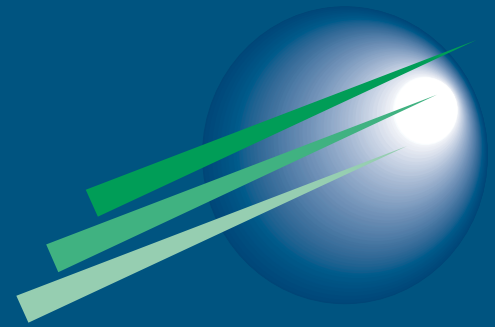


ACNIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 4

April 2010



The Armenian Center for National and International Studies

THE ACNIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

In January 2010, the Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) launched the publication of a new regular series of monthly newsletters. This is the fourth issue of our new "ACNIS Monthly Newsletter," a publication that provides a brief summary of our work, activities and projects for the month of April 2010.

ACNIS PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

CENTER STAFF SPEAK AT REGIONAL SECURITY CONFERENCE



On April 16-17, ACNIS Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian and Director Richard Giragosian attended and spoke at a conference sponsored by the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The conference, entitled "*New Challenges to Southern Caucasus: Democracy and Regional Security*," was held in Tsakhadzor and included participants from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia and Turkey, as well as from Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Karabagh. ACNIS Analyst Armine Ghazarian also participated in a separate seminar in Tsakhadzor on April 16-17, organized by the Yerevan School of Political Studies (YPS).

ACNIS HOSTS VOLUNTEERS FROM BIRTHRIGHT ARMENIA



On April 26, Center staff welcomed a group of Diasporan volunteers working in Armenia as part of the Birthright Armenia program. ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian provided a lecture on Armenian

politics and foreign policy. The Birthright participants included volunteers from Argentina and the United States.



ACNIS STAFF BRIEF AMBASSADORS



On April 28, Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian partici-

pated in a briefing for the British Ambassador to Armenia, Charles Lonsdale, and offered an analysis of domestic Armenian politics and regional developments. Also on April 28, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian provided a briefing on domestic and regional developments for the visiting Estonian Ambassador to Armenia, Toomas Lukk.

ACNIS HOLDS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF RECENT UNREST IN KYRGYZSTAN



On April 29, the Center held a roundtable discussion to analyze the recent unrest in Kyrgyzstan and assessed the implications for Armenia. Speakers included Grzegorz Michalski, the Head of the Politico-Military Programme at the OSCE Office in Yerevan, and ACNIS staff Karapet Kalenchian, Manvel Sargsian and Richard Giragosian.

The presentations focused on how the culmination of mounting economic pressure, unmet popular demands for change and a failure to meet expectations to curb corruption and implement serious democratic reforms triggered the downfall of the Kyrgyz government. The event was attended by over forty guests, including representatives from the diplomatic community, international organizations and a number of prominent Armenians experts, analysts and journalists.

ACNIS PARTICIPATES IN ITALIAN EMBASSY'S LAUNCH OF "FESTIVAL OF ITALIAN CUISINE"

ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian participated in the launch of the Italian Embassy's "*Festival of Italian Cuisine*" on April 30. The festival, sponsored by the Ermenegildo Zegna Group, will promote several leading Armenian restaurants serving Italian cuisine. The Center has been actively cooperating with the Italian Embassy and Ambassador Bruno Scapini in deepening ties between Italy and Armenia.

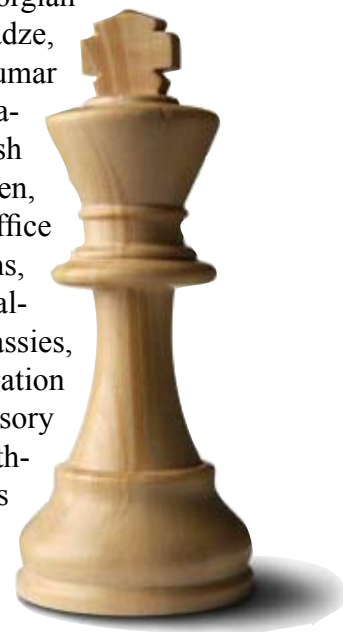


ACNIS PROVIDES CLOSED BRIEFING ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



On April 29, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian provided a closed briefing on current developments in Armenia and the broader region to representatives of the diplomatic community and international organizations in Armenia. As the third in a series of monthly briefings, ACNIS provides international organizations and the diplomatic community in Armenia with an independent source of analysis and information on political, economic and security-related issues in Armenia, but with an added analysis of regional issues and trends.

Participants in the informal briefing included Brazilian Ambassador Marcela Nicodemos, Finnish Ambassador Petri Salo, Georgian Ambassador Gregory Tabatadze, Indian Ambassador Achal Kumar Malhotra, Lithuanian Ambassador Giedrus Apuokas, Swedish Ambassador Hans Gunnar Aden, and officials from the OSCE Office in Yerevan, the United Nations, and representatives from the Italian, Romanian and U.S. embassies, as well as from the EU Delegation in Armenia and the EU Advisory Group to Armenia, among others. Armenia's Human Rights defender, Ombudsman Armen Harutunian, also attended the briefing.



FORTHCOMING ACNIS PUBLICATIONS

NEW ACNIS REPORTS PLANNED ON ARMENIAN ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Center staff have initiated research on a new series of reports focusing on the Armenian economy. The reports will analyze trends in socio-economic inequality, widening disparities of wealth and income, corruption and will also study the nature of oligarchic business enterprises and examine the barriers to economic activity posed by the country's "commodity-based cartels" and other related monopolies.

ACNIS is also actively engaged in preparing the launch of a new, first-ever annual publication entitled "*ACNIS Almanac of Armenian Politics: 2010*." This new publication will serve as an important resource by presenting a unique compilation of information, data and analysis focusing on many aspects of Armenian politics.

ACNIS STATEMENTS, REPORTS & ARTICLES

ACNIS RELEASES STATEMENT ON TURKEY & THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE



On April 27, ACNIS released a statement entitled "*Turkey can run, but certainly can not hide*." The statement criticized the fact that US President Barack Obama failed to accurately or honestly invoke the genocide definition for what he termed the "*Meds Yeghern*."

RECENT CENTER ARTICLES, MONOGRAPHS & REPORTS

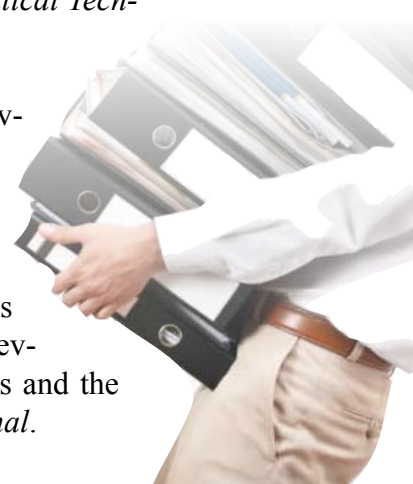
On April 1, the *Armenia Today* news agency published a four-page Russian-language analysis by ACNIS Administrative Director Karapet Kalenchian on the Karabagh peace process.

ACNIS Founder Raffi Hovannisian released an essay on April 4 entitled, "*Armenia's Stand: Justice at Home, Justice Abroad*." The essay, in both Armenian and English, was widely published and reprinted by several Armenian and international media outlets.

On April 10, the *Armenia Today* news agency published a new analysis of recent developments in Kyrgyzstan by Center Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian. *Armenia Today* also published a Russian-language analysis of Armenian politics by Sargsian on April 19.

On April 29, the Center published ACNIS Analyst Armine Ghazarian's 13-page Armenian-language monograph entitled, "*Our Heroes: The Use of 'Hero' Image in Political Technology*."

ACNIS Senior Analyst Hovsep Khurshudian's trilingual analysis on Turkey, entitled "*Surmounting Nationalism is Turkey's Sole Path toward Modernization*," was published on April 30 by several Armenian media outlets and the online *Foreign Policy Journal*.



MEDIA OUTREACH



AZERI NEWS AGENCY PUBLISHES INTERVIEW WITH ACNIS SENIOR ANALYST MANVEL SARGSIAN

On April 14, ACNIS Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian was interviewed by the Azerbaijani news agency *News.Az*. In the interview, which was published in Russian and English, Sargsian assessed the recent meeting between the Armenian president and Turkish prime minister in Washington.

ACNIS HOSTS PRESS BRIEFING ON ARMENIAN-TURKISH DIPLOMACY



On April 15, the Center hosted a press briefing analyzing the latest developments in Armenian-Turkish diplomacy, with presentations by ACNIS Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian and Director Richard Giragosian. ACNIS will host a regular series of press briefings for journalists at the Center, designed to provide objective analysis and information for the Armenian and international media.

ACNIS DIRECTOR HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE AT “DE FACTO” PRESS CLUB

At the invitation of the “*De Facto*” press club, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian held a press conference on April 21 addressing a number of issues, ranging from domestic politics to the Karabagh peace process.



CENTER STAFF PROVIDE INTERVIEWS COMMEMORATING THE 95th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE...

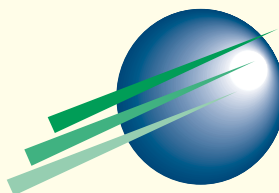
ACNIS Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian and Director Richard Giragosian gave a series of interviews to Armenian and international media outlets as part of their coverage of the April 24th commemoration of the Armenian genocide. Most notably, Center staff were interviewed by *al Jazeera*, the *BBC World Service* and the *Reuters* news agency, among others.

...AND CENTER DIRECTOR GIVES INTERVIEW FOR “YERKIR MEDIA” SPECIAL TV PROGRAM ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Comments by ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian were prominently featured in a special television documentary on the Armenian genocide produced by *Yerkir Media* and televised on April 24 and 25.



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 critical policy issues.

For more information on ACNIS, our work and activities, please contact us at: root@acnis.am or visit our website at: www.acnis.am.