard Giragosian, director of the Armenian Center for National and International Studies believes that while 2010 was in itself a very destructive year in terms of negotiation process, 2011, will be an even greater danger year, but not in a form of a full- blown war, but rather in a "war by accident". Giragosian notes that Azerbaijan's new war threat rhetoric makes the negotiation process only more fragile and volatile. It is likely he says, the situation become even worse before it becomes any better.

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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ⁱ Paul, Amanda, "Nagorno-Karabakh: more dangerous than ever," *Today's Zaman*, 23 January 2011.
www.todayszaman.com/columnistDetail_getNewsById.action?newsId=233227

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- ⁱⁱ International Crisis Group Europe Briefing No. 60, *Armenia and Azerbaijan: Preventing War*, 8 February 2011. <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/europe/caucasus/B60-armenia-and-azerbaijan-preventing-war.aspx>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Ghazaryan, Sargis, “Europe’s options in Nagorno-Karabakh. An Analysis of views of the European Parliament,” European Friends of Armenia (EuFoA), September 2010, P. 4. www.eufoa.org/en/publications