

**ARMENIA****Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Boston's Temple Israel**

"A Shabbat of Remembrance and Empowerment: Commemorating the 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide" will feature Dr. Dikran Kaligian who will speak on the genocide and the quest for recognition in face of denial.

<http://www.armenianweekly.com/2014/03/25/>

**Armenians of Kesab get to know that militants "settled down" in their houses**

Armenians of Kesab who found shelters in Latakia, impelled by ignorance and uncertainty, rang up their houses and exposed the terrible reality: their houses already have new "residents". ARF Press service informed on violence and damage in Kesab.

<http://armenpress.am/eng/news/755313/>

**Kessab Targeted by Al-Qaeda Front Groups in Cross-Border Attack from Turkey**

The Armenian populated villages of Kesab (Kessab, Kasab), Syria were the target of three days of brutal cross-border attacks from Turkey by al-Qaeda affiliated armed bands, which have cost 80 lives and forced the civilian population.

<http://www.armenianweekly.com/2014/03/23/>

**Karabakh Armenians Buoyed By Crimea 'Precedent'**

Crimea's secession from Ukraine and ongoing annexation to Russia has set a positive precedent for the resolution of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, authorities in the disputed territory declared on Tuesday.

<http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/25301663.html>

Research: Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana, AEGEE-Tarragona

**AZERBAIJAN****Azerbaijan celebrates Nowruz.**

"Nowruz" means "new day" in Persian. During the festivities, dancers and athletes fill the streets, celebrating the change of season. The reportage says: "Azerbaijan, the land of fire, has been celebrating Nowruz, the Persian New Year, that marks the first day of spring."

<http://www.today.az/news/society/132062.html>

**Azerbaijan opts for peaceful resolution of crisis in Ukraine**

"Azerbaijan calls for solution to the problem within the framework of Ukraine's constitution, and also supports respect towards international principles, and in particular the principle of territorial integrity,"

<http://www.today.az/news/politics/131949.html>

**Azerbaijan condemns all forms of extremism, radicalism and separatism.**

Azerbaijan condemns extremism, radicalism and separatism, Deputy Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the U.N., Tofiq Musayev said in his speech during the adoption of a resolution entitled 'Territorial integrity of Ukraine' by the UN General Assembly.

<http://en.trend.az/news/politics/2256798.html>

**Religious tolerance in Azerbaijan at high level**

Religious tolerance in Azerbaijan stands at a high level, and success in this area is of great importance, according to Hanns-Ebert Schleyer, the chairman of the board of German-Azerbaijani Forum.

<http://en.trend.az/news/society/2256629.html>

Research: Damiano Deidda, AEGEE-Cagliari

**BELARUS****Belarusian Activist Faces Trial For Taking Part In Pro-Ukraine Demo**

A Belarusian opposition activist is expected to go on trial on March 26 for taking part in a pro-Ukraine, anti-Russia demonstration in Minsk. Maksim Vinyarski of the European Belarus movement was arrested along with about a dozen other activists on March 25.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/belarus-activist-arrested-pro-ukraine/25309982.html>

**A service without alternative?**

Every young male citizen of Belarus aged from 18 to 27 faces the duty of military service. The length of service has been reduced compared with the Soviet period, but it is still higher than, for example, in Russia. A citizen without a higher education is obliged to serve for one and a half year, with higher education – for a year.

<http://www.civicbelarus.org/index.php/en/all-articles-in-the-section/34-aktualne/>

**Belarusian President Says Crimean Annexation 'Bad Precedent'**

Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka says Russia's annexation of Crimea is a "bad precedent," but acknowledged that the region is now a "de facto" part of Russia. "When it comes to recognizing or not recognizing [the annexation of Crimea], Crimea is not an independent state unlike Ossetia or Abkhazia," Lukashenka told reporters in Minsk.

<http://democraticbelarus.eu/news/belarusian-president-says-crimean-annexation-bad-precedent>

**The Ukrainian Crisis Will Not Harm Belarus-EU Relations**

On 10 March the EU Delegation to Belarus organised a conference entitled 'EU-Belarus Sectoral Cooperation: Looking Back and Looking Forward' in Minsk. Belarusian and European diplomats in attendance agreed that the crisis in Ukraine would not affect EU-Belarus relations as they are setting a new agenda for their bilateral relations.

<http://democraticbelarus.eu/news/ukrainian-crisis-will-not-harm-belarus-eu-relations>

Research: Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana, AEGEE-Tarragona

**GEORGIA****Georgia's New Law on Foreigners: Drawing Up the Bridges?**

That arrangement, which extended to citizens of 118 countries at the policy's peak, has made Georgia one of the most open places in the world. But that is due to change after a [new law on aliens](#), which was adopted by parliament on March 5, comes into effect on September 1.

<http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=27029>

**Campaign to Rein in 'Unrestricted Govt Surveillance'**

A large group of Georgian civil society organizations have teamed up in a campaign to jointly push for putting in place mechanism that would rein in, what they call, government's capabilities to carry out unrestricted surveillance.

<http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=27013>

**Georgia: Does Ukraine Crisis Improve Euro-Atlantic Integration Odds?**

The Russia-Ukraine crisis is putting the South Caucasus country of Georgia on a faster track toward closer ties with the European Union; less clear are the implications of the Crimean standoff for Georgia's bid to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

<http://www.eurasianet.org/node/68109>

**PM Garibashvili Pledges Brighter Future for Students**

During his recent meeting with students of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU), PM Irakli Garibashvili announced a number of new initiatives to improve student life and career opportunities. "I have come to really talk to you, inform you of my vision for our future plans and prospects, to listen to your opinions and answer your questions", Garibashvili said.

[http://www.georgiatoday.ge/article\\_details.php?id=12017](http://www.georgiatoday.ge/article_details.php?id=12017)

Research: Ivan Bielik, AEGEE-Brno

**MOLDOVA****Moldova has chosen Cristina Scarlat:**

Moldovans have chosen their candidate for Eurovision Songcontest 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark. After a public televoting and a jury vote Cristina Scarlat with her song "Wild Soul" has won the national song contest O Melodie Pentru Europa (A Song For Europe). It is going to be the 10th time for Moldova participating in Eurovision Songcontest.

<http://www.escunited.com/home/moldova-cristina-scarlat-to-copenhagen/>

**Association Agreement might be signed in June:**

During a two-days Summit in Brussels the 28-member states decided to push forward the initiated association agreement. Since the Vilnius Summit in November the events in Ukraine have caused great concern in Georgia and Moldova. Especially Romanian President Traian Basescu supports the sign of association agreement by the end of June.

<http://www.moldova.org/moldova-georgia-sign-association-agreements-june-2014-latest/>

**Moldova joins Schengen**

Already in February the European Parliament decided to accept Moldova as they are the first to fulfil all requirements among Eastern Partnership countries to join the Schengen area. Moldovans with a biometric passport are allowed to stay 90 days within a 180 days visa-period in Schengen zone.

<http://www.moldova.org/faq-schengen-visa-free-travel-citizens-moldova/>

**NATO concerned about Transnistria**

NATO is strengthening its cooperation with Moldova in order to keep peace within the country. After Crimea's annexation to Russia, Moldovas autonomous region Transnistria could be next as most of its population speaks Russian and around 2000 Russian troops are still stationed there.

[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news\\_108028.htm?selectedLocale=en](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/news_108028.htm?selectedLocale=en)

Research: Saskia Heller , AEGEE-Hamburg

**UKRAINE****Commission embarks on 'unprecedented' venture with Ukraine**

Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner Štefan Füle will pay a two-day visit to Ukraine starting on 25 March, leading a sizeable delegation that includes Commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget Janusz Lewandowski and high-level representatives of various directorates of the Commission.

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/europes-east>

**Russia's Putin orders government to work with partners on Ukraine**

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered his government to continue talks with Ukraine on economic and trade relations and to consult foreign partners including the IMF and the G8 on financial aid, a statement on the Kremlin's website said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/28/us-ukraine-crisis-putin-idUSBREA1R07520140228>

**Klitschko endorses Poroshenko for president, will run for Kyiv mayor instead**

Vitali Klitschko has withdrawn from the May 25 presidential race in Ukraine to endorse fellow millionaire member of parliament Petro Poroshenko. Klitschko, head of the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform, will run for mayor of Kyiv, according to Interfax-Ukraine news service.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/politics/>

**Secretary-General's remarks after speaking with Russian President Vladimir Putin**

I have just spoken directly with Russian President Vladimir Putin by telephone. I told him that I am closely following the serious and rapidly unfolding developments in Ukraine. I am gravely concerned by some of the recent events in particular those that could in any way compromise the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3324>

Research: Ferran Huidobro Casamitjana, AEGEE-Tarragona



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# NEWSLETTER

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