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**DISSEMINATION BY THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC**

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The Livingston Group represents the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Armenia's largest pro-Western party.

NDA is concerned with the current direction of the Government of Armenia under Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan toward revived connections with Russia. See below NDA Brief.

We welcome your consideration of their brief, and the opportunity to discuss it at your earliest convenience.

**NDA Brief –**

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's widely publicized visit to St. Petersburg, Russia on December 25, 2023 to attend the summit of supreme leaders of Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) countries demonstrates a backtracking from his previously signaled rhetoric of moving toward the West.

Following the Prime Minister's meeting with President Vladimir Putin, Pashinyan agreed to Armenia's Chairmanship of the Eurasian Economic Union in 2024, which represents a challenge to Western sanctions against Russia. Pashinyan's judiciary also immediately dropped charges against the main pro-Russian opposition politician, former President Robert Kocharyan, which signals a moratorium on domestic disagreements with Moscow.

Armenia continues to be a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization and to host Russian military bases. Armenia's military and intelligence establishments also remain under heavy Russian control, including through formal arrangements such as joint air-defense and border guards.

By contrast, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) – Armenia's largest pro-Western political party – is willing to openly 'choose' sides with the West and its partners. NDA staunchly opposes Russian presence in Armenia. Furthermore, it is actively engaging the United States. NDA leaders have visited Washington, DC to establish contacts with senior US Government officials. NDA also was the first political organization in Armenia to raise the Ukrainian flag during a large anti-war rally in Yerevan in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

There is a concern that Pashinyan, with Russia's encouragement, may try to neutralize or undermine any true pro-Western players in Armenia. With some NDA leaders – including our party's former candidate for Prime Minister in the 2021 election, Varuzhan Avetisyan, and his lawyer, Mushegh Shushanyan – behind bars, Pashinyan could use the support of the Russian intelligence services to make further advances against our leaders and activists. There are already documented instances of police brutality against NDA supporters and peaceful protesters.

The United States and its partners should signal to the Pashinyan administration that any infringement on the rights of democratic pro-Western opposition in Armenia will not be tolerated.

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