

# ACNIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2010

The Armenian Center for National and International Studies



This is the first issue of our new “ACNIS Monthly Newsletter,” a publication that provides a brief summary of our projects, activities and work each month.

## ACNIS PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

### PARTNERING WITH THE ARMENIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



The Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) is working with the Armenian Ministry of Defense (MoD) to compile and publish a new trilingual (Armenian-Russian-Armenian) military/security glossary-dictionary for use by the Armenian Defense Ministry and senior security officials. For this project, ACNIS is working with the Drastamat “Dro” Kanayan Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS).



### CONDUCTING AN ASSESSMENT OF ARMENIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION’S “EASTERN PARTNERSHIP”



The Open Society Institute’s Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative selected ACNIS to conduct a brief “Assessment

Study” on the European Union’s new European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) funding monitoring for Armenia. ACNIS will produce the assessment of Armenia, and has partnered with the Kiev-based “International Centre for Policy Studies” think tank for this project, which also seeks to offer a new monitoring mechanism and provide reliable and objective information.

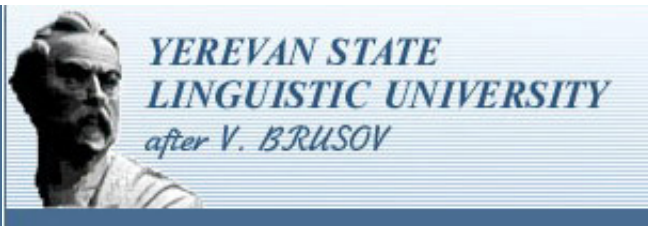
### ACNIS HOSTED SPECIAL “CREATIVE GAME” SEMINAR WITH EURASIA PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION (EPF)



The Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) partnered with ACNIS to convene a special joint “Creative Game” seminar entitled “Bridges and Obstacles in the Modern Region and the World.” The seminar was facilitated by a select group

of experienced trainers and experts, and brought together over fifty participants representing various sectors of Armenian civil society. The activity seminar produced two specific deliverables: a set of policy recommendations and a concrete action plan that is to be appraised and reviewed by major stakeholders in Armenia.

## ACNIS COLLABORATES WITH THE BRUSOV UNIVERSITY



ACNIS is working with the Yerevan State Linguistic University after V. Brusov to offer a series of seminars for Brusov students and faculty focusing

on international organizations. The seminar series, which will commence in February 2010, will offer information on international political and security organizations, economic and trade organizations, and international military and security alliances.

This project is part of a longer-term effort aimed at bolstering the education, knowledge and intellectual involvement of Brusov students, as well as promoting broader public awareness and to enhance our activities within Armenian academia.

## THE ACNIS GENDER PROJECT

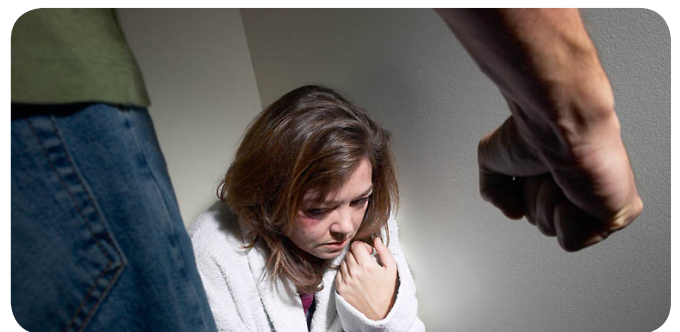


In December 2009, ACNIS launched a new project to assess the social, economic and political aspects of gender equality and to examine the state of women's rights in Armenia. This project seeks to promote awareness of these gender-related issues and expand opportunities for women in Armenia.

ACNIS also seeks to combat domestic violence against women, and raise public awareness of this unacceptable abuse. More broadly, gender issues are especially important during the current period of political and economic reform, in order to implement sustainable policies of gender equity that ensure the active participation and empowerment of

women. And for Armenia, like most countries, the issue of gender equality and the state of women's rights serve as key indicators of the overall development of society and democracy.

The *ACNIS Gender Project* will seek to leverage earlier efforts and pursue the processes of gender equality and empowerment further, which will also help to contribute to the development of a much more equitable and democratic country. Over the longer term, this new *ACNIS Gender Project* also seeks to empower Armenian women, by advocating greater rights, and forging a more active and equitable role for women within society, but also within the workplace, the economy and the educational system in Armenia.



## FORTHCOMING ACNIS PUBLICATIONS

### “ACNIS Almanac of Armenian Politics: 2010”

ACNIS plans to launch a new, first-ever annual publication entitled, “*ACNIS Almanac of Armenian Politics: 2010*,” offering a unique compilation of information, data and general analysis focusing on various aspects and trends in Armenian politics, and offering profiles of government officials, political parties and groups, elections and political institutions.



The “*ACNIS Almanac of Armenian Politics*” will offer a unique and effective resource for understanding politics in the Republic of Armenia. The 2010 edition will also include analysis and updated information on politics in Armenia, including relevant economic and social data; objective analyses of new trends in Armenian politics, such as the issues of campaign financing, political ethics, and campaign advertising; as well as an overview of political parties, with information on their membership, activities and platforms.



## “ACNIS Security and Military Studies”



ACNIS plans to launch a new series of analytical reports entitled, “*ACNIS Security and Military Studies*,” offering a compilation of articles and essays focusing on issues relevant to the development of Armenian national security and defense reform. This unique series of reports, featuring material and analysis by many international and Armenian experts, will be published in a trilingual Armenian, English and Russian format.

“*ACNIS Security and Military Studies*” will be a peer-reviewed publication of ideas and issues devoted to offer a forum for the analysis of national and international security affairs, military strategy, the art and science of warfare, and other topics of specific significance to the formulation of Armenian national security and defense reform. This new series seeks to serve as a unique vehicle for the military education and further professional development of members of the Armenian armed forces and experts affiliated with the Armenian Ministries of Defense and National Security, as well as other state officials and academic experts concerned with national security and military affairs.

### ACNIS PLANS LAUNCH OF NEW WEEKLY VIDEO NEWS BULLETIN SUMMARY WEBCAST VIA YOUTUBE



As part of a larger effort to present innovative analysis and timely information on developments in Armenia and the broader region, ACNIS plans to launch a new weekly video news bulletin summary, offered via the new ACNIS account on YouTube.com and with links available on the ACNIS website ([www.acnis.am/main](http://www.acnis.am/main)).

To be produced each week, the ACNIS webcast video news summary bulletin will offer unique and comprehensive information and analysis in both English and Armenian.



This effort follows a related attempt by ACNIS to leverage alternative media and technology, such as Facebook (where we now have a Facebook “ACNIS Group”) to broaden our global reach and expand the ACNIS profile beyond Armenia’s borders to offer objective news and information to the Diaspora.

## ACNIS STATEMENTS, REPORTS & ARTICLES

### ACNIS CRITICIZED AZERBAIJANI PRESIDENT’S THREATS OF WAR



On January 1, 2010, ACNIS issued a statement criticizing Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s renewed “threats of war.” The statement, entitled “Azerbaijan’s New Year Message:

Wishes for War,” highlighted the fact that in most countries, leaders usually address their people with a traditional New Year’s message that seeks to convey a message of cooperation, peace and prosperity. But in the case of Azerbaijan, this New Year’s message was one of war. Sadly, the militant threats and aggressive rhetoric emanating from Baku was a disturbing message for Yerevan.

But it was also a warning to the international community that peace and security in the South Caucasus will not be a certainty for 2010.

Ironically, such threats from Azerbaijan only reveal Baku's lack of sincerity and questionable commitment to international mediation efforts seeking a negotiated resolution of the Karabagh conflict. Such rhetoric also demonstrates the dubious and futile nature of Turkey's demands for concessions from Armenia over Karabagh. Thus, with the start of a new year, the South Caucasus deserves real diplomacy rather than a war of words in which Azerbaijan only recycles the same irresponsible threats of war. (For the full statement, go to the ACNIS website at: [www.acnis.am](http://www.acnis.am))

### ACNIS COMMEMORATED THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF HRANT DINK



ACNIS issued a statement on January 19, 2010 commemorating the third anniversary of the death of noted Turkish-Armenian intellectual Hrant Dink.

The statement noted that "as we mark the third anniversary of the tragic loss of one such loved one, we must remind ourselves of the meaning of Hrant Dink. His brutal murder on this day three years ago in Istanbul endowed his death with a special meaning. But even more significantly, it was his life that endowed his death with such a special meaning. Sometimes in history, some men attain a higher meaning, in a sacrifice of the ultimate. Hrant Dink was just such a man.....But Hrant Dink was much more than a symbol of change. He was an inspiration to many and his mission was a motivation to even more.....The man may be gone, but his mission continues and his spirit lives on." (For the complete statement, please go to the ACNIS website at: [www.acnis.am](http://www.acnis.am))

### ACNIS DIRECTOR REFUTED TURKEY'S CRITICISM OF ARMENIA AS "DISINGENUOUS AND UNFAIR"



On January 25, 2010, the Turkish daily newspapers "Today's Zaman" and the "Hurriyet Daily News & Economic Review" published the comments of ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian in which he refuted

recent Turkish criticism of the recent ruling by Armenia's Constitutional Court. Giragosian dismissed the Turkish Foreign Ministry's criticism charging that the Armenian Court's "decision contains preconditions and restrictive provisions which impair the letter and spirit of the protocols." The ACNIS director pointed out that the Turkish criticism of Armenia represented a dubious attempt by Turkey "to create a new political 'pretext' to withdraw from the (Armenian-Turkish) protocols. (For more, go to the ACNIS website at: [www.acnis.am](http://www.acnis.am))

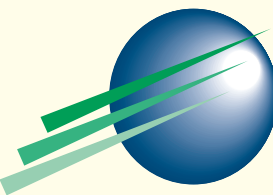
### ACNIS PUBLICATIONS

During the month of January 2010, ACNIS published the following articles and reports:

Sargsian, Manvel, "*MOUNTAINOUS KARABAGH: THE INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE CONFLICT ZONE ARE CHANGING*" (in Russian).

Sargsian, Manvel, "*SEVERAL 'SECRETS' OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*" (in Russian).

### MORE ABOUT US



**The Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS)** is a leading independent strategic research center located in Yerevan, Armenia. As an independent, objective institution committed to conducting professional

policy research and analysis, ACNIS strives to raise the level of public debate and seeks to broaden public engagement in the public policy process, as well as fostering greater and more inclusive public knowledge. Founded in 1994, ACNIS is the institutional initiative of Raffi K. Hovannisian, Armenia's first Minister of Foreign Affairs. Over the past fifteen years, ACNIS has acquired a prominent reputation as a primary source of professional independent research and analysis covering a wide range of policy issues.

For further information on ACNIS, please email us at: [root@acnis.am](mailto:root@acnis.am) and visit our website at: [www.acnis.am](http://www.acnis.am).