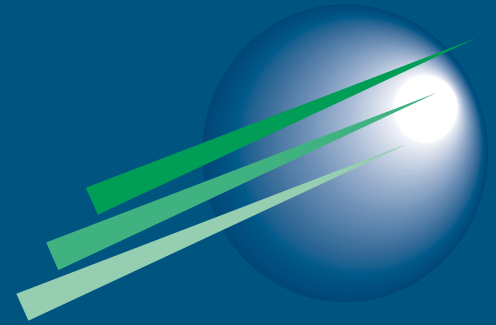


ACNIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

No. 6

June 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 sixth issue of our new "ACNIS Monthly Newsletter," providing a brief summary of our work, activities and projects for June 2010.

ACNIS PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

ACNIS PROVIDES BRIEFING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY



At the request of senior officials from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) headquarters in Washington, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian provided a briefing for their visiting staff on recent developments and trends in the region, including political and economic reform and the Karabagh conflict. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) is a private, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and strengthening of democratic institutions around the world.

ACNIS FOUNDER & STAFF ATTEND ITALIAN EMBASSY RECEPTION



On June 2, ACNIS staff attended a reception at the Italian Embassy marking Italy's Republic Day, known as the "Festa della Repubblica." ACNIS Founder Raffi Hov-

annisian and Director Richard Giragosian also conferred with several ambassadors and other officials.

ACNIS PARTICIPATES IN "ARMENIA DAY" IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



At the invitation of the European Parliament's "Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe" (ALDE) bloc,

ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian participates as a main speaker in the group's "Armenia Day" event in the European Parliament on June 9 in Brussels. The ACNIS Director also met with several members of the European Parliament, EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Peter Semneby, and the staff of the European friends of Armenia.

ACNIS BRIEFS POLISH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL



The Center hosted two officials from the Polish National Security Council, Lukasz Kudlicki and Konrad Zastawt, on June 17 and briefed them on recent developments in Armenia and the region.

ACNIS HOSTS VISITING DELEGATION OF TURKISH JOURNALISTS



On June 23, the Center hosted a group of Turkish journalists visiting Armenia on a program organized by the Istanbul-based Hrant Dink Foundation. ACNIS staff and interns also provided their perspectives on the Armenian Genocide and Armenian-Turkish diplomacy.

Several ACNIS interns participated, including Gaya Baloyan and Aram Bedrosian from the Armenian Assembly of America; Daron Bedrosian and Margarit Stepanian from the AGBU; visiting scholar Ian McGinnity from Claremont McKenna College in California; and local interns and volunteers Armine Badalyan, Ann Bisharyan, Anna Gogchyan, Asya Malamyman, Gohar Mamikonyan, Lilit Pepanyan, Emma Petrosyan, Ani Sargsyan and Sona Tadevosyan.



ACNIS SEMINAR ASSESSES DEFENSE REFORM IN TURKEY AND AZERBAIJAN



On June 16, the Center convened a roundtable discussion focusing on regional security and defense reform in Turkey and Azerbaijan, with presentations by Levon Hovsepiyan, an expert on Turkey from the Institute of Political Research in the Presidential Administration, and ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian.

ACNIS HOLDS RECEPTION TO RELEASE A NEW BOOK



On June 24, ACNIS hosted a special reception marking the publication of ACNIS Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian's new book entitled *Nagorno Karabagh: War and Politics (1990-1993). War in Nagorno Karabagh and Domestic Conflict in the Armenian Society*.

ACNIS DIRECTOR LECTURES AT BRUSOV UNIVERSITY



On June 24, ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian gave a lecture on "US Policy in the South Caucasus" for students of Brusov University. The Center works closely with both the Yerevan State and Brusov Universities and regularly provides lectures, workshops and trainings for university students.

ACNIS HOLDS WORKSHOP ON SCENARIO PLANNING



On June 25 and 29, the Center convened two sessions of a special workshop on scenario planning, with presentations by analyst Sargis Harutiunian and ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian. The workshop focused on crisis preparation and crisis management, with an analysis of longer-term trends aimed at capacity-building to manage crises before they occur.

CENTER PROVIDES CLOSED BRIEFING ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



For the fifth month, the Center held a monthly closed briefing by ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian on June 30, focusing on current developments in Armenia and the region.

The Center's monthly briefings provide international organizations and the diplomatic community with an independent source of analysis on political, economic and military/security issues.

ACNIS MEDIA OUTREACH



ACNIS WARNS OF THREATS TO CIVIL LIBERTIES IN ARMENIA

Armenia Today

In a statement released on June 1 and published by the *ArmeniaToday* news agency, ACNIS warned of threats to civil liberties, stressing that Armenia is suffering from “an unprecedented retreat from the ideal of democracy.”

ACNIS SENIOR ANALYST MANVEL SARGSYAN'S INTERVIEW WITH RESPUBLIKA ARMENIA NEWSPAPER



On June 2, Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian gave an interview to the *Respublika Armenia* newspaper on recent developments related to Nagorno Karabagh.

ACNIS FOUNDER RAFFI HOVANNISIAN: “TO EVERYTHING A SEASON: TURKEY, ISRAEL AND THE MOMENT OF TRUTH”



In a June 11 essay entitled, “To Everything a Season: Turkey, Israel and the Moment of Truth,” ACNIS Founder Raffi K. Hovannisian offered a probing insight into current developments concerning Turkey that was widely published in both English and Armenian. The English-language version of the essay was

also published by several leading international media outlets, including:

Washington Times (USA)

Jerusalem Post (Israel)

Foreign Policy Journal (USA)

Europe's World (Europe)

Radikal (Turkey)

ACNIS STAFF PROVIDE WIDE RANGE OF INTERVIEWS ANALYZING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Several ACNIS staff, including Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian, Director Richard Giragosian and Administrative Director Karapet Kalenchian, provided a range of interviews to various media outlets analyzing current developments.

COMMENTARY BY ACNIS SENIOR ANALYST HOVSEPH KHURSHUDIAN

Кавказский Узел

On June 26, ACNIS Senior Analyst Hovsep Khurshudian was interviewed by the Russian-language “*Kovkazsjiy uzel*” electronic news agency. His interview is available at: www.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/170745/

Khurshudian's earlier English-language essay, “New Turks Are Needed to Achieve a New Turkey,” was also reprinted by the AtlanticCommunity.org website: www.atlantic-community.org/index/articles/view/New_Turks_Are_Needed_to_Achieve_a_New_Turkey

● UPCOMING CENTER EVENTS

SPECIAL ACNIS BRIEFING ON THE AZERBAIJANI MILITARY



In order to provide the first objective analysis of the current state of the Azerbaijani military and an assessment of the threat of war in the region, the Center will hold a special briefing on July 6, with ACNIS Director Richard Giragosian presenting a new report on the Azerbaijani armed forces.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN KARABAGH



In light of recent developments in Karabagh, including parliamentary elections, developments in the peace process and recent Azerbaijani attacks, the Center will hold a special briefing on Karabagh on July 7, with ACNIS Senior Analyst Manvel Sargsian and

Director Richard Giragosian providing an updated analysis of recent developments.

ACNIS WORKSHOP ON ACTIVISM AND POLITICAL TECHNOLOGY



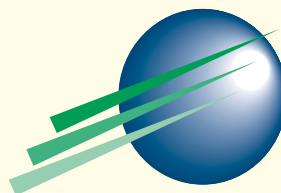
ACNIS will offer a “workshop” for students and youth activists on July 9, covering two issues: how to utilize technology for social networking and assessing the use of “political technology” in Armenian politics and campaigns.

WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH & WRITING

The Center will hold a special “workshop” for students and youth activists on July 13 on research and writing skills. Participants will include ACNIS interns, local university students, youth activists and other civic groups.



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.