

March 31, 2023

## DISSEMINATION BY THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC

### FARA registration# 6344

The Livingston Group (TLG) represents the National Democratic Alliance of Armenia (NDA), the largest pro-Western political party in Armenia. I am outreaching to you on behalf of NDA.

In particular, I would like to request a meeting with you, or one of your counterparts, on behalf of Lt. Col. Jirayr Sefilian, a senior NDA leader, who will be visiting Washington, DC.

The purpose of the visit is to establish relations with relevant officials in the Administration, Congress, and think-tank community and explore how the NDA can help strengthen relations between the United States and Armenia and counter the malign influence of Russia in Armenia. The NDA also wants to significantly strengthen ties between Armenia and the European Union, as well as with U.S. allies and partners.

By way of background, Lt. Col. Sefilian is a well-known political and military leader in Armenia, having had a key role in the 1991-94 Artsakh War, specifically during the Battle of Shushi, before resigning from his position of a Brigade Commander in 1998 citing corruption and mismanagement in Armenia's armed forces.

The Washington Post made reference to Lt. Col. Sefilian in a 2018 article by David Ignatius, which stated: "Sefilian would be a candidate for defense minister if Pashinyan succeeds in forming a new government, though his strong pro-Western sympathies might antagonize Moscow."

Noteworthy facts about NDA's recent activities, under Lt. Col. Sefilian's leadership, include:

(1) Following the Russian occupation of Ukraine in February 2022, NDA was the first political organization in Armenia to raise the Ukrainian flag during a large anti-war rally in Yerevan, which ended at the Embassy of Russia. Subsequent interviews given to popular Ukrainian news channels cemented NDA's pro-Ukrainian credentials.

(2) NDA staunchly opposes Russian presence in Armenia and has repeatedly called for "de-occupation of Armenia" as a prerequisite for the country's democratization, development, and security. Members of the Russian official propaganda machine (most notably, Vladimir Solovyov) have repeatedly called on the government of Armenia to imprison NDA's leaders for their "anti-Russian" activities and rhetoric.

(3) NDA wants to remove Armenia from the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), secure Armenia as Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States, and establish close U.S.-Armenia defense ties.

The attachments contained in this email include a biography of Lt. Col. Sefilian, as well as a one-pager on NDA.

With apologies for short notice, I would be grateful for your consideration of my request and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

The Livingston Group, LLC

THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC PROVIDES REPRESENTATION FOR THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE OF ARMENIA, A PRO-WESTERN POLITICAL PARTY IN ARMENIA. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC.