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NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE
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Tel: +37411-785-657; E-mail: natdemalliance@gmail.com;
Website: <https://www.ajbever.com>

To: **XXXXXX**

Re: **Human Rights Abuses, Fake Narratives, and Armenia's Slide to Authoritarianism**

December 22, 2025

Dear **Mr./Ms. YYYY**:

We write to you on behalf of Armenia's largest pro-Western party regarding the increasingly troubling developments in Armenia at a moment of profound national and regional consequence.

In June 2026, Armenians will return to the polls to elect a new Parliament and Prime Minister. Yet the national landscape is marked by mounting instability, a government-led assault on the Armenian Apostolic Church, and a widespread use of authoritarian methods of the ruling government.

Arrests and intimidation of journalists have become a common place; penalties for exercising free speech have reached thousands of US dollars; politically motivated use of tax inspections and other forms of administrative harassment of opponents by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and his government have reached unprecedented dimensions by Armenia's standards.

One of the most striking demonstrations of this authoritarian drift is Pashinyan's confrontation with the Armenian Apostolic Church, the country's oldest and most respected institution. By pursuing a public feud with the Church, he seeks to discredit a long-standing and trusted pillar of national identity, using division as a distraction from his own political shortcomings.

This campaign included the detention of three Archbishops, a Bishop, and church supporters, including its biggest benefactor, billionaire Samvel Karapetyan, whose Electricity Networks of Armenia company was nationalized by Pashinyan government following his arrest. This case exemplifies the broader targeting of clergy, opposition figures, journalists, and civic leaders many of whom have faced political pressure, prosecution, or arrests in the hands of Pashinyan-controlled law enforcement apparatus and judiciary. He has once famously noted that no judge in the country will disobey his orders.

There is growing apprehension among political opposition and civil society—as also expressed in a recent report issued by the Armenian affiliate of the Transparency International—that Pashinyan is prepared to compromise the integrity of the forthcoming election. He has refused to reform Armenia's Central Election Commission, which had raised election fraud in the country to levels unseen in countries outside of North Korea, Azerbaijan, and Russia. While the former notorious chair of the Commission was allowed to serve through critical election in 2021—where Pashinyan's ability to be re-elected after signing of the capitulation in the war with Azerbaijan on November 9, 2020 essentially secured his physical survival—Pashinyan replaced him in October 2022 with an unqualified ruling party loyalist, contrary to the established standard of appointment of an independent chair.

Forced voting by civil service employees, law enforcement personnel, and military (using mechanisms that effectively negate the secrecy of their vote), ballot stuffing, carousel voting, fraudulent accounting, registering phantom opposition parties, as well as massive use of

administrative apparatus and budgetary resources as election bribes are among the ways the incumbent regimes in Armenia have used extensively to their advantage. Pashinyan and his party are certain to use many of these tactics in June 2026 to compensate for their very low approval rating.

Compounding these concerns is the increasingly erratic nature of Pashinyan's public rhetoric. His confrontations with the Church have included statements and behavior widely regarded as inappropriate for a head of government, further undermining confidence in his judgement and mental stability.

People from across Armenia are deeply dissatisfied with Pashinyan's leadership and believe that the nation is drifting in the wrong direction. A recent survey showed that nearly three-quarters of citizens are now struggling with poverty, while Pashinyan's approval rating is as low as 13 per cent, apparently one of the lowest of any head of government in the world.

A significant factor in dissatisfaction with his governance is the sense that Pashinyan has been unwilling or unable to safeguard Armenia's national security and sovereignty during a period of exceptional geopolitical vulnerability. Armenia now confronts the coordinated pressure of Russia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan—three powers whose cooperation threatens the country's existence.

Armenia's loss of the Nagorno-Karabakh (or Artsakh, in Armenian), its main strategic defense buffer, in 2020 and the subsequent exodus of its 120,000 Armenian population in 2023 remains a national trauma. Pashinyan has attempted simultaneously to deny responsibility and deflect blame, while many view the Church's firm stance on this tragedy as a principal catalyst for his feud with the clergy. These events marked Pashinyan's turn toward authoritarianism, with arrests of opposition leaders, including NDA's own Varuzhan Avetisyan, and an unprecedented build-up of Soviet-style police apparatus.

This defeat has also emboldened renewed calls (supported by Russia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan) for the creation of a "Zangezur corridor" through Armenian sovereign territory, a proposal widely understood as a pretext for further coercion or conflict. Despite pre-signing of the peace agreement in Washington on August 8, Azeri leadership has ratcheted up its bellicose rhetoric against Armenia and continues to refer to much of its territory as "Western Azerbaijan," openly asserting intentions to populate it with 300,000 of their own citizens.

Turkey, meanwhile, continues to deny the Armenian Genocide, a calculated provocation paired with unwavering military and political backing for Azerbaijan, including during the 2020 war in Nagorno-Karabakh. Pashinyan has now expressed readiness to "re-access events that led to the genocide," as a concession he is willing to make to normalize relations with Turkey. Turkey's leadership in the meantime has been transparent in its new-Ottoman aspirations that include absorbing today's Armenia.

At the same time, Russia—which is aligned with Azerbaijan and Turkey on key strategic issues—continues to exert deep influence within Armenia. Armenia remains a member of the Russia-controlled political, economic, and security organizations, and substantial segments of Armenia's economy remain in the hands of Russian companies and pro-Russian oligarchs. This dependency has only intensified under Pashinyan's tenure, and Armenia has played a key role in facilitating Russia's evasion of Western sanctions since the start of the war in Ukraine. This is not surprising, given Russia's role—widely known in Armenia—in installing Pashinyan in power in 2018. In fact, Pashinyan has visited Russia more than eighty times since 2018 and just days ago sent Christmas greetings on social media from Moscow.

A weakened or authoritarian Armenia creates a dangerous vacuum in a region already shaped by the aggressive ambitions of Russia, Turkey, and Azerbaijan. This also puts the

vision for the August 8th peace deal in jeopardy: commerce and economic development do not happen in an environment with heightened geopolitical risk.

Armenia now stands at a crossroads. It faces the very real prospect of irreparable democratic backsliding with sizable election fraud and abuse of public resources to help engineer a desired outcome. Armenia's election in the hands of the Pashinyan regime will be an unequivocal blow to the right of people of Armenia and the survival of the state.

The stakes could not be higher.


The months leading up to June 2026 will determine whether Armenia descends into a cycle of repression, instability, and geopolitical vulnerability or moves toward democratic consolidation and a meaningful geopolitical pivot toward the West, consistent with aspirations of its people and its own record of the 1990s.

The West must stand firmly on the side of democracy, liberty, and the rule of law in Armenia, instead of throwing all their support behind a rotten Prime Minister. With your principled support, it is still possible to prevent Armenia from becoming a Putin- and Erdogan-style authoritarian regime and ensure that Armenia remains a sovereign democratic state.

Therefore, as a matter of great urgency, we are calling on you to work closely with the National Democratic Alliance and other pro-western democratic opposition parties *inter alia* to help secure a professional, independent, and well-funded election monitoring effort and help put Armenia in the spotlight of your governments, civil society organizations, and international media, all as part of a clear message to the Pashinyan regime that election fraud and subsequent brutality against protesters will not be tolerated.

We thank you very much in advance for your attention and support and look forward to hearing from you regarding a meeting to discuss these developments and potential policy options.

Yours Respectfully,



Lt. Colonel (ret.) Jirayr Sefilian
Chairman
Governing Board



Ambassador (ret.) Ara Papian
Vice Chairman
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This material is distributed by Sovereign Global Solutions on behalf of National Democratic Alliance of Armenia. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.



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