



The National Democratic Alliance of Armenia

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is the largest pro-Western center-right political party in Armenia established in 2020 by a group of political and civil society leaders and ruled by the Governing Council. NDA believes that Armenia should be a sovereign, democratic, and viable nation state able to withstand drastically changing global and regional challenges. Its ideology hinges on social conservative values, advocating for rule-based forms of governance and upholding traditional family values rooted in Christianity. NDA favors private property rights and free markets, while advocating for trade policies that would protect Armenia's national security and other strategic interests.

Armenia's Current Political Leadership: Who is Nikol Pashinyan and Why He Should be Replaced

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's administration took power in 2018 and was widely hailed as Armenia's path to escaping its Soviet past. However, the lack of reform, loss of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) in 2020, and territorial concessions to Azerbaijan have left a significant part of his former supporters disappointed and angry and eroded trust in his leadership. Armenia is in a state of deep national crisis with Pashinyan's approval rating at 8.2% as of June 27, 2025, the lowest of any world leader.

Faced by military aggression from Azerbaijan, nearly 120,000 ethnic Armenians of Artsakh were forced to flee their ancestral homeland on foot by the end of September 2023, in what was classified by independent scholars as a genocide. Some ethnic Armenian leaders of Artsakh were arrested and are currently being kept as prisoners of war (POWs) in Azerbaijan. In May 2024, Pashinyan handed over several border villages to Azerbaijan, prompting protests calling for his resignation.

Compounding the situation, Pashinyan launched a vile campaign of verbal abuse against the Armenian Apostolic Church in May 2025 over a series of Facebook posts, which can be understood as a desperate effort to degrade its leadership and gain control. Instead, this abusive attack on the institution, in which the people of Armenia rest their trust and identity, has provoked an outcry of fury.

The Pashinyan administration has largely kept Armenia within the Russian sphere of influence, expressed formally in terms of the latter's membership in the political (Commonwealth of Independent States), defense (Collective Security Treaty Organization), and economic (Eurasian Economic Union) blocs. The soft power tools deployed by the Kremlin to keep the successive Armenian governments in check have been just as elaborate and effective. These policies have effectively turned Armenia into a geopolitical appendix, a geo-economic "dead-end" with practically no prospects of revival.

Armenia has faced pressure from Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Russia after the 2020 ceasefire to alter their constitution and remove mention of territorial concerns for fear of offending Azerbaijan. Furthermore, Pashinyan agreed to forget Armenian POWs in Azerbaijan, the return of Armenians to the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and recognition of the Armenian genocide completely. Pashinyan has failed to properly protect Armenia from Azerbaijan, neglecting his duties as Prime Minister.

The trilateral “peace deal” occurring on August 8 between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the United States, has allowed Azerbaijan to continue its aggression and pressure Armenia to concede their territory and sovereignty. Following the peace deal, Prime Minister Pashinyan formally announced the need to “not continue the Karabakh movement” in order to achieve long lasting peace.

NDA’s Position on the Trilateral Peace Agreement

On August 10, NDA shared a statement on the Trilateral Peace Agreement, expressing protest against the terms of the agreement, “reaffirming that the party representing Armenia is not a legitimate representative of the Armenian people and does not pursue Armenian interests.” With the agreed upon terms between the three parties, there is no accountability for Azerbaijan’s aggression and determination to erase crucial aspects of Armenia’s history and culture.

Moreover, the agreed upon peace deal allows for Azerbaijan to continue its aggression and military buildup, now without the handcuffs of the Freedom Support Act’s Section 907, which in the past has prevented direct US assistance to Azerbaijan due to its aggression against Armenia. Furthermore, there is no plan to allow for the ethnic Armenians to return to Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian POWs to return to Armenia. With the expected dissolution of the OSCE Minsk Group, no international body is expected to deal with these and other core issues underlying the conflict. NDA is happy to work with the Trump Administration to help address these issues as preconditions for a lasting peace.

NDA’s Solution: Strengthening Armenia’s Security and Sovereignty to Achieve Genuine Peace

Pashinyan’s government has failed to provide the necessary underpinnings for a lasting and dignified peace. His constant acquiescing to the regime in Baku and its patrons in Moscow and Ankara has undermined Armenia’s sovereignty and failed to protect Armenia from constant attacks. NDA believes that the “peace agreement” between Armenia and Azerbaijan is one-sided and was imposed upon Armenia under duress. The current strategy of appeasement, whereby Armenia agreed to relinquish its sovereignty over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, amend its constitution, and “relinquish legal disputes and claims against Azerbaijan in international courts, including ongoing cases of human rights violations and war crimes”, is destined to fail. The agreement virtually guarantees Azerbaijan will continue the genocide against Armenians with no accountability.

Peace can only come through strength; re-establishing the balance of power between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In addition to the rule of law and good governance, democratic countries have strong armed forces (or memberships in military alliances) to defend themselves against authoritarian neighbors and aggressors. It is key to regional stability and democratic governance for Armenia and the re-establishing of the security balance with Azerbaijan.

NDA's solution to re-establishing security in the ongoing conflict is that Armenia must be allowed to rebuild its defenses and other strategic deterrence mechanisms, including securing the status of a **Major Non-Nato Ally of the US**. At this very moment, the United States is perfectly positioned to support Armenia on the world stage as it has already begun to do. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, called PM Pashinyan on March 25, 2025, emphasizing the need for peace and security in the South Caucasus. The United States introduced H. Res. 1327 in June 2024, condemning Azerbaijan for the "ethnic cleansing campaign" they carried out.

The recent trilateral agreement places the United States in a beneficial spot, allowing them to place the necessary pressure on Azerbaijan to release the Armenian POWs and work to attain genuine and long-lasting peace. The current agreement is a step in the right direction and requires the strength and diligence of the United States to achieve accountability and justice.

Once a balance of power is re-established, the final solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem should only be reached through legal means and diplomacy, once again facilitated by the OSCE Minsk Group, co-chaired by the US, France, and Russia. NDA believes that Armenia has a strong enough case to win this dispute using international law and is prepared to rally the nation and Armenia's partners abroad to this end.