

Information on Armenian Forces in Kazakhstan

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1 attachments (156 KB)

Democratic Armenia's Peacekeepers in Kazakhstan[2].pdf;

Good Morning,

BGR Group represents the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. I am writing today to share the attached statement from the Embassy on Armenia's recent deployment, alongside Russian forces, to repress protests in Kazakhstan.

Both the U.S. State Department and organizations like Human Rights Watch have raised serious concerns over Kazakhstan President Tokayev inviting in foreign forces and issuing shoot-to-kill orders against protesters.

Please let me know if you have any questions about Armenia's involvement in Kazakhstan, or if you would like to engage further with the Embassy on Azerbaijan's commitment to regional stability.

All my best,

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“Democratic” Armenia’s CSTO “Peacekeepers” in Kazakhstan to suppress political unrest

After the political unrest in Kazakhstan since January 2, 2022 and following the request by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to quell protests portrayed as a “terrorist threat,” on January 5 the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) agreed to send troops to help the Kazakh government.¹

The CSTO’s chair, Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan, granted Tokayev’s request for assistance within hours — following consultations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko. It was ironic as Pashinyan, as a leader who took power through mass protests in Armenia,² and attended the recent “Democracy Summit,” has authorized use of military force to quash protests in another nation.

While Pashinyan referred to “*external interference*” in Kazakhstan in a Facebook post announcing the deployment, according to experts, there is no evidence to suggest that foreign actors were involved in stirring unrest.³

In justifying this decision **Armen Grigoryan, the secretary of Armenia’s Security Council**, told that “*First of all, it’s a matter of responsibility, if Armenia has an interest in the CSTO mechanisms functioning, and the answer is a clear yes.*” Moreover, he said that “*it is not a revolutionary process but a terrorist one, you have seen the videos of armed men.*”⁴

As CSTO troops are deployed and President Kasym-Jomart Tokaev ordered “*to shoot to kill without warning*” against the protestors, wide-ranging concerns have been expressed.⁵

Moreover, on January 10, 2022, during the extraordinary session of the CSTO Collective Security Council Prime Minister Pashinyan as a chair of the organization noted that the threat in Kazakhstan is from “*international terrorist organizations.*” He has also noted that “*one of the key priorities of Armenia’s presidency in the CSTO is the strengthening of crisis response mechanisms.*”⁶

Secretary Blinken has expressed caution against the CSTO troops in Kazakhstan. He particularly emphasized that “*when it comes to the CSTO, we have questions about the nature of the request, why it came about. We’re seeking to learn more about it. It would seem to me that the Kazakh authorities and government certainly have the capacity to deal appropriately with protests, to do so in a way that respects the rights of protesters while maintaining law and order. So, it’s not clear why they feel the need for any outside assistance, so we’re trying to learn more about it.*” “*Having said that, I think one lesson in recent history is that once Russians are in your house, it’s sometimes very difficult to get them to leave.*”⁷

¹ <https://eurasianet.org/csto-agrees-to-intervene-in-kazakhstan-unrest>;
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/01/09/kazakhstan-called-assistance-why-did-russia-dispatch-troops-so-quickly/>

² <https://eurasianet.org/armenians-take-dim-view-of-deployment-to-kazakhstan>

³ <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/01/07/kazakhstan-russian-alliance-collective-security-treaty-organization/>

⁴ <https://eurasianet.org/armenians-take-dim-view-of-deployment-to-kazakhstan>

⁵ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/07/kazakhstan-cancel-shoot-without-warning-order>

⁶ <https://www.primeminister.am/en/press-release/item/2022/01/10/Nikol-Pashinyan-CSTO/>

⁷ <https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-a-press-availability-11/>