
ARMENIAN CHURCH HEAD INDICTED AFTER PASHINIAN'S THREATS

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Law-enforcement authorities indicted Catholicos Garegin II on Saturday one day after Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian implicitly pledged to prevent an upcoming meeting in Austria of the top clergy of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Garegin thus became the first the supreme head of the church prosecuted in Armenias post-Soviet history. Even Soviet authorities had never formally prosecuted an Armenian Catholicos.

The accusations levelled against Garegin stem from his January 27 decision to defrock a bishop involved in Pashinians controversial campaign to oust the Catholicos. The bishop, Gevorg Saroyan, was dismissed in January as head of the churchs Masyatsoth Diocese encompassing parts of Armenias southern Ararat province.

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