

## Lettre ouverte de 4 journalistes indépendants au sujet de la suppression du ministère de la diaspora



Open Letter to Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan

CC:

- Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan
- Armenian Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan
- Armenian Diaspora Minister Mkhitar Hayrapetyan
- Worldwide Armenian media

We, the undersigned independent journalists of the Armenian Diaspora, join our brothers and sisters in Armenia and the Diaspora who have thus far expressed shock and dismay over recent announcements that Armenia's Ministry of the Diaspora will be terminated.

Rather than eliminate this critical Ministry, further developing it is what our Pan-Armenian nation needs most. Doing so would enrich Armenia and its Diaspora and contribute to our collective longevity at a time when our existence as a nation is in great jeopardy by nature of emigration from Armenia and cultural assimilation in the Diaspora.

While the Diaspora has not been blessed with a natural right to participate in Armenia's political affairs, we, the undersigned, oppose this unilateral and self-defeating decision in the strongest terms possible.

Removing the Diaspora Ministry will create greater distance between the peoples of Armenia, Artsakh, Occupied Armenia and the Diaspora. It will make cultural and intellectual exchanges more difficult. It will also curtail financial aid from the Diaspora, which Armenia so desperately needs. It would be the equivalent of committing national suicide. Is this truly what the people of Armenia and Artsakh want?

If the decision to shut down the Ministry is based on financial need, we propose that the funding be sought from the Diaspora and the Ministry itself staffed with individuals from the Diaspora.

Soon after acting Diaspora Minister Mkhitar Hayrapetyan's tour of Diasporan communities following Armenia's "Velvet Revolution," we drafted the following letter. However, we held it for release until the circumstances surrounding the Parliamentary elections reached their conclusion. Having discovered pending plans for the Diaspora Ministry's elimination, we reproduce it below realizing that the content of the letter may not interest the Pashinyan administration.

However, we share it in the hopes that our fellow Western Armenians scattered all over the world will come to agree that we have important work to do that Armenia cannot or will not do and that the points mentioned in the letter can be undertaken by the Diaspora itself. Unfortunately, our survival and ambitions to regain our historic homeland must be sought through avenues other than through the government of present-day Armenia.

If the decision to shut down the Ministry is based upon strategic designs within present-day Armenia, we propose that Diasporans whose ancestors were driven from their ancestral Western Armenia pursue other avenues to gain their representation.

In recent years, new organizations, such as the four listed below, have appeared on the scene. They are:

**The Defense Council of Western Armenia** - <https://western-armenia.org>

**The Government of Western Armenia** - [http://www.western-armenia.eu/stat.gov.wa/en/index\\_en.htm](http://www.western-armenia.eu/stat.gov.wa/en/index_en.htm)

**The Modus Vivendi Center** - <http://modusvivendicenter.org>

**The National Council of Western Armenians** - <http://ncwarmenians.org>

These organizations seek to gain greater visibility and support from Western Armenians scattered all over the globe. We encourage these organizations to introduce themselves to the greater Diaspora, state their goals, describe how their officers were elected and find a way to unite under one umbrella.

Sincerely (in alphabetical order),

- C.K. Garabed, Independent Editor/writer, New Jersey, USA
- Lusin Kasbarian, Independent journalist, New Jersey, USA
- Ludér Sahagian, Independent scholar, Massachusetts, USA

· Jirair Tutunjian, Independent journalist, Toronto, Canada

and our first letter unpublished :

[http://www.armeniapedia.org/wiki/Open\\_Letter\\_to\\_Prime\\_Minister\\_Nikol\\_Pashinyan](http://www.armeniapedia.org/wiki/Open_Letter_to_Prime_Minister_Nikol_Pashinyan)

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Le ministère de la Diaspora faisait un peu double emploi avec le ministère des Affaires Etrangères .

A part des tournées de visites des associations et des remises de diplômes , la diaspora attend des avancées sur les réparations du génocide et que l'Arménie fasse une demande officielle comme vient de l faire Israël , d'indemnisation des Arméniens de la diaspora qui ont tout perdu dans le Génocide des Arméniens par le gouvernement des "Jeunes Turcs" utilisant "l'Organisation Spéciale".

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