
ARMENIA SEEKS SECURITY FORCES REORGANIZATION

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Ani Mejlumyan

The appointment of a 29-year-old with no previous experience in the security services to the highest security post in Armenia has raised eyebrows. But it appears to be a transition step toward a reorganized security structure under greater civilian control.

Argishti Kyaramyan was appointed head of the National Security Service (NSS) on June 8 following a shakeup of several of Armenias top security officials in which the head of the NSS, the chief of the countrys police, and the chief of staff of its armed forces were all let go.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyans stated reason for the firings was that Artak Davtyan, the armed forces chief, had celebrated his sons wedding the day before in violation of the coronavirus state of emergency. The heads of the NSS and police, Pashinyan suggested, should have stopped the wedding from happening.

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