

On Wednesday, October 15, 2025, Armenia Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan took another step in cracking down on his political opponents. His government arrested [Bishop Mkritich Poshyan, the third Bishop in the campaign of arrests of high level clergy and detained 12 priests in his diocese.](#)

Pashinyan arrested billionaire businessman Samvel Karapetyan back on June 18. His lawyer, [Robert Amsterdam, held a press conference on Tuesday](#) exposing the unlawful circumstances surrounding Mr. Karapetyan's detainment, imprisonment, and the Armenian government's appropriation of his electric company. Karapetyan was jailed on charges of trying to overturn the government and for making a public statement in support of the Armenian Church.

The Armenian Apostolic Church, the oldest institution in the country that was established in 301 A.D. when Armenia became the first Christian country, has been the main target of Pashinyan's crackdown.

Last week Archbishop Mikayel Ajapahyan [was sentenced](#) to two years in prison over an alleged coup plot. His lawyer calls the arrest "obviously illegal and unfounded."

On June 25, 2025, Pashinyan had [Archbishop Bagrat Galstanyan arrested](#) alongside 13 others as retaliation against the church who has been outspoken against Pashinyan's surrender of land in Nagorno-Karabakh to Azerbaijan and for abandoning Armenian citizens to brutal conditions and ignoring the genocide of its people.

The crackdown on the Church is detailed in [this opinion editorial](#) that questions the motive of the Prime Minister and concerns by Armenians who believe his authoritarian tactics and silencing opponents is contrary to their historical and cultural heritage.

For more information or to schedule an interview with internationally renowned scholar and Kennedy School of Government fellow, David Grigorian, please contact Diana Banister 703-282-7320.