

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's Attack on the Armenian Apostolic Church May - July 2025

Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has unleashed an unholy attack on the Armenian Apostolic Church, the country's oldest institution, with roots going back to 301 A.D. This unprecedented assault by the government on the country's moral foundation and stabilizing institution is a calculated attempt to undermine the very foundation of Armenian heritage and unity. *It is eerily reminiscent of Soviet repressions.*

PM Pashinyan's war is vastly widening the gap between his government and the Armenian people, resulting in an 8.2% approval rating. This recent attacks started on Friday, May 30, 2025, when he posted a series of abusive and vulgar Facebook statements against Catholicos of all Armenians, Garegin II, calling for his forced removal. Catholicos Garegin II (Karekin II) is the titular head of the Armenian Apostolic church located in Etchmiadzin.

Following the verbal attacks, the Prime Minister has dramatically escalated his crackdown, arresting and detaining two high ranking archbishops and numerous clergy members.

On June 25, 2025, Prime Minister Pashinyan had Archbishop Bagrat Galstanyan arrested alongside 13 others over an alleged coup plot. This act is seen as retaliation against the Armenian Apostolic Church as the Church has been largely outspoken against Pashinyan's concessions of land and lack of demanding justice for the Armenian people. Galstanyan is responsible for organizing and leading protests calling for Pashinyan's resignation in 2023 after 4 border towns had been conceded to Azerbaijan.

On June 28, 2025, Archbishop Mikael Ajapahyan was arrested also over the alleged coup plot. He is now being held in pre-trial detention for two months and his lawyer Ara Zohrabyan calls the decision "obviously illegal and unfounded."

On July 20, 2025, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called for the resignation of the Catholicos on Facebook, claiming it is time to free Veharan, referring to him by his lay name in an attempt to demoralize the leader of the Church and his followers. Pashinyan planned and executed a gathering in Etchmiadzin, the Mother See of the Armenian Apostolic Church, to place pressure on the Catholicos, saying "Be ready."

The same day, The Armenian Apostolic Church released a statement condemning Pashinyan's actions against the Catholicos. They affirm they will not waver in their mission and emphasize

the failure of Pashinyan as leader of the country, leaving them vulnerable to external political forces.

On July 23, 2025, Prime Minister Pashinyan posted on Facebook the need for the purification of the Church and outlined the standards the new leader should meet. To accomplish this, Pashinyan created the ["Veharan is great" movement](#) which he leads himself, asserting he meets the very criteria he established.

These frightening developments are understood by Armenian experts to be the calculated destruction of the last bastions of resistance to the Turkification of Armenia. They further believe that Armenia and its church are on the brink of extinction – an outcome they view as nothing short of catastrophic.

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