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## ARMENIA TO HOLD EARLY ELECTIONS

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By Ani Melkumjan

Armenia will hold snap elections on June 20 following an agreement between the prime minister and the leader of the biggest opposition bloc in parliament.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan suggested that the vote could finally provide a way out of the political crisis that has consumed Armenia since the loss in last years war with Azerbaijan. Since then, many Armenians and Armenian institutions have demanded that Pashinyan step down but he has held firm in his refusal.

Pashinyan announced the deal following a March 18 meeting with Gagik Tsarukyan, the head of the Prosperous Armenia party. The third party in parliament, Bright Armenia, had already agreed to the early elections. During the meeting we stated that the best way out of the current internal political situation is early parliamentary elections, Pashinyan wrote in a Facebook post.

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