
FORMER U.S. MAYOR TO MANAGE ARMENIA'S TIES WITH DIASPORA

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Armenpress reported that Zareh Sinanyan who educated in Russia and later became an American citizen appointed to the first High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs. This shows once again that Armenia tries to get great power along with its side.

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Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian on Friday appointed the Armenian-born former mayor of Glendale, a city in Los Angeles County, as head of a newly formed government division tasked with coordinating Armenias relations with its worldwide Diaspora.

Pashinian created the post of commissioner general of Diaspora affairs after abolishing the Ministry of Diaspora as part of a recent restructuring of the Armenian government. The first commissioner, Zareh Sinanyan, will have a 25-member staff.

Sinanyan, 43, was born in Soviet Armenia and lived there until emigrating to the United States with his family in 1988. He served as mayor of Glendale, a city with a sizable ethnic Armenian population, from 2014-2015 and 2018. Sinanyan resigned from the Glendale city council last week ahead of his anticipated appointment to the new government position in Yerevan.

A vocal critic of Armenias former government, Sinanyan strongly supported last years velvet revolution which brought Pashinian to power. In a May 2018 interview with RFE/RLs Armenian service, he suggested that many Diaspora Armenians will be ready to move to their ancestral homeland after the revolution.

We must change our policy towards the Diaspora and make it more effective, Pashinian told Sinanyan when they met later on Friday. He said his government will seek to increase the Diasporas involvement in Armenias economic, social and even political life.

You are not an unknown figure in Armenia and the Diaspora, and I think that there is a good chance that we will accomplish our new tasks set in the new era, added Pashinian.

Sinanyan spoke, for his part, of huge potential for the Diasporas closer ties with Armenia as well as Nagorno-Karabakh.

<https://www.azatutyun.am/a/29999858.html>