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The Neutral Zone

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Armenian- Turkish rapprochement as a factor for decreasing tensions in the South Caucasus: Why was the opportunity missed?

By *Haroutioun Khachatryan*

The South Caucasus is in a political deadlock for many reasons, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict being one of the most important ones among them. The football diplomacy of Armenia and Turkey of 2008–2010 opened a possibility for the region's countries to get out of that deadlock. However, this chance was not used, and the potential for improvement of the situation in the region due to normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations still remains open... **Read more on Page 3**

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Democracy and a settlement in Nagorno- Karabakh

By *Ian Cornell*

A long-term peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh does not rest in the hands of governing elites, but with the people of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Karabakh. Autocratic rulers and corrupt public institutions have simply used the conflict to further their own aims while robbing the people of any hope for a lasting peace. The "road map" in Nagorno-Karabakh will be a long and difficult process. Populations need debate, policy options, and transparency... **Read more on Page 5**

Digest of Azerbaijani Media for Dec 1- 12, 2010

By *News Digest*

Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty (Local Service) [Ilham Aliyev: "Armenia wants to keep its current status quo"](#) [AZ] This was said by the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, during Astana summit while addressing the Nagorno Karabakh issue. According to the president, Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan's history and is internationally recognized. And Armenia is doing everything it can to escalate the conflict. Starting from violating the ceasefire regime, holding trainings on occupied territories to renaming some of the historical sites... **Read more on Page 18**

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Marriage in Azerbaijan- tradition, values and ceremonies

By Lala Jumayeva

To meet an interesting, nice, smart, polite and handsome guy, to fall in love with him, accept his marriage proposal and wear a beautiful dress is each girl's dream. However, things are not exactly the same if you live in a country like Azerbaijan... **To read more proceed to the site.**

Marriage in Armenia- tradition, values, and ceremonies

By Anna Poghosyan

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

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

By Reshad Aliyev and Sasun Khachatryan

This is a video survey by Neutral Zone conducted in October 2010 simultaneously in Yerevan and Baku. We interviewed ten women and ten men from both sides in an attempt to find out what the Armenian and Azerbaijan youth think and know of each other or what they know about each other's attitudes and culture... **To read more proceed to the site.**

ANALYSIS

Armenian- Turkish Rapprochement as a Factor for Decreasing Tensions in the South Caucasus: Why was the Opportunity Missed?

By Haroutioun Khachatryan

The South Caucasus is in a political deadlock for many reasons, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict being one of the most important ones among them. The football diplomacy of Armenia and Turkey of 2008–2010 opened a possibility for the region’s countries to get out of that deadlock. However, this chance was not used, and the potential for improvement of the situation in the region due to normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations still remains open. The domestic problems of Turkey are the principal reason for this failure, but it seems that Azerbaijan’s efforts aimed at undermining the rapprochement process also played an important role. As a result, the region may remain in this dangerous deadlock for an indefinite period of time.

The Nagorno-Karabakh problem has become a factor that is acting negatively on every aspect of life in the South Caucasus. Armenians and Azeris present mutually exclusive demands for the status of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and the positions of the conflicting sides do not seem to be moving closer. Recent rapprochement efforts between Armenia and Turkey might encourage a move away from the deadlock and help Turkey become a more active, neutral player in the South Caucasus. Unfortunately, this opportunity was not used as Turkey favored Azerbaijan in its policy on Karabakh. Below is my view of the problem in more detail.

The Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh declared the creation of an independent nation, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Azerbaijan, which considered this region as its own, initiated a war in response. Very soon, this war included the Republic of Armenia, which was supporting its fellow Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. During the war, one of the tools Azerbaijan used was the communications blockade on Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, as most of those communications were running through Azerbaijani territory. In particular, during the Soviet period, 85% of Armenia’s external cargo turnover was done via the railroad passing through Azerbaijani territory.

Turkey, which was initially relatively neutral to this conflict (in late 1992, it allowed transportation through its territory of wheat and flour to Armenia, thus breaking Azerbaijan’s blockade), supported the Azerbaijani policy of blockade in April 1993. Thus, Armenia has been blockaded from two sides, east and west.

During the next 16 years, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict did not move towards a resolution, in other words towards a defined status of this region acceptable to all three parties involved, namely Armenia, the “de facto authorities of Karabakh” (representing a nation that is not officially recognized by any state), and Azerbaijan. Moreover, the blockade of Armenia by Azerbaijan and Turkey have had a negative impact on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict resolution efforts, as the conflicting sides need mutual trust to reach a compromise. The blockade is the worst condition for such a trust to develop, and Azerbaijan makes every effort to strengthen the blockade, which was, as this author believes, completely useless from the point of view of helping the above mentioned conflict settlement process.^{[1][i]} The most obvious evidence is Azerbaijan’s refusal to withdraw snipers from the contact line, although the mediators—the OSCE Minsk Group co—have repeatedly suggested this. The suggestion was also recently supported by Ban Ki Moon, the UN Secretary General.^[ii]

The possibility of opening the Turkish-Armenian border for transportation and trade, which was realistic had Turkey implemented the provisions of the Turkish-Armenian protocols signed in Zurich on October 10, 2009, would be a unique chance to break this viscous cycle. Normalization with Armenia would lead to a decrease in tension in the whole region, since the Turkish-Armenian contacts would greatly enhance mutual trust in the region. Moreover, normalization would enable Turkey to play a more active role

in the South Caucasus, including the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. This does not mean that Turkey would become less pro-Azerbaijani, but an open Turkish-Armenian border would stimulate positive processes in the region, including Armenian-Azeri contacts. The role of Turkey in the region would be sounder, and it could have the place it deserves as the biggest, most powerful nation there.

Turkey's position is the main reason—if not the only one—why this opportunity of decreasing tension in the South Caucasus region was missed. This problem has several aspects, including the fears of the ruling party, losing the next general elections, and Turkey's real and possible problems with Armenia, although this country is twenty times smaller than Turkey population wise. Armenia, on the contrary, would have been happy to open its borders and normalize trade with this powerful neighbor (Turkey has imposed an embargo on imports from Armenia). Obviously, it was Turkey's demand to include a provision in the protocols whereby normalization and the opening of embassies required parliamentary ratification of these protocols, whereas the usual procedures of establishing normal relations between any two countries are a prerogative of the governments. Thus, there is sound ground to believe that while signing the protocols, Turkey was not ready to implement them.

There are also grounds to conclude that Azerbaijan's policy was a strong factor to support Turkey's unwillingness to implement the protocols on normalization with Armenia. Azerbaijan's reaction to the Zurich protocols was that opening the Turkish-Armenian border contradicted the interests of Azerbaijan. Baku's officials proved able to push their ideas into Turkey's home political sphere, thus normalization with Armenia was largely seen in Turkey as a "betrayal against brothers." This has moved the Turkish government farther away from the idea of normalizing relations with Armenia and starting a new policy in the South Caucasus.

Thus, the current deadlocked situation may continue for an indefinite period of time. Turkish-Armenian problems, including the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, are far from being a priority for Turkey. Azerbaijan, which has significant influence on Turkey, sees the blockade of Armenia as its principal tool for resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Yet, Armenia is prepared and continues to prepare itself for the continuation of the blockade, meaning that it will have no influence on the policy of either Armenia or Nagorno-Karabakh. As a consequence, mutual trust will not increase in the South Caucasus and the region will remain in the current dangerous situation for a long time to come.

References:

[i] In my assessment, the only result the blockade and the trade embargo have brought is the increased number of the poor in the region, and not only in Armenia. For example, the existing ban on imports of electricity from Armenia makes poorer not only the people of Armenia, but also those in Azerbaijan and Turkey, who need electricity but cannot get it for political reasons. As a result, they too have become angry and less inclined to find compromise and peace with their neighbors. This is, by the way, more evidence that the blockade has been useless from the point of view of its declared purpose, supporting the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

[ii] The UN Secretary General made this statement during a meeting with Edward Nalbandian, the Foreign Minister of Armenia, last September. Day.az (2010, September 27). Ban Ki-moon supports withdrawal of snipers from contact line. Retrieved from <http://www.news.az/articles/armenia/23406>

Democracy and a Settlement in Nagorno- Karabakh

By Ian Cornell

A long-term peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh does not rest in the hands of governing elites, but with the people of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Karabakh. Autocratic rulers and corrupt public institutions have simply used the conflict to further their own aims while robbing the people of any hope for a lasting peace. The “road map” in Nagorno-Karabakh will be a long and difficult process. Populations need debate, policy options, and transparency. They must have trust in government institutions and a clear path to engage decision makers. As Karabakh is an internal and inter-state conflict, cross-border interaction and trust at all levels of society are critical. Sadly, signs of such responsible governance, and commitment to its further development, have not been forthcoming from the region. These facts should dampen any talk of an imminent settlement and refocus international efforts on the issue of democratization in the South Caucasus.

Recent Developments

The November 7th Azerbaijani election secured President Ilham Aliyev all but one seat for his governing bloc. The election, like many others in the region, was a sham defined by little opposition activity, complete regime control of the media, rampant vote rigging, and sadly, limited criticism from the international community. Prior to the election, on October 22, Aliyev announced that the 2011 state budget calls for a military expenditure of \$3.1 billion, almost double that of the current year. The following week, on October 27, he travelled to the southern Russian city Astrakhan where talks with his Russian and Armenian counterparts yielded an agreement on prisoner swaps and a recommitment to pursue general principles for a peaceful Nagorno-Karabakh settlement.

The Astrakhan talks were largely welcomed by the international community. The US State Department referred to the outcome as a “positive development,” while their French OSCE counterparts said the measures could “help to reduce tension.” However, the election results and Aliyev’s budget announcement should raise caution. Elaborating on the new military appropriations, Aliyev proudly announced that “our military spending will be more than Armenia’s whole state budget. But we will not stop here. We plan to increase our defense spending further.” It seems unlikely that the symbolic Astrakhan meeting outweighs the President of Azerbaijan publicly boasting about an enormous military buildup aimed directly at Armenia. This announcement illustrates, despite public statements to the contrary, that Azerbaijan is prepared, possibly even enthusiastic, to use military force in achieving a settlement to the conflict.

Rhetoric for Domestic and International Audiences

President Aliyev’s rhetoric undercuts the current peace process and dilutes the significance of the confidence-building measures established in Astrakhan. More importantly, it shows the vast gap between the pledges made on the international stage and the politics employed for domestic consumption. Aliyev is telling his Western partners and investors what they want to hear while employing militaristic nationalism with his citizens, a population too devoid of democratic freedoms to prevail over government propaganda.

Armenia is no stranger to such bellicose campaigns. Countering Aliyev’s chauvinism, President Serzh Sargsyan traveled to Karabakh on November 12 and declared, “We will not attack first now, either. But if the moment arrives, if they force us, our strike must be devastating and final this time around.” While he is not advocating a preemptive strike, the sentiment is clear and, like Aliyev’s, entirely contradictory to the spirit of international proclamations.

For years, the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia has been punctuated and stoked by such hyperbole and secrecy. In his definitive history of the Karabakh conflict “Black Garden,” journalist Thomas de Waal writes frequently about this problem. He quotes former Armenian President Robert Kocharyan as saying, “I would not want to raise their [the people of Armenia] expectations without knowing for sure that

the conflict will definitely be resolved.” In other words, the people of Armenia were to play no role in the peace process. They were simply to support a plan deemed acceptable by one man. Similarly, de Waal writes about the tendency of former Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev to propose politically courageous concessions behind closed doors while publicly promising his population total military victory. This type of political manipulation has prevented the development of legitimate public support for a negotiated settlement.

Democracy in Azerbaijan and Armenia

Democratically, Azerbaijan and Armenia are some of the poorest performing countries on the planet. Azerbaijan is categorized as “Not Free” by Freedom House’s 2010 annual ranking, on par with other autocratic and near failed states such as Angola and Yemen. The current Transparency International Survey of Corruption Perception ranks Azerbaijan 134th out of 178 surveyed countries. Finally, World Bank governance indicators place Azerbaijan in the bottom 25th percentile globally in voice and accountability and rule of law. It is in this repressive environment that President Aliyev is making decisions regarding a militaristic and confrontational future for his country.

Armenia fares only slightly better, and President Sargsyan faces an enormous legitimacy gap resulting from the violence following his 2008 election victory. Armenia is ranked “Partly Free” by Freedom House and ranks 123rd in the Corruption Perception Index. The World Bank places them in the 26th percentile for voice and accountability, and in the 43rd for rule of law. Recent Armenian presidential and parliamentary elections have been defined by abuses of political power, limited free media, and restricted opposition.

Conversely, there have also been some positive developments in Armenia. In October, members of the governing opposition called for a parliamentary vote on the official recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh’s independence. Such a vote, like threats of violence, is prohibited under existing international protocols. President Sargsyan’s coalition wisely threatened to abstain from the vote, thus forcing a temporary delay of the measure. This political maneuver demonstrates Sargsyan’s readiness to keep the option of a negotiated settlement alive. This courageous decision showed Baku, and the international community, that Sargsyan is willing to be a constructive partner in future negotiations.

Past experiences in Georgia inform about the need for more democratic development and accountability. In 2008, President Saakashvili told a NATO summit that frozen conflicts were the greatest source of instability in the South Caucasus. Later that year, he attempted to solve the South Ossetia question through militaristic and undemocratic means. The result was the most pressing security threat within Europe since the Balkan wars. Georgia, considered the most “democratic” nation in the South Caucasus, lacked the government institutions and procedures to prevent President Saakashvili from undertaking a disastrous military expedition against South Ossetia and Russia. Following the war, Saakashvili was able to use the power of his presidency, his control over governing institutions and the media, to avoid accountability, deflect blame, and maintain power. The conflict in Georgia demonstrated that democracy and accountability matter. Therefore, it is striking that the international community is failing to see the relationship between domestic governance and stability in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Moving Forward

It is no secret that the European Union and United States place a high premium on improved economic relations with Azerbaijan. The future of European energy security depends largely on Azerbaijani gas deposits. However, they should not sacrifice their moral authority, democratic principles, or a chance for a sustainable Karabakh peace to avoid insulting Baku. They need to speak out powerfully in favor of responsible governance. By ignoring democratization, the US and EU are doing themselves a long-term disservice, as an undemocratic regime in Azerbaijan (or Armenia) is not a reliable long-term partner.

The warmongering of Presidents Aliyev and Sargsyan, and the failed election in Azerbaijan, are simply the latest transgressions against democracy. Such actions and language make constructive engagement in the Karabakh conflict nearly impossible. Large democratic deficits have helped to

undermine 16 years of negotiations, and created an environment in which a sustained peace is impossible. Stability in Karabakh and the greater South Caucasus region will continue to be elusive if the international community insists on negotiating with leaders and regimes that lack popular support and internationally recognized democratic credentials. This does not suggest that negotiations be called off until truly democratic regimes come to power in the region. Instead, governance should be promoted in tandem with peace negotiations, employing equal zeal and comparable resources.

The EU and US should use their influence and rhetoric to go beyond diplomatic niceties and strongly condemn undemocratic acts like the recent election in Azerbaijan. Additionally, leaders on both sides must be held accountable and put an end to saber-rattling. Neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan should be able to sink the treasures of their under-developed nation into a major military buildup without intense international and/or domestic criticism. It can no longer be tolerable to accept declarations of peace and collaboration at the international bargaining table while ignoring calls for war at home. Next, acts of responsible governance, like preventing a Karabakh independence vote in the Armenian Parliament, should be acknowledged and praised. Finally, and most importantly, the people of the region must be engaged in the discussion and implementation of a settlement. If they are ignored or manipulated by the process, peace will remain elusive.

NEWS DIGEST

Digest of Armenian Media for Dec 1-14, 2010

By News Digest

12.01.2010

Tert.am

[Joint statement over Karabakh](#) (Eng)

The Heads of OSCE Minsk Group countries' delegations and the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents issued a joint statement at the OSCE summit in Astana on December 1 in which they "agreed that the time has come for more decisive efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

Armenian and Azerbaijani Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Ilham Aliyev, in turn, reaffirmed their commitment to seek a final settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based upon the principles and norms of international law; the United Nations Charter; the Helsinki Final Act; as well as the statements of Presidents Medvedev, Sarkozy, and Obama, at L'Aquila on July 10, 2009, and at Muskoka on June 26, 2010.

[Turkey may stop using Karabakh conflict as precondition after WikiLeaks' publications: Hurriyet](#) (Eng)

According to Turkish daily Hurriyet, Turkey may eventually stop using the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as precondition for the Turkey-Armenia reconciliation due to an examination of the recent secret documents made public by WikiLeaks website.

"Ankara will definitely examine all that in detail, and after that it is quite possible that the Turkish authorities will cease to be as resolute over using the Karabakh conflict as precondition in relations with Armenia as before."

[Van Rompuy: Minsk Group is best format to Karabakh conflict settlement](#) (Eng)

Unsettled and protracted conflicts in Europe endanger the security of the region, President of European Union Herman Van Rompuy said. Speaking about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, he said that the best mechanism of the settlement is the OSCE Minsk Group format.

[France determined to support NK conflict resolution](#) (Eng)

France is determined to support the parties over the peaceful resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, French Prime Minister Francois Fillon said at OSCE summit in Astana.

"The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be settled based on the principles and elements mentioned in the statements of Presidents of US, Russia and France in l'Aquila and Muskoka. They are a whole, and are indivisible."

[Hilary Clinton: NK conflict should be settled based on Helsinki Act principles and elements announced by presidents](#) (Eng)

OSCE should continue efforts towards a peaceful resolution of conflicts, U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton said at OSCE Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. Among other conflicts, Clinton referred to the NK

issue and said it should be settled based on non-use of force or threat of force, territorial integrity and self-determination, as well as the six elements announced by Presidents of US, Russia and France.

[Dmitry Medvedev: Use of force is absolutely unacceptable](#) (Eng)

The use of military force during the settlement of conflicts is absolutely unacceptable, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said at the OSCE Summit in Astana. The OSCE should develop a single principle to normalize conflicts which should be applied permanently and without selection, he added.

12.01.2010Lragir.am

[No breakthrough document was adopted](#) (Arm)

The OSCE Summit in Astana did not adopt a breakthrough document over the Karabakh conflict, said Masis Mailyan, the former Deputy Foreign Minister of the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno Karabakh.

“No breakthrough document was adopted at the OSCE Summit in Astana over Artsakh, as it was expected,” said he, adding that the OSCE co-chairs adopted only a document aimed at the peaceful settlement of the conflict and called on the parties to take additional steps to preserve the ceasefire accord and to build trust in all the fields.

12.01.2010Hetq.am

[If only statements could be turned into politics](#) (Arm)

Armenian political analyst Manvel Sargsyan says that the existing principles of the settlement of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict were kind of pushed aside and everything was generalized at the OSCE Summit in Astana, which means that the mediators are creating such conditions that the conflicting parties will never reach any agreement.

“That is what they are busy with. Because if they really want to reach an agreement, it is the atmosphere at the international level that should be changed,” said he.

12.01.2010RFEL

[The Karabakh issue](#) (Arm)

The claims it learned from diplomatic sources that the Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev made a last-minute decision and refused to meet his Armenian counterpart Serzh Sargsyan in the framework of the OSCE Summit in Astana. Mr Aliyev explained the move by the fact that he could find any explanation to the difference between the speech he delivered at the summit and the statement signed over Karabakh conflict.

[Dashnak leader doesn't expect 'breakthrough' from the Astana Summit](#) (Arm)

Top official of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) Giro Manoyan said he does not expect any breakthrough to take place at the OSCE Summit in Astana due to the joint statement signed by Russian President, US Secretary of State, French PM, Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents. He also said that the main issue at the Astana Summit over Karabakh is its status.

12.02.2010Tert.am

[Waiting is the most dangerous thing: Heritage comments on president's speech in Astana](#) (Eng)

When it comes to recognizing the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Armenia should itself decide what to do instead of waiting for Azerbaijan to start military actions as that is very dangerous, said Karine Hakobyan, the secretary of the Heritage party.

“What if Azerbaijan doesn’t continue aggression, won’t we recognize Artsakh’s independence?” she said, adding that it turns out that Armenia is waiting for Azerbaijan to take steps and will recognize Karabakh’s independence only after that.

[Astana document is a fiction, opposition politician says](#) (Eng)

Karine Hakobyan of the opposition Heritage party board called the statement adopted at the Astana Summit on December 1 “a declarative document, a fiction, a political farce, behind which the real politics is made”.

“That is a statement to maintain status quo, it should have had a wider content. There have been scores of documents to maintain peace, but it has been breached whenever seen necessary,” she added.

[Armenia agreed to make Karabakh conflict perpetual: Stepan Safaryan](#) (Eng)

By signing the joint statement at the OSCE Summit in Astana, Armenia agreed to the process of making the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement perpetual, said Stepan Safaryan, the head of opposition Heritage party’s faction in parliament.

“In essence, being in favor of the Madrid Principles means to protract the solution, by giving the leverages to others and by weakening one’s own position and influence on the process,” said he.

[Serzh Sargsyan: In case of aggression, Armenia will recognize Artsakh](#) (Eng)

Addressing the OSCE Summit in Astana, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said that Armenia will no choice but to recognize Karabakh should Azerbaijan launch military actions against Karabakh.

“In case Azerbaijan resorts to military aggression, Armenia would not have any other choice but to recognize the Nagorno Karabakh Republic de jure and to invest all its capabilities into ensuring the security of the people of Artsakh,” said he.

12.02.2010Lragir.am

[Gul and Medvedev spoke about Karabakh](#) (Arm)

Talking to Reuters in Astana, Turkish President Abdullah Gul said that the close ties between Moscow and Ankara have at last brought about progress in the peace talks over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, adding that he has discussed the issue with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev.

“Though currently there is no breakthrough, some positive steps are being taken,” said he.

12.02.2010Epress.am

[Armenian analyst impressed by condition of Armenian church in Baku](#) (Eng)

Armenian analyst Stepan Grigoryan was pleasantly surprised by the fact that an Armenian church in Baku has been well preserved and even restored.

“I was very glad to see that the Armenian church is under the protection of Azerbaijan. Because the church plays a big role in the lives of Armenians, the Armenian church in Baku left a very positive impression,” said he.

[Azerbaijan not interested in resolving Karabakh conflict at this time: Sargsyan at OSCE Summit](#) (Eng)

Addressing the OSCE Summit in Astana on December 2, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan said that Azerbaijani is not interested to resolve the Karabakh conflict at the moment.

“During this last week, I was again convinced that Azerbaijan, at this stage, has no interest in resolving the Karabakh problem. Its sole purpose is to inflict as much damage as possible on Armenia,” said he.

[Unlike Foreign Ministers, Sargsyan and Aliyev have Good Rapport: New Cable WikiLeaked](#) (Eng)

Unlike Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers, the Armenian and Azerbaijani President Serzh Sargsyan and Ilham Aliyev hold good relations with each other, according to a new document released by WikiLeaks.

“For all his bluster about Azerbaijan’s legal right to liberate the Armenian-occupied territories by force, Aliyev has worked constructively on the Minsk Group–proposed Basic Principles and developed a reportedly good rapport with Armenian President Sargsyan — in contrast to the much more confrontational relationship between the countries’ foreign ministers,” reads the document.

12.02.2010REFL

[Serzh Sargsyan: Karabakh has no future under Azerbaijan rule](#) (Arm)

Nagorno Karabakh has no future within Azerbaijan and, whatever the solution, it should emanate from the will of the people of Karabakh, Armenia’s President, Serzh Sargsyan, said as he delivered a speech at the OSCE Summit in Astana on December 2.

“Nagorno Karabagh has no future within Azerbaijan and, whatever the solution, it should emanate from the will of the people of Karabagh. This is the axis of the right of people to self-determination. Azerbaijan has neither legal, nor political, nor moral grounds for its claims over Nagorno Karabakh.”

12.03.2010RFEL

[Shavarsh Kocharyan supposes that Azerbaijan does not want any settlement to Karabakh issue](#) (Arm)

Deputy Armenian Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan says in this article that Azerbaijan has no intention to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

“It turns out that Azerbaijan doesn’t want any settlement. All the requirements it has set, are definitely unacceptable for Armenia. There can be no one-sided concessions: compromises are possible, but one-sided concessions are not,” said he.

12.03.2010Lragir.am

[Iran and Karabakh settlement](#) (Arm)

According to this article, Iranian top officials have become more active over the Karabakh issue and have started to make statements more often than before. A recent such statement was made by Iran’s Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottacki who said that Tehran is ready to provide any assistance to Armenia and Azerbaijan so that they can resolve the Karabakh issue.

[Azerbaijan won’t win the war](#) (Arm)

Giro Manoyan, a top Dashnaktsutyun official, said that it is bad that Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents did not meet in Astana. If no negotiations are held, the possibility of a fresh war is high in this sense.

However, according to him, Azerbaijan will unleash a new war only if it is sure that it will win the war. But Azerbaijan cannot win the war.

11.03.2010Epress.am

[Serzh Sargsyan didn't exclude possibility of recognizing Karabakh before war: Manoyan](#) (Eng)

Senior Dashnaksutyun official Giro Manoyan doesn't believe that Serzh Sargsyan, in his address at the OSCE Summit in Astana, excluded the possibility of Karabakh's de jure recognition before the resumption of military hostilities when he said that Armenia will have no choice but to recognize Karabakh, should Azerbaijan launch military actions. According to Manoyan, with that statement President Sargsyan did not however say that Armenia may not recognize Karabakh before any way.

[Russia, Nagorno Karabakh will form alliance through Armenia: HHK Vice Chair](#) (Eng)

Should Azerbaijan unleash a new war, Russia will form an alliance with Karabakh through Armenia, according to Republican Party of Armenian (HHK) Vice-Chair Razmik Zorhabyan.

"If such a thing were to happen, we would form a strategic alliance with Nagorno-Karabakh, in which Russia will not be deprived of its share, since we already have a strategic cooperation with the Russians," he said.

12.03.2010Tert.am

[Astana declaration could have been worse: Giro Manoyan](#) (Eng)

The declaration adopted by the OSCE state leaders in Astana might have been even worse, according to senior Dashnaksutyun official Giro Manoyan.

"Turkey might have used the Armenia-Turkey protocols as a tool of pressure for extorting some document it might consider satisfactory for ratifying the protocols. The declaration is good in as much as it isn't bad," he said.

[Astana document powerful tool for Armenia: Razmik Zohrabyan](#) (Eng)

The declaration adopted at the OSCE Summit in Astana is very important for Armenia, as it is the first document to refer to the United Nations Charter, a document prioritizing the principle of people's right to self-determination, senior Republican Party of Armenia member Razmik Zohrabyan said.

"That's a powerful tool for us," he said, adding that the document enables Armenia to maintain the current status quo and continue the talks.12.04.2010Tert.am

[Astana statement was a serious warning to Azerbaijan: Armenian FM](#) (Eng)

The statement adopted at the OSCE Summit in Astana was a serious message to Azerbaijan, Armenia's Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan said.

"All the OSCE state leaders attending the summit emphasized the unacceptability of the use of force. And the Russian president too, underscored that in his speech. I think it was a serious warning to Azerbaijan," said he.

[Will we live in peace?](#) (Eng)

Talking about the recent OSCE Summit in Astana, Deputy Chairman of Armenia's National Assembly Samvel Nikoyan told local daily "168 Zham" it remains to be seen whether Armenia and Azerbaijan live in

more peaceful conditions after Astana. According to Nikoyan, that will depend on Azerbaijan's further actions which will prove "whether or not that country has understood the position of the international community well and whether or not it will act in accordance with the document that it has signed."

12.04.2010Epress.am

[Serzh Sargsyan if offered to follow Putting suit over Karabakh](#) (Arm)

Senior official of the Russian-language Regnum news agency, Modest Korelov, said that Armenia should not hesitate over the recognition of Karabakh and should as a first step sign some trade agreements with Karabakh. Armenia's president, according to him, should follow Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's suit, and recognize Karabakh.

12.04.2010RFEL

[The positions of the international community are in full line with Armenia's](#) (Arm)

Speaking about the OSCE Astana Summit, Armenia's Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan said that the international community has the same positions as Armenia when it comes to the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict as all the participants of the OSCE Summit in Astana agreed in their final commemorative declaration that the conflicts must be solved exclusively peacefully.

12.06.2010Tert.am

[This time Azerbaijan will be destroyed once and for all: head of Assembly of Azerbaijani Armenians](#) (Arm)

The head of the Assembly of Azerbaijani Armenians, Grigori Aivazyan, has been informed that Azerbaijan "plans to resort to a large-scale military sabotage at the most convenient moment in the near future." Aivazyan, however, said that this time Azerbaijan will be destroyed once and for all.

[Recognition of Karabakh shouldn't be linked to actions of a third country](#) (Eng)

Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan did not make a correct statement at the OSCE Summit in Astana when he said that Armenia will recognize the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, if Azerbaijan unleashes a fresh war, said Vladimir Karapetyan, representative of opposition alliance Armenian National Congress. Further, he said that because there is no agreement over the basic principles, Azerbaijan will attempt to change for format of the negotiations and will try to shift the issue to such organizations where such issues are being voted on. [Astana summit proved Armenia is defeated: expert](#) (Eng)

The Astana statement reaffirmed all that Armenia has always been opposed to, said Harutyun Serobyan, a public administration expert.

"The first clause of the document specifies what Armenia has to cede. Eleven years later, an attempt was made to get together all the countries and problems of the continent," said he, adding that the Astana summit was a failure.

12.06.2010Epress.am

[Armenia's National Assembly has decided not to discuss the statement about the Armenian population in Azerbaijan](#) (Arm)

The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of Armenia's National Assembly decided on December 6 to postpone the discussion of the draft of a statement submitted by Heritage party. The draft proposes to recognize the "atrocities perpetrated against the Armenian populations in all the communities of the

Azerbaijani Soviet Republic and in some communities of the Autonomous Region of Nagorno Karabakh from 1988-1992.”

12.07.2010Epress.am

[Future OSCE chairman promises to pay attention to the Karabakh conflict](#) (Arm)

Lithuania’s Foreign Minister Aundronus Azhubalis has said that the OSCE will pay due attention to the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict during Lithuania’s chairmanship at the OSCE. He has also said that the mission and the role of the OSCE Secretariat in the conflict resolution should be strengthened.

12.07.2010Hetq.am

[Was Astana a diplomatic victory?](#) (Arm)

Gagik Melikyan, a Republican Party of Armenia MP, says in this article that the OSCE Summit in Astana was a diplomatic victory for Armenia in the sense that together with the mediators Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a statement, saying that all the three international principles are equal and that none of them can be subordinated to the other.

“This is one of our foreign diplomatic victories. Azerbaijan was once again warned that non-preservation of these three principles is not only unacceptable for Armenia but also for the [OSCE] Minsk Group and all the countries worldwide,” said he.

12.08.2010Tert.am

[Armenian president agreed to what is termed as ‘occupied territories’- Levon Zurabyan](#) (Eng)

Opposition Armenian National Congress coordinator Levon Zurabyan said that Armenia’s President Serzh Sargsyan in fact agreed to the term “occupied territories” as he signed the OSCE Summit statement in Astana.

“... on top of all, Serzh Sargsyan agreed to what is termed as “occupied lands” in the Astana statement,” Zurabyan said.[US welcomes Russia’s role in Karabakh settlement](#) (Eng)

The United States welcomes Russia’s efforts in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and looks forward to working with it in this direction, Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon said.

“Yes, Russia played in this process an active role, and we hope that it, like the US, wants to achieve an agreement based on the key principles of the OSCE Minsk Group,” Gordon said.[French diplomat says Karabakh talks deadlocked: WikiLeaks](#) (Eng)

According to a document by WikiLeaks’ website, French Foreign Ministry diplomat Roland Galharague talked about the Karabakh conflict settlement at a meeting with American officials in Paris, complaining about the Minsk Group. He said the process had entered a deadlock, CNN Turk reported.12.08.2010 Lragir.am

[Will Stepanakert be Sarajevo?](#) (Arm)

Referring to many Armenian experts who say that the OSCE co-chairs – by fixing the failure of peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict – in fact paved the way for the resumption of military actions. But the question is what the reaction of the international community will be in such scenario. Further, it says that Armenia’s National Assembly adopted on December 6 a bill that allows the country to sign military-political agreements with unrecognized republics.

[On the way of new retreats \(Arm\)](#)

Coordinator of opposition alliance Armenian National Congress, Levon Zurabyan, said that the OSCE Summit in Astana registered the retreat of Armenia's diplomacy and paved the way for more retreats. This, according to him, is accounted for by Armenia's ailing economy and by the fact that the military-political balance has changed in Azerbaijan's favor.

12.08.2010RFEL

[EU-Russia summit discusses also Karabakh conflict \(Arm\)](#)

An EU-Russia summit in Brussels discussed among other things also the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. EU President Herman Van Rompuy said that they highlighted the importance of studying the proposals by the OSCE Minsk Group so that to "really solve the conflict peacefully".

"We would very much like [Russian] President [Dmitry] Medvedev to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the issue," said he.

12.09.2010Tert.am

[Inclusion of the principle of territorial integrity in the NATO document doesn't run counter Armenia's interests: Stepan Grigoryan \(Arm\)](#)

Speaking about the recent document adopted by NATO at the Lisbon Summit, Armenian political analyst Stepan Grigoryan said the inclusion of the principle of territorial integrity doesn't contradict Armenia's interests, as the duty of both the NATO and the Collective Security Treaty Organization is to protect the state's territorial integrity. Armenia should, however, raise its voice when these organizations link the principle of territorial integrity to conflicts.

12.09.2010Lragir.am

[Heritage: Majority overthrew draft law recognizing Karabakh \(Arm\)](#)

Armenia's National Assembly voted on a draft law – submitted to the parliament by Heritage party – proposing to recognize Karabakh by first reading. Only 13 MPs from Heritage and Dashnaksutyun parties took part in the vote with all of them voting in favor of the proposal. The parliamentary coalitions did not take part in the voting.

12.09.2010Epress.am

[Recognizing Karabakh's independence left to the mercy of fate: MP \(Eng\)](#)

Regretfully, the parliamentary majority has taken it upon itself the audacity to overthrow the bill to recognize Karabakh's independence, Heritage Party MP Stepan Safaryan said, adding that the failure to pass the bill means that the issue of Artsakh's (NKR) independence is not being discussed in Armenia's parliament and will rather be discussed in L'Aquila, and in the best case scenario, in Astana, but "against our interests".

"Recognizing Karabakh's independence is left to the mercy of fate," he concluded.

[In Baku, they want to expand contact with Armenians: Grigoryan \(Arm\)](#)

Political analyst Stepan Grigoryan said that after visiting Azerbaijan recently he got the impression that in Baku the Azerbaijanis want to expand contacts with Armenians.

“While meeting with Azerbaijani experts and politicians, I got the impression that they want to broaden their contacts with Armenians, at the civil society level,” he said.

12.10.2010Tert.am

[Armenia should recognize Nagorno Karabakh before the 20th anniversary of independence referendum – Raffi Hovhannisian](#) (Eng)

Opposition Heritage party leader Raffi Hovhannisian said that Armenia should recognize Nagorno Karabakh before the 20th anniversary of independence referendum, as he expressed his discontent over the fact that draft law by Heritage, proposing recognize Karabakh, was voted down at the parliament.

“We don’t need Azerbaijan’s consent to make such decision. The NKR authorities must clearly identify what they want from Armenia and the world community,” Hovhannisian said.

12.10.2010Lragir.am

[Armenia will recognize if ...](#) (Arm)

Should Azerbaijan unleash a new war, Armenia will recognize Karabakh de jure and take measures to ensure Karabakh’s security, Armenia’s President Serzh Sargsyan said at a meeting of the leaders of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in Moscow.

[Equality of recognizing NKR and acknowledging Genocide](#) (Arm)

Raffi Hovhannisian, the leader of Armenian Heritage party, said that in terms of state interests the international recognition of Karabakh is as much important as recognizing the Armenian Genocide. He also drew parallels between abstaining from the vote on the draft law proposing to recognize Karabakh and one proposing to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

12.10.2010Hetq.am

[Heritage party will not propose new draft law to recognize NKR](#) (Arm)

Given the Republican Party of Armenia has been instructed not to take part in the vote of the draft law proposing to recognize Karabakh, and also given the parliamentary coalition has said it will vote against that proposal, Heritage party will not come up with any new draft law.

“The submission of this draft law is not a shame, nor is it a blow to the state interests or ridiculous for the international community: it is a public value and shows that this issue is urgent ...” said Hovhannisian.

[Shootings of a film about incompatibility of Armenians and Azerbaijanis have started in Moscow](#) (Arm)

The article says that a film, titled “Interrupted Song” is being shot in Moscow featuring the complicated relations of Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The two heroes, one Armenian and one Azerbaijani, find themselves in the same pit and have difficulties in finding common grounds.

12.10.2010Epress.am

[Armenia, Azerbaijan foreign ministers again spoke on Karabakh conflict](#) (Eng)

A working meeting among the foreign ministers of Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan took place in Moscow on December 9. At the meeting, discussions continued on issues related to resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through the mediation efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

[If Russia really wanted to resolve Karabakh conflict, it would've done so already: WikiLeaks](#) (Eng)

Resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the key to unlocking Turkish-Armenian relations, and consequently regional energy supplies, US Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Phil Gordon, said, according to a WikiLeaks document. Further, he mentioned that “if the Russians really wanted to resolve Nagorno-Karabakh, they would have done so already.”

12.11.2010Tert.am

[Artsakh has more solid grounds for self-determination than Kosovo](#) (Eng)

At a news conference after a symposium dedicated to the legal aspects of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, Armenia’s Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan said Nagorno Karabakh has “more solid grounds for self-determination” than Kosovo.

“Today’s event is devoted to the legality of Kosovo’s independence declaration, a topic that is interesting to our scholarly circles. And the lawyers will agree with me that Artsakh currently has more solid legal, political-military and historical grounds for full self-determination,” he stressed.

12.11.2010Lragir.am

[Russia and the South Caucasus](#) (Arm)

According to Armenian political analyst Igor Muradyan, Russia has always been the “unexpected and dangerous mediator and the initiator” of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict as it has been holding the most effective levers to control the South Caucasus in general and the Karabakh conflict in particular. Further he says that under the current geopolitical situation the best thing for Armenia that can happen is the resumption of a second Karabakh war as Armenia has no political future without that – something Russia has in mind.

12.13.2010Lragir.am

[Russia may deploy troops](#) (Arm)

The article says that the Collective Security Treaty Organization has widened its mandate to interfere in critical situations in its member states and may upon the proposal of Armenia’s President Serzh Sargsyan deploy troops where and when necessary. But it also says that it is not known why the Armenian president needs: is that meant to tackle the domestic political crisis or to resist Azerbaijan should it decide to unleash a fresh war over Karabakh.

12.14.2010Tert.am

[Karabakh’s borders should be clearly defined before its recognition: Arkady Ter-Tadevosyan](#) (Eng)

Major General Arkady Ter-Tadevosyan said that before recognizing Karabakh, it should first of all be clarified what the borders of Karabakh are. “I can’t understand what the borders of the NKR are,” he said, adding that he can’t see why other countries should recognize Karabakh given Armenia has not done so. “If they [Armenia] want to recognize Karabakh together with its liberated territories, I am definitely for it. But when one, two or three regions are meant [to be recognized as part of Karabakh], I am not in favor of such recognition,” he explained.

Digest of Azerbaijani Media for Dec 1- 12, 2010

By News Digest

1.12.2010

Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty (Local Service)

[Ilham Aliyev: "Armenia wants to keep its current status quo"](#) [AZ]

This was said by the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, during Astana summit while addressing the Nagorno Karabakh issue. According to the president, Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan's history and is internationally recognized. And Armenia is doing everything it can to escalate the conflict. Starting from violating the ceasefire regime, holding trainings on occupied territories to renaming some of the historical sites.

02.12.2010

NEWS.az

[Sargsyan had nothing to say](#) [ENG]

Claims head of the Azerbaijani community of NK Bayram Safarov while commenting on the results of Astana summit and failure to meet any concrete developments. According to Safarov, it was because of Sargsyan's double approach to the negotiation process that there is yet to be a development, further claiming that Sargsyan "answers different [ly] depending on whom he speaks to".

["Armenia have agreed to a dangerous document"](#) [ENG]

The article presents statements made by the representative of the Armenian National Congress (ANC) Vladimir Karapetyan on recently signed document in Astana by Armenia. According to Karapetyan, Armenia signed "dangerous document" according to which, sooner or later, Armenia will have to face return of the occupied territories.

04.12.2010

TREND.az

[Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan does not violate ceasefire regime](#) [ENG]

According to the deputy head of the Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry Teymur Abdullayev, Azerbaijan never violated the ceasefire regime staying committed to its responsibilities agreed upon in 1994 treaty. However, Armenian media reports of an incident that took place this past Saturday (December 11th) on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border wounding one Armenian soldier Samvel Nikolyan. According to the article, if violations occur on the border, then it's always Armenian side that violates the regime.

06.12.2010

Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty (Local Service)

["How many more years its going to take to resolve Karabakh problem?"](#) [AZ]

This question was addressed to the Azerbaijani authorities by attendants of the Karabakh Forum organized by the Association towards Democracy. One of the issues raised during the forum was local government's disapproval of international organizations and their double standard approach to Nagorno Karabakh and yet, the government itself prevents of having democratic elections monitored by these very same international organizations. As a result, inability to hold democratic elections, negatively affects the resolution process of the Karabakh problem.

The hosts of the Forum, addressed several questions to the government, one of which was on the time and the length and the government's commitment to resolve Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Commenting on the recent Astana Summit, the organizers stressed the inefficiency of such meetings and that Azerbaijan must resolve this issue itself but trusting itself- starting from a democratic development.

[Why did the Astana summit fail? \[AZ\]](#)

This article presents different from some of the political scientists and journalists from Azerbaijan on the reasons why the summit in Kazakhstan's capital failed to reach any concrete results.

According to political scientist and parliament member Rasim Musabekov, one of the reasons for failure was overall OSCE's responsibility especially given its inability to strengthen democracy in post- Soviet countries.

On another note, Azer Rashidoglu, political commentator at "Zerkalo" newspaper said this summit, demonstrated Azerbaijan's diplomatic failure. During the memorial declaration, Georgia's territorial integrity was supported, Transnistria problem was reflected however, neither Karabakh conflict, nor Azerbaijan's territorial integrity was recognized, said political commentator.

TREND.az

[European expert: summit in Astana gave little more than weakest statement from the OSCE Minsk group \[ENG\]](#)

Amanda Paul, while commenting on the results of the Astana summit and its implications for the further negotiation process of the NK conflict, said that recent events (the summit and some of the negative rhetoric at home) are indicative of the low point the two sides have hit. However, the policy analyst at the EU policy center, said that OSCE cannot be blamed for all of the failure. "The main fault lies with the two leaders themselves", said expert. As long as there are no concerted efforts made by political leaders themselves, little could be achieved even with greater involvement of the international community.

NEWS.az

["International community 'half got' Armenian side's position on Karabakh" \[ENG\]](#)

Karen Bekaryan, head of the European Integration analytical center believes that Armenia shouldn't simply let OSCE monopolize negotiation process. According to Bekaryan, while recognition of Karabakh's independence remains a priority for Armenia, the Armenian authorities should not simply give in to OSCE's games its playing. Bekaryan claims that OSCE is supplying arms to Azerbaijan while calling both of the sides to peace and this is not possible, making territorial concessions to Azerbaijan "impossible".

07.12.2010

Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty (Local Service

[Families from Syria and Armenia are moving to Zengilan \[AZ\]](#)

The article reports on the news that families from Syria and Armenia are moving to Zengilan and that the Armenian authorities have promised these families assistance. However, none of the families received any assistance but despite this are fine with moving to Zengilan. The area has good climate and rich soil. The article also comes with a video footage prepared by one of the employees of the Armenian service for Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty.

TREND.az

[Head of the Azerbaijani community in NK: Armenians building airport in NK for Azerbaijanis](#) [ENG]

Rather interesting article appeared in Trend.az this week on rumors that Armenians are building an airport in Khankendi, which is commissioned for opening in May 2011 and will be carrying its first passengers on Yerevan- Khankendi- Yerevan route. Coming on this development, Bayram Safarov, head of the Azerbaijani Community in NK said Azerbaijan as well built many developments and that Armenians are using them. However, Safarov questioned the quality of the airport, commenting, "Armenians cannot build an airport meeting Azerbaijani standards. We will return to our lands and repair this airport once again". Rumors circulating around the airport also having international flights, Safarov dismissed, saying the territory lacks the necessary space for construction of an international airport.

NEWS.az

[Separatist Karabakh will have no office in Brussels](#) [ENG]

Elkhan Polukhov, Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry spokesman made rather harsh statements regarding efforts to open NK representative office in Brussels by Foreign Minister of unrecognized territory Georgi Petrosyan. According to the spokesman, given NK's unrecognized status, no one will allow (not according to the international law at least) to open an official embassy for NK anywhere.

08.12.2010

Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty (Local Service)

[OSCE will release its final evaluation report in two months](#) [AZ]

OSCE Minsk Group plans to release its final report on the visit (which took place in October this year) to the occupied territories in Nagorno Karabakh in February. The group also plans to visit the region at the end of January, beginning of February.

NEWS.az

[Ramil Safarov's extradition to Azerbaijan discussed in Budapest](#) [ENG]

The article reports on possible development in Ramil Safarov's case who is currently held in a prison in Budapest where he was sentenced on life sentence after murdering to death an Armenian servicemen in 2004. He was sentenced in 2006. According to the vice president of the international lawyer's union, Ilham Rahimov, Safarov's extradition to Azerbaijan was discussed during his visit in Hungary.

[The term "autonomy" should be changed into "independence" within Azerbaijan](#) [ENG]

An interesting approach to terms is presented in this article by the professor and head of the Center for Black Sea- Mediterranean Studies, Institute of Europe, Alla Yazkova. Yazkova, recommends to change terminology when it comes to talking about conflicts in this region following her visit to Scotland. During her stay there, she realized that while Scotland is under the autonomy of Great Britain, it values its independence. She notes that the term "autonomy" strongly associates with the Soviet Union and how it

was implied back in the day, which was nothing short of subordination. And this is why she believes that a way to move forward in this conflict would be to change terminology.

Note: Official Baku will only grant highest degree of autonomy to NK in case of conflict resolution.

[“I do not think Nagorno Karabakh will ever be independent”](#) [ENG]

News.az interviewed Alex Jackson, Senior Editor of the Caucasian Review of International Affairs. Jackson believes that Russia is not really interested in resolving the conflict but keeping it in its current unresolved state while it continues exercising its interests in the region. Having said this, one cannot dismiss the fact that Russia has been active especially recently in organizing a number of bilateral agreements between the two sides.

Jackson also believes that Karabakh will never be interdependent and so its useless for Armenian especially to keep on waiting for this. “Azerbaijan, which is ready to grant the highest level of autonomy to this region, will never let it be independent”.

What seems to be the major problem says Jackson is territorial integrity vs. right for self- determination concepts put forward by the two sides to the conflict. Perhaps right to self- determination can be discussed, only once all of the Azerbaijan refugees and IDSP return to their homes.

[Minsk Group co- chair says Karabakh process at an impasse, WikiLeaks](#) [ENG]

The popular disclosure website WikiLeaks, released statements by Roland Galharague, an official from France and his correspondence with US political Andrew Young. According to these statements and correspondence, Galharague voiced his pessimism on the resolution of the conflict any time soon, adding that OSCE’s Minsk Group involvement is a dead- end.

Much of the inability to do something by the French government towards Armenia stems from the fact that there is large population of French citizens of Armenian background who also make up large percentage of voters in France.

09.12.2010

Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty (Local Service)

[Ministers meet](#) [AZ]

Following the OSCE summit meeting in Astana in early December, the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia met in Moscow to continue discussing Nagorno Karabakh conflict and its further resolution.

TREND.az

[Armenian parliament fails to hold voting recognizing separatist Nagorno- Karabakh](#) [ENG]

The article reports on the failure to adopt a bill, recognizing independence of NK as a result of governing coalition forces refusing to take part in the voting. The voting failed given there was lack of a quorum.

[Azerbaijan accuses Armenia of disrespecting international law](#) [ENG]

A wave of strong criticism came from Azerbaijan regarding Armenia’s recent amendments to a bill on international treaties. Ali Hasanov, the head of the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration’s Social and Political Department said this was a clear sign of Armenia disrespecting international communities and international law.

According to the new bill, it will now be possible to legalize the legal arrangements between Armenia and the de- facto states, including the Armenia occupied NK.

Calling the steps taken by the Armenian authorities unconstructive, Hasanov blamed Armenia for the current impasse in the dialogue process. Such attitude, Hasanov said, wont be tolerated forever and if this continues, Azerbaijan will apply to 'other' methods.

NEWS.az

[‘Some superpowers’ may be in tested in resumption of Karabakh war](#) [ENG]

Adil Aliyev, newly elected independent parliament member believes that the conflict over NK will be resolved over the next five years before 2015 when Armenia marks its 100th anniversary of the genocide of 1915. Aliyev does not dismiss resolution of the conflict through military means commenting that it is simply a matter of time.

Aliyev also mentioned that some superpowers (though not mentioning any names) would in fact support outbreak of hostility as it could supply arms to the parties of the conflict. However, the newly elected MP noted that none of these superpowers would directly support Armenia or “fight for Armenia” as he puts it.

In another statement on the outcome of military outbreak Aliyev commented that in case this happens, then Armenian servicemen fed up with humiliation and abuse of “their fellows” will shoot them first rather than start killing Azerbaijani soldiers. Adding that volume of Azerbaijan’s expenditure on its military capacity exceeds that of Armenia, not to mention its larger population and “heroes” who are “ready to sacrifice their lives for the territorial integrity and happy future of their country”.

10.12.2010

TREND.az

[Azerbaijan’s First Deputy Parliament Speaker: “Azerbaijan reserves right to liberate occupied territories](#) [ENG]

This rather strong statement came from the fist deputy parliament speaker Ziyafet Askerov in the aftermath of the OSCE summit and its failure to reach any concrete steps towards resolving the NK conflict.

While blaming the international community for yet again another failure and inability to influence Armenia, he also accused the OSCE Minsk Group of its weak involvement only suitable for making empty statements.

NEWS.az

[Armenia “hostage to a problem of its own making”](#) [ENG]

The following article is part of the interview with Aydin Mirzazadeh, the deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee on security and defense and ruling party member. While commenting on recent developments in Armenia’s parliament during the session on adoption of NK, Mirzazadeh says failure to recognize the territory is not something to be surprised of. He calls the territory of NK as a millstone for Armenia as it doesn’t know what do with it and it cannot go anywhere without it. Therefore, its recognition could become a ‘problem’ for Armenia such that in case of recognition, the international community might resort to sanctions against Armenia.

However, Mirzazadeh failed to say anything positive on behalf of Armenia when asked the question of whether the non- recognition of the NK would be positive factor in negotiation process. “Justice is on Azerbaijan’s side”, said deputy chairman.

On a similar note, an article titled [“Armenia ‘unable’ to pass any solution on Karabakh”](#) [ENG] political scientist and recently elected parliament member Rasim Musabekov called Armenia not independent when it comes to making such vital decisions and so the discussion at the Armenian parliament was simply a show case intended for Armenian public simply to demonstrate the ruling regime is doing some things in response to growing negative rhetoric on Azerbaijani side.

11.12.2010

Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty (Local Service)

[“If Azerbaijan uses force, then Armenia will recognize Nagorno Karabakh”](#) [AZ]

The article is a brief summary of Serzh Sargsyan’s statement on Nagorno Karabakh during his visit to Moscow. The president of Armenia repeated that Armenia has no intention and is totally against of waging a war and reaching resolution of the conflict through military means. Therefore, in his statement, he made sure to underline that if Azerbaijan decides to start a war, then Armenia, will recognize de jure Nagorno Karabakh and with all possible means protect its citizens.

[“We need full return of our lands, not some declarations”](#) [AZ]

Said Ali Ahmadov, deputy of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party following the discussions in Astana earlier this month. The article reports on official Baku stance on the conflict stressing the frustration of the people as well as the government of the dialogue process in general and its unsuccessful direction. While there can be many different summits and discussions, the end result is still not there repeated Ali Ahmadov in his statements to the journalists. Azerbaijan doesn’t want to have a bloody war and this country’s presence in dialogue is an example of its commitment in resolving this conflict peacefully. However, said the deputy, if the dialogue does not bear any results, then Azerbaijan will have to take necessary steps.

NEWS.az

[Armenians hold military exercise in occupied territories](#) [ENG]

The article reports on recent military exercise held in Agdam region. Serzh Sargsyan and Armenia’s Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan attended the exercise.

[Sargsyan reiterated Armenia’s position on the Karabakh issue](#) [ENG]

Covering Sargsyan’s statement following the session of the Security Council of the Collective Security Treaty Organization the article sums up Armenia’s president stance on the NK conflict. The president reiterated importance of peaceful settlement of the conflict especially following the meeting in Astana and the signing of a joint statement by the leaders of both countries. Ineffective consequences of war as well as unacceptability of any use of force were underlined by the US Secretary of State, Russian President and Prime Minister of France during the OSCE summit in Astana. However, Sargsyan also stated that if Azerbaijan does refer to military means for settling the conflict, then Armenian will recognize the status of NK.

[“Armenia should recognize Nagorno Karabakh”](#) [ENG]

Said leader of one of the Armenian opposition parties Heritage, Raffi Hovhannisian. In his statements at a news conference, Hovhannisian stressed importance for recognition of NK as he believes, leaving the territory unrecognized will lead to lingering of the process, and resembling similar situation of recognition of the Armenian genocide.

The bill to recognize the territory was rejected at the parliament and Hovhannisian believes that the speaker of the parliament instructed parliament members not to adopt the bill.

12.12.2010

TREND.az

[Russia's ambassador to Azerbaijan: "Russian will intensify its mediation efforts to resolve Nagorno Karabakh \(NK\) conflict \[ENG\]](#)

The ambassador while commenting on the signing of a joint statement in Astana said Russia is keen on taking more responsibility in the resolution of the NK conflict. An example for this is its active role in organizing the OSCE summit in Astana as well as a follow-up meeting in Moscow with the participation of the foreign ministers of the three countries on December 9th to discuss further plans on the resolution of the conflict.

14.12.2010

DAY.az

[Azerbaijan MP: Serzh Sargsyan tries to blackmail Azerbaijan \[ENG\]](#)

Following Azerbaijan's militaristic rhetoric it didn't take much time for the Armenian authorities to make their statement on this situation with Armenia's president Serzh Sargsyan's statement that if Azerbaijan continues with its rhetoric then Armenia will have no other choice but recognize NK. (<http://today.az/news/politics/77995.html>) This was perceived as a "show off" by one of the Azerbaijani parliament members Zahid Oruj. Oruj believes that Armenia is trying hard to show the world that its not alone in its struggle and that it has international back up "in case there is an outbreak of hostilities".

The Azeri parliament member claims that the president of Armenia is "trying to secure a military- political balance, he tends to downplay Azerbaijan in the eyes of international community and show that Azerbaijan could be a threat to other countries".

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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