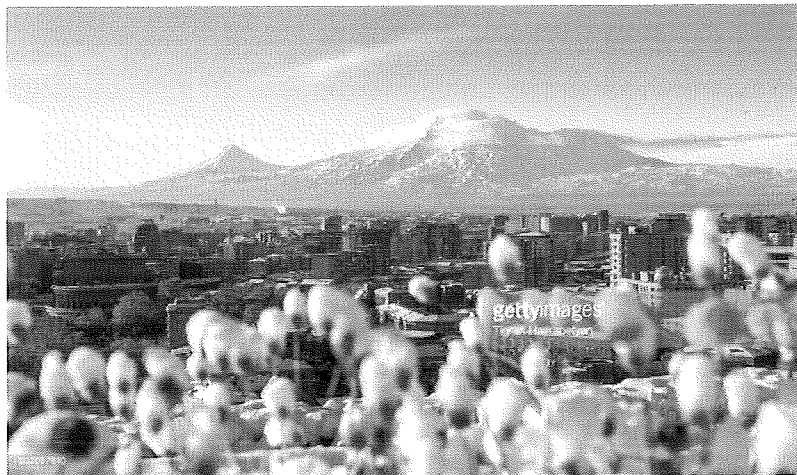
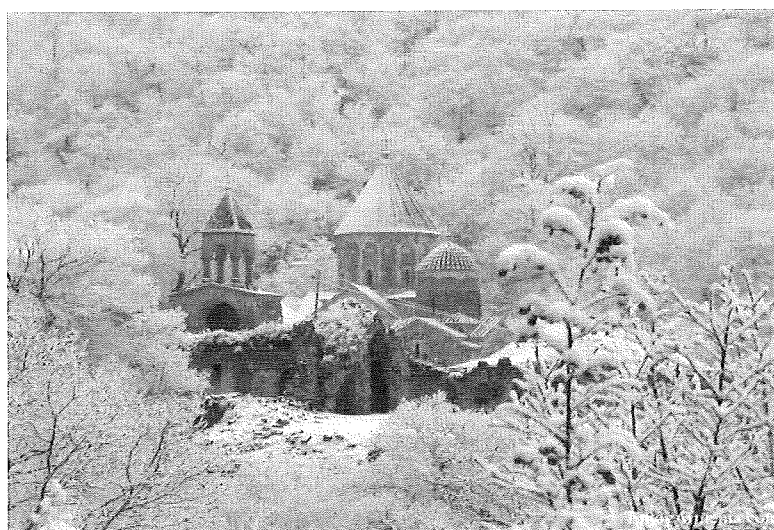


Fact-finding mission to Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh)

24- 28 January, 2018



Yerevan, Armenia



Dadivank Monastery, Artsakh

Fact-finding mission to Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh)

24-28 January 2018

24 January

Arrival in Yerevan in the early morning and check-in at Opera Suite hotel

11:35 Leaving for the National Assembly of Armenia

11:45 Meeting with the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations of the National Assembly Mr. Armen Ashotyan

12:30 Meeting with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia Mr. Ara Babloyan

13:30 Lunch on behalf of Mr. Armen Ashotyan

15:00 Visit to Armenian Genocide Memorial & Museum

16:00 Meeting with Mr. Andranik Hovhannisyan, advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Gagik Ghalatchyan, head of the European department

19:30 Dinner at "Yerevan Tavern"

25 January

9:00 Departure for Artsakh

12:30 Stopover at Noravank monastery and "Vorskan" restaurant, Vayk

17:00 Arrival in Stepanakert, Artsakh, check-in at Park hotel

18:00 Meeting with Artsakh Republic/AR President Mr. Bako Sahakyan

19:30 Meeting with AR Minister of Education, Science and Sports Ms. Narine Aghabalyan

20:30 Dinner

26 January

10:00 Laying flowers at Stepanakert memorial of fallen soldier

10:30 Meeting with AR Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Masis Mayilyan

11:30 Meeting with AR Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Ashot Ghulyan and with MPs from the Friendship Group with Europe at the National Assembly of Artsakh

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Departure for Shoushi

15:00 Meeting with AR Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs Mr. Sergey Shahverdyan

16:00 Meeting with AR Human Rights Defender Mr. Ruben Melikyan

17:00 Visit to Ghazanchetsots cathedral and Shoushi Art gallery

18:00 Departure for Stepanakert

18:20 Visit TUMO Center for Creative Technologies

20:00 Dinner of behalf of AR Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Ashot Ghulyan

27 January

09:30 Visit the Halo Trust NGO

10:30 Press-conference

11:00 Departure for Gandzasar monastery, stopover at "We and our mountains" monument

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Departure for Yerevan, stopover at Dadivank monastery

19:00 Arrival in Yerevan, check in hotel "Opera suite"

04:00 Departure for Zvartnots Airport

The European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy



The European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy (EAFJD) is an NGO founded in 2002 in Brussels, is the interlocutor within the institutions of the European Union, as well as the Council of Europe, representing the European citizens of Armenian origin at the European institutions. EAFJD advocates, in the European Union, for the rights of the Armenian populations (in Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Samtskhe - Javakheti region in the Republic of Georgia, and in Turkey). The EAFJD assists the citizens of the Republic of Armenia in the democratization process of the country, by advocating closer EU – Armenia ties, and closer relations with different European countries and regions.

Republic of Armenia

Country Profile

Area: 29,743 km²

Population: 3 026.9 (2013 census)

Capital: Yerevan

Language: Armenian

Currency: AMD (Armenian dram)

Geography: Armenia is located between the Black and Caspian Seas, the country is bordered on the North by Georgia and in the North-East by Azerbaijan. In the South-East it is bordered by Nagorno Karabakh; on the south by Iran and in the West by Turkey. The land rises to 4,090 meters (13,419 ft) above sea-level at Mount Aragats, and no point is below 390 meters (1,280 ft) above sea level. Mount Ararat, which was historically part of Armenia, is the highest mountain in the region (5,137 meters). Now located in Turkey, but clearly visible in Armenia, it is regarded by Armenians as the symbol of their land.

Politics: Politics of Armenia takes place in a framework of a presidential representative democratic republic. According to the Constitution of Armenia, the President is the head of government and of a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and parliament. In late 2015 a constitutional reform was held that passed with 66% of votes. The changes will take place during the 2017-18 electoral cycles transforming the country's system from semi-presidential to a parliamentary system.

History: Armenia has an ancient cultural heritage. The Satrapy of Armenia was established in the 6th century BC, after the fall of Urartu. In the first century BC the Kingdom of Armenia reached its height under Tigranes the Great. Armenia became the first state in the world to adopt Christianity as its official religion, in between late 3rd to early years of the 4th century (the official date is 301 AD), becoming the first Christian nation. Between the 16th and first half of the 19th century, the traditional Armenian homeland composed of Eastern Armenia and Western Armenia came under the rule of the rivaling Ottoman and successive Iranian Empires, passing between the two over the centuries. By the mid-19th century, Eastern Armenia had been conquered by Russia from Qajar Iran, while most of the western parts of the traditional Armenian homeland still remained under Ottoman rule. During World War I, the Armenians living in their ancestral lands in the Ottoman Empire were systematically exterminated in the Armenian

Genocide. In May 28, 1918, after the battle of Sardarapat, against the Turkish army, declared its first independence. By 1920, the state was incorporated into the Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, a founding member of the Soviet Union in 1922. In 1936, the Transcaucasian state was dissolved, leaving its constituent states, including the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, as full Union republics. The modern Republic of Armenia became independent in 1991 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Religion: Armenia was the first nation to adopt Christianity as a state religion, an event traditionally dated to AD 301. According to tradition, the Armenian Church was founded by two of Jesus' twelve apostles – Thaddaeus and Bartholomew – who preached Christianity in the territory of Armenia between 40–60 AD. Because of these two founding apostles, the official name of the Armenian Church is *Armenian Apostolic Church*.

Demographics: Armenia has a population of 3 026.9 (2013 est.) and is the second most densely populated of the former Soviet republics. Ethnic Armenians make up 97.9% of the population.

Sites of Interest

Yerevan

Territory - 223 km² (86 sq mi)

Population -1, 060,138 (est. 2011)

Density- 4,754/km² (12,310/sq m)

History: The history of Yerevan dates back to the 8th century BC, with the founding of the fortress of Erebuni in 782 BC by king Argishti I. During the centuries long Iranian rule over Eastern Armenia that lasted from the early 16th century up to 1828. In 1828, the city became part of Imperial Russia alongside the rest of Eastern Armenia who conquered it from Iran through the Russo-Persian War (1826-1828). After World War I, Yerevan became the capital of the First Republic of Armenia as thousands of survivors of the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire settled in the area. Following the collapse of the USSR, Yerevan became the capital of the Republic of Armenia on 21 September 1991. With the growth of the economy of the country, Yerevan has been undergoing major transformation as many parts of the city have been the recipient of new construction since the early 2000s. As of 2011, the population of Yerevan was 1,060,138, making up to 35.1% of the total population of Armenia.

Important sites of interest in Yerevan include:

Republic Square: The early buildings (the Houses of Government, the Ministry of Communications, and the Marriott Hotel) are fine example of neo-classical architecture with Armenian hints. The buildings from later period (Art Gallery, for example) are Modernist imitations of previous ones. The History Museum of Armenia and the National Gallery are also situated here. The oval shaped square has a stone pattern in the center, meant to look like a traditional Armenian rug from above. The dancing water fountains are located at the northeastern forehead of the square in front of the National Gallery.

Freedom Square

Known as Opera Square until 1991, the Freedom Square is part of the Yerevan Opera Theater complex, located just to the south of the main opera building, between the Opera Park and the Swan Lake. It gained its name "Freedom Square", as the mass demonstrations that led to the movement for the independence of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh from the USSR have started here.

Cascades, Sculpture Park and Cafesjian Museum is a small green zone in the immediate North of the Opera. Sculptures from Botero and other artists of international fame decorate the Park. It is a massive white stairway up a hillside of central Yerevan, decorated with green stretches, fountains and waterfalls. The museum includes the modern art works from the collection of Gerard Cafesjian, Armenian-American art collector.

Armenian Genocide memorial complex Tsitsernakaberd

The Armenian Genocide memorial complex is Armenia's official memorial dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. The memorial was built in 1967 on the hill of Tsitsernakaberd in Yerevan. Every year on April 24 -the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day- thousands of Armenians gather at the memorial to commemorate the victims of the Genocide.

The monument consists of a 44-meter stele symbolizing the national rebirth of the Armenian people. Along the park at the memorial there is a 100-meter wall with the names of towns and villages where massacres and deportations are known to have taken place.

In the memorial park also includes the Armenian Genocide Museum Institute.

Noravank

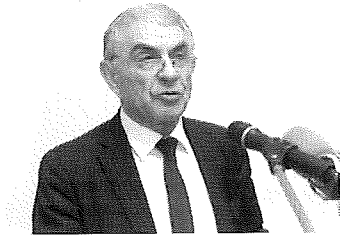
Noravank ("new monastery") is a 13th-century Armenian monastery monastic complex that includes the church of S. Karapet, S. Grigor chapel with a vaulted hall, and the church of Surb Astvatsatsin (Holy Mother of God). The fortress walls surrounding the complex were built in the 17th–18th centuries.

The grandest structure of Noravank is Surb Astvatsatsin (Holy Mother of God) church. Completed in 1339, it is a masterpiece of the talented sculptor and miniaturist Momik and his last work. There is fine relief sculpture over the entrance, depicting Christ flanked by Peter and Paul. The second church is the Surb (Saint) Karapet. The pointed tympanum of the twin window over the door is decorated with a unique relief representation of the large-headed and bearded God the Father with large almond shaped eyes blessing the Crucifix with his right hand and holding in his left hand the head of Adam, with a dove — the Holy Spirit — above it.

Dignitaries to meet

Republic of Armenia

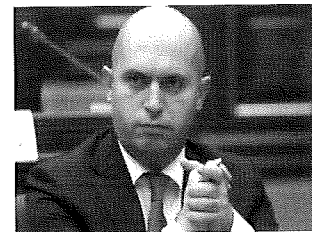
Ara Babloyan, Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia



Ara Babloyan was born on 5 May, 1947 in Yerevan. In 1971 he graduated from Yerevan State Medical University and in 1972 started to work as children's clinical hospital N1 as surgeon and urologist. In the period of 1977- 1991 Mr. Babloyan held senior posts, as head of Urology department at Yerevan's Children's Clinical hospital N3. From 1991-1997 he held the post of the Minister of Health Care of Armenia. In 2003 Mr. Babloyan founded Arabkir Institute of Children and Teenagers' Medical Complex. In 2007 he was first time elected as deputy of the National Assembly from the Republican party of Armenia. In the legislative elections of 2017, Mr. Babloyan was elected deputy and was appointed as the Speaker of the Parliament.

Armen Ashotyan, Chairman of Standing Committee on Foreign Relations of the National Assembly

Armen Ashotyan was born on July 25, 1975 in Yerevan. In 2000 he graduated from Yerevan State Medical University, specializing in Forensic medicine. In the period of 2003-2005, Mr. Ashotyan was the chairman of the Youth Organization of Republican Party of Armenia. In 2005 he was elected member of the National



Assembly for the first time. In 2009 he was appointed minister of Education and Science and he held this post up to 2016. In the legislative elections of 2017 Mr. Ashotyan was elected member of the National Assembly. He is the chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Artsakh Republic (Nagorno-Karabakh)

Country Profile

Population: 146,573 (est. 2013)

Capital: Stepanakert

Religion: Christianity (Armenian Apostolic Church)

Language: Armenian

Area: 11,500 km² (out of which 36% forest)

Geography: Artsakh is landlocked. It lies between Lower Karabakh and Armenia. Geographically the region is mostly mountainous and forested – thus the name “Nagorno”. Most of the region is governed by the NKR, a de facto independent but unrecognized state established on the basis of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast that was part of the Azerbaijan SSR in Soviet Union as well as some of the surrounding area, giving it a border with Armenia to the west and Iran to the south.

Name: The prefix Nagorno is derived from the Russian adjective *nagorny* (нагорный), which means "highland". The name Karabakh is made of two words, "*kara*" and "*bagh*" (or "*bakh*") which originate, respectively, from Turkic and Persian, and literally means "black garden". The name first appears in Georgian and Persian sources of the 13th and 14th centuries. The locals call their republic Artsakh that means strong fortress in the local dialect.

History: The predominantly Armenian-populated region (around 95%) of Nagorno-Karabakh was claimed by both the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the First Republic of Armenia when both countries became independent in 1918, but the people of Nagorno-Karabakh always rejected the attempts of Azerbaijan to control the region. After the Sovietization of the three countries of the South Caucasus – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia – by an illegal decision of the ruling body of the region and of Stalin, Nagorno-Karabakh was handed to Azerbaijan, by creating the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO) within the Azerbaijan SSR in 1923. In the final years of the Soviet Union, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh demanded that the region come out of the sovereignty of Azerbaijan. In 1991 a referendum held in NKAO and the neighboring Shahumian region resulted in a declaration of independence. The aggression of the armed forces of Azerbaijan resulted in large-scale conflicts which led to the 1991-1994 Nagorno-Karabakh war which ended with a cease-fire in May 1994. Today the OSCE Minsk Group

and its co-chairs, USA, Russia and France have the mandate to find a solution to the conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Foreign Relations: The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is an unrecognized republic. In November 2012, the chairman of the National Assembly of Uruguay Uruguay's foreign relations committee stated that his country could recognize Nagorno-Karabakh's independence¹. NKR is a member of one international organization: the Community for Democracy and Human Rights, also commonly known as the Commonwealth of Unrecognized States, or less commonly as CIS-2 (CHF-2).

Government: Nagorno-Karabakh is a presidential democracy. The executive power primarily belongs to the President who is elected for a five-year term and can hold the post for two terms only.

After the new Constitution adopted on 20 February, 2017 the post of the prime-minister is abolished, thus the President of the Republic receiving his responsibilities as the head of the executive power. The election of the President and the National Assembly are hold the same day.

The National Assembly of Nagorno-Karabakh is the parliament, forming a unicameral legislature. It has 33 members who are elected for 5-year terms. The chairman of National Assembly (NA) is currently Ashot Ghulyan from Democratic Party of Artsakh (DPA).

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has a multi-party system; as of 2009, the American NGO Freedom House ranks the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic as partly free.

On February 20, 2017 Referendum on the Drafted Constitution of Artsakh republic took place.

¹ In 2012 the Parliament of New South Wales, an Australian state, called upon the Australian government to recognise Nagorno-Karabakh. In May 2012, the Rhode Island House of Representatives in the United States passed a resolution calling on President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. On August 2012, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a similar resolution. In April 2013, the Maine House of Representatives and Senate in the United States passed a resolution accepting Nagorno Karabakh's independence and urging President Barack Obama to also accept Nagorno Karabakh's independence. In May 2013, the Louisiana State Senate in the United States passed a resolution accepting Nagorno Karabakh's independence and expressed support for the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's efforts to develop as a free and independent nation. In May 2014, the California State Assembly passed a measure recognizing Nagorno-Karabakh's independence with a 70-1 vote. The measure also calls for President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. In March 2016 the State of Georgia officially recognised the independence of Nagorno Karabakh – Republic, Artsakh. In Europe, the Basque Country has officially recognised the right to self determination of Karabakh.

Central Electoral Commission (CEC) reported about 76% of turnout. 87.6% of eligible voters voted in favor of the drafted constitutional amendments, 9.7% opposed. Around 70 international observers assessed the referendum.

EAFJD deployed a team of 8-member highly experienced independent team of short-term observers from Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom, Latvia and Romania to observe the referendum on the drafted Constitution of Artsakh.

All ten delegates with an extensive experience of long-term and short-term election observation missions with OSCE/ODIHR, UN, EU, the Carter Centre mentioned the high level of awareness of the population about the voting procedures, as well as the competence and professionalism of commission members referring to the majority of the election committee members. According to the mission, the electoral procedures were—in general—executed in an efficient way and in correspondence with the electoral law, despite several irregularities that did not influence the general outcome of the referendum. The electoral authorities succeeded in organizing a referendum day in a professional and transparent manner. The elections fulfilled the criteria enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and OSCE 1990 Copenhagen Document – the fundamental documents used to measure the state of democracy in established states.”

The STOs deployed by EAFJD visited 48 polling precincts across all 11 constituencies.

This was the second time when EAFJD deployed a team of professional independent observers to assess the electoral processes in Nagorno Karabakh, the first being the Parliamentary elections of 2015. EAFJD team of 10 STOs assessed the electoral processes in 57 polling precincts across 11 constituencies. They reported calm, transparent and orderly implementation of the elections.

Sites of Interest

Stepanakert

Territory- 25,6 km²

Population- 52,310 (as of the year of 2010)

Stepanakert is the administrative center of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. It is the seat of the president of the Republic. The National Assembly, as well as the government and all

the ministries and governmental departments, state and public organizations are located in the city.

According to medieval Armenian sources, the settlement was first mentioned as Vararakn (meaning "rapid spring" in Armenian), a name that remained in use until 1847, when it was renamed Khankendi. In 1923 Khankendi was renamed Stepanakert by the Soviet government to honor Armenian communist politician Stepan Shahumyan. During the war, the city suffered immense damage from Azerbaijani bombardment, especially in early 1992 when Azerbaijanis used the town of Shushi as an artillery firebase to fire GRAD missiles against it. The Azerbaijani military staged several ground attacks against the city, which were successfully repulsed by Armenian forces. It was not until May 9, 1992, with the capture of Shushi, that the ground bombardment ceased.

Important sites of interest include:

We Are Our Mountains: It is also called (Tatik-Papik) "Grandma and Grandpa"; the memorial features an elderly Artsakh couple, representing the mountain people of Karabakh. It is widely regarded as a symbol of the Armenian heritage of Nagorno-Karabakh. The monument was built in 1965 from volcanic tufa stone.

TUMO (Center for Creative Technologies)

TUMO is a digital media learning center based in Yerevan with branches in Gyumri and Dilijan, Armenia. Since its opening in 2011, TUMO has provided thousands of students aged 12–18 a free-of-charge education in filmmaking, photography, animation, programming, robotics and much more. In September 2015, a new TUMO branch was opened in Stepanakert.

The Halo Trust

The British Halo Trust is the only international organization (apart from the Red Cross) operating in Nagorno Karabakh. Halo organizes clearing ups of the mine fields, which remain a major problem for Karabakh, as it has one of the world's highest per capita mine casualty rates. Currently the organization cleared up 85% of all minefields in the territory by destroying over 11,000 mines, 12,000 cluster bombs and 47,800 items of ordnance.

Shushi

Territory-382,7 km²

Population-5599 (as of 2013)

Density-11.34 km²

History: According to several sources, a settlement called Shushi served as an ancient fortress in the Armenian principality of Varanda, and had traditionally belonged to the Melik-Shahnazarian princely dynasty. Shushi has been a cradle of culture and education throughout Armenian history, giving birth to many Armenian intellectuals.

The liberation of Shushi by Armenian forces was the first significant military victory by Armenian forces during the Nagorno-Karabakh War. Shushi was strategically the most important stronghold that Azerbaijan held in Nagorno-Karabakh-its loss marked a turning point in the war and led a series of military victories by Armenian forces in the course of the conflict.

Important sites of interest include:

-Ghazanchetsots Cathedral (1868-1887) is one of the largest Armenian temples in the world – with the **Church of Holy Saviour** called also Ghazanchetsots, with height about 40 meters. Large statues of angels blowing trumpets, the symbol of present day Shushi, stood at each corner of the bell tower's second story. However, they were destroyed during the Nagorno-Karabakh War when Shushi was under Azerbaijani control. During the Nagorno Karabakh War, Azerbaijani forces used the cathedral as a GRAD munitions storehouse until May 1992, when Shushi was liberated.

-Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Artsakh

The museum was founded in 2013 and it consists of gifts only. It hosts art works by Armenian and international painters. A special place is given to the canvases of Artsakh artists. In past, the building of the museum was used an old coaching inn. Annually, there is a symposium of sculptors being held here; the artworks are exhibited in the small park next to the museum.

Gandzasar monastery

Meaning *treasure mountain* or *hilltop treasure* in Armenian, Gandzasar is the seat of the Archbishop of Artsakh. The monastery was founded in 1216 by Prince Hasan Jalal Vahtangian, a powerful Armenian ruler. Gandzasar is a walled abbey with both ecclesiastical and non-ecclesiastical buildings, the centerpiece of which is the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (it is believed that the monastery holds relics belonging to the saint and his father St. Zechariah). It was in Gandzasar, where the 13th century the scholar Mkhitar Gosh worked on his "Code of Laws," Armenia's first comprehensive compilation of civil legal regulations. Gandzasar also had a large scriptorium where ancient

manuscripts were reproduced and illuminated. Nowadays the Artsakh branch of Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts is located next to the monastery complex.

Dadivank Monastic complex

The monastic complex of Dadivank was constructed in 9th -13th centuries. According to the legend the monastery was founded by St. Dadi, a disciple of Apostle Thaddeus, who preached Christianity in Eastern Armenia during the first century AD. The relics of the saints were buried under the altar of the church.

The princes of Upper Khachen, medieval Armenian principality, were also buried in the narthex of the church. One of the jewels of the complex are the murals of the church of Arzu Khatun, built in the 13th century. Some of the murals were created by the duchess herself. During period under the Azerbaijani SSR, the complex was heavily damaged; the construction works are carried out till today.

Dignitaries to meet

Artsakh- Nagorno Karabakh Republic

Bako Sahakyan, President of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic



Bako Sahakyan (born on 30 August 1960 in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh) is the fourth President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. In 1988 Mr. Sahakyan became one of the activists of the Artsakh national liberation movement and joined Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense forces in 1990. Prior to becoming the President of Nagorno-Karabakh Mr. Sahakyan served as the interior minister of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in 1999-2001 and led the Nagorno-Karabakh security service from 2001 to June 2007. On 19 July 2012 Mr. Sahakyan was re-elected for a second five-year term, receiving around two-third of the votes.

Ashot Ghoulyan, Chairman of the National Assembly

Ashot Ghoulyan was born on 19 August, 1965 in the village of Khndzristan, Askeran region, Nagorno-Karabakh. In 1990 Mr. Ghoulyan graduated from the History Department of Stepanakert Pedagogical Institute, acquiring the profession of historian-lawyer. In the period of 1995-2005 he held senior



posts, including NKR Minister of Foreign Affairs and NKR Minister of Education, Culture and Sport. In May 2015 Mr. Ghoulyan was elected Chairman of the NKR National Assembly of the 6th convocation, this being his 3rd term as the Chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Parliament.

Masis Mayilyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs



Masis Mayilyan was born on 14 September, 1967 in Stepanakert. He graduated from Yerevan State Pedagogical Institute, gaining a degree in Social Psychology. In 1998 Mr. Mayilyan graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. In the period of 1993-2001 he held various positions in the NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1993 to 1997, as a member of the NKR delegation, Mr. Mayilyan participated in

negotiations for the resettlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Azerbaijan, led by the OSCE. In the period of 2001-2008. In 2008 he founded the Public Council on Artsakh foreign policy and security think tank and has been leading it since then. Mr. Mayilyan held the position of the Deputy Minister of NKR Foreign Affairs. He was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in September 2017.

Narine Aghabalyan, Minister of Education, Science and Sports



Narine Aghabalyan was born on December 27, 1967 in Stepanakert. In 1990 she graduated from the philological department of Artsakh State Pedagogical Institute. From 1988 on she has been working at Artsakh State Television up to 2004 when she joined Public Television Company of Armenia in Artsakh as a reporter. Ms. Aghabalyan founded "Tsir Katin" studio in 2005 and in 2009 she was appointed Artsakh Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs. Ms. Aghabalyan held this post up to 2017, when she was appointed Minister of Education, Science and Sports.

Sergey Shahverdyan, Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Tourism



Sergey Shahverdyan was born on February 11, 1966 in Stepanakert. He graduated from the Pedagogical Institute of Stepanakert. In the period of 1992-1995 he held senior positions in the central committee office of ARF Dashnaksutyun Stepanakert office, including head of ARF press and information office. In the period of 2000-2005 Mr. Shahverdyan held senior posts at NKR Central Electoral Committee including deputy chairman of the CEC. From 2008 to 2017 he held the position of the head of Tourism Department of NKR Government. Mr. Shahverdyan was appointed Minister of Culture, Youth Affairs and Tourism in September 2017.

Ruben Melikyan, Ombudsman/Human Rights Defender

Ruben Melikyan was born on 26 June, 1982 in Yerevan. He graduated from the Department of Law of Yerevan State University in 2003 and in 2006 gained his PhD degree. He also studied international law and diplomacy in Fletcher School, Tufts University as Tavitian fellow. In the period of 2013-2016 Mr. Melikyan held senior posts



as Rector of Armenian Academy of Justice and Deputy Minister of Justice of Armenia. In May 2016 Mr. Ruben Melikyan was elected Ombudsman by NKR National Assembly.

Maps



