THE SAD CHRONOLOGY OF PASHINYAN (2018-2025)

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Category: Opinions

By Shahan Kalfayan, Ontario, 29 December 2025

While Nikol Pashinyan's meteoric accession to power was welcomed by most diaspora Armenians, since 2020 his reputation has sharply declined and in some quarters the adoration has deteriorated to naked hatred. He has been tagged ignorant, inexperienced, immature, a political lightweight, short-fused, corrupt, dictatorial, criminal, and a self-hating traitor who will destroy Armenia if not removed ASAP. The below article is a litany of Pashinyan's blunders and crimes since 2018.
To give admirers of Pashinyan equal time, we invite pro-Pashinyan writers/journalists/scholars/public figures...to submit to Keghart an article of equal length to justify Pashinyan's policies. Send the article to dikrankeghart@gmail.com **Editor.**

Pre-war

1) April 2018: When his revolution was in full swing, he declared on the microphone at the Hrabarag: "If Nigol does not become Prime Minister of Armenia, there will be no Prime Minister of Armenia."
2) 2019-2020: At public rallies, he repeatedly stated: "I will never ever sign anything without bringing it up with you, the people."
3) 2019: He asked the people to block the entrances and the exits of the courts. An undemocratic call.
4) 2019: He closed the Ministry of Diaspora.
5) 2019: He closed the Ministry of Agriculture (14% of GDP).
6) 2019: He fired Gen. Hachaturov from the key position of secretary to the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Armenia lost that critical position for good. It also lost extremely valuable military intelligence.
7) He replaced all the key top positions, including the National Security Agency, with very young and inexperienced people (and changed them often). He thus burned bridges and confidence levels with the corresponding agency heads of friendly countries.
8) 2020 April: He purchased four Sukhoi fighter jets with no ammunition/missiles.
9) 2020 : He ignored the "Lavrov Plan" which proposed the return of the five territories around Artsakh Republic, while keeping Karvajar and Lachin districts until the status of Artsakh was finalized. (Had he accepted that plan, the 10-month blockade of Artsakh geographically could not have happened.)
10) 2020 September: Although he had information about the war preparations of Azerbaijan/Turkey, he ignored the info and even let Defence Minister Donoyan leave the country on vacation on Sept. 26, just a day before the start of the war.



During the war: Sept 27 – Nov 9, 2020.

1) Sept 27, 2020: The first day of the war, he told Parliament: "If we lose this war, we will lose it with honour."
2) On the third day of the war, Chief of Staff General Onig Kasbaryan told him: "Armenia cannot win this war"…which he ignored it. Knowing they were dealing not only with the Azeris.
3) On Oct. 10, Russia offered to stop the war provided Russian peacekeepers would take over the Artsakh borders. He refused.
4) On Oct 19, Putin had brokered a deal whereby Artsakh was going to keep Karvajar and Lachin and return the other surrounding regions (The repeat of the Lavrov Plan). He refused. (Shushi was still under Artsakh's control).
5) His wife, without authority, was in the command headquarter's bunker interfering in the decisions of the top generals. When general Movses Hagopyan asked her to leave, she made sure the general was fired.
6) He called the front lines on live Internet, supposedly to motivate the soldiers while sheepishly asking "At this unit/point, how many of you are there?"
7) He continuously called President Macron of France instead of solving the issue with

Moscow.

8) On Nov. 9, 2020 he signed the capitulation agreement (without reviewing the text with then Foreign Minister Mnatsaganyan or then President Armen Sarkissyan). He did not resign.

9) The capitulation text had many basic deficiencies. For example, there was no deadline for the return of all POWs. The deadline to vacate the surrounding regions were unrealistic and short. Thus, it did not give time to the villagers to take care of their fields, herds, and also save their other belongings.



Post-war, Nov 9, 2020

1) When the exchange of POWs took place, he returned all Azeri prisoners without receiving all the Armenian prisoners.

2) 2021: When Azeri forces cut into Armenia proper, he said: "We are not going to start a war just because their forces moved to our side of the lake." Pointing to a mountainside, he said: "That mountain is covered with snow half the year. Are we supposed to defend that mountain, too?"

3) 2021 March: In his speech at Hrabarag, addressing the public, he said:" The reason we have made some mistakes is because you love us so much. We are working very hard to earn that

love, so sometimes we are also making some mistakes, because you love us so much". This statement is one of the many examples where he tries to manipulate the people with convoluted and confusing statements.

4) 2021: In Prague, he agreed that Artsakh was part of Azerbaijan, without securing anything about the security of the people living there.

5) 2022: During a press conference in Germany when Chancellor Sholz was talking about Artsakh's "self-determination," Pashinyan was talking about Azerbaijan's borders with territorial integrity…leaving Artsakh without security plans.

6) 2023: Armenia signed the Rome Statute without getting anything in return, Causing anger in Moscow.

7) 2023: He told Parliament he had "accepted the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan which includes Artsakh" and "Stepanakert has to negotiate with Baku directly for their security."

8) Throughout his tenure, instead of working behind the scenes, he has been giving public interviews to foreign and local reporters and criticizing other countries.

9) He appointed his English tutor, Ms. Magunts, ambassador to the U.S. by giving her the highest diplomatic title. She had no diplomatic experience.

10) To negotiate a "normalization" process with Turkey, he appointed a 30-year-old as negotiator for Armenia. This person had NO diplomatic credentials and no experience in international negotiations. He faced a seasoned Turkish diplomat who was ambassador to the United States for over 20 years.

11) Throughout his tenure, there has been an obvious push to abandon Armenian national values and history. A "strange" agenda which coincides with our neighbors' agenda. Examples: Calling Western Armenia "Anatolia" in history text books. Calling the Genocide "the unfortunate events of 1915". Changing the core title of our history books from "Hayots Badmutyun" to "Hayasdan'i Badmutyun", questioning the validity of Armenia's coat-of- arms. "Why are there lions on the Coat of Arms? There are no lions in Armenia and "Why are we talking about Mount Ararat all the time? It is not in Armenia. Arakadz is in Armenia."

12) Instead of re-building and motivating the army, he and his team have been ruining the relationships with Armenia's closest ally, which were developed over decades. Since the 44-day war he has not organized any war-games-exercises.

13) When Azeris started the last and decisive attack on the remaining lands of Artsakh (when the population came face to face with a possible annihilation) he declared: "Right now, there is no threat to the lives of the Artsakh people." This statement was used by the Azeri foreign minister during a UN Security Council meeting against FM Mirzoyan's claims that a genocide was imminent. The FMs of France and Germany repeated that the lives of Artsakhtsis were in danger.

14) He blocked several Diaspora Armenians from visiting Armenia.

15) 2023 November: When the country, especially the army, needed urgent defence equipment, he decided to buy an embassy building in London for 17 million British pounds ($22

million USD). The building is on Pall Mall next to the Trafalgar Square, one of the most expensive locations in London.

16) 2024 February: AGAIN, when the country, especially the army, needed urgent arms, he decided to buy another embassy building…this one in Paris (a palace estate used by former French president Valery Giscard d'Estaing) for 23 million Euros ($25 million USD).

17) Instead of modifying some of the items of the constitution which needed to improve, he wants to re-write it so that Armenia would have no demands from any of its neighbors, burying the Artsakh's self-determination for good.

18) While the Azeris bring up new demands, he talks about a "Peace Document," without getting anything in return. He again offered a map of the land mines without getting anything in return.

19) He gave up the control of four villages without getting anything in return, not even the Armenian political prisoners in Baku. Before giving land to the enemy, he also ordered to de-mine the territory, endangering the lives of our de-mining soldiers.

20) He threatened the villagers at Tavush by stating: "If you do not get out of your village there will be a war". Which PM or president threatens his people with war?

21) On the 109th Anniversary of the Genocide he gave a watered down commemorative speech. One of his closest deputies repeated the Turkish position saying "We should come up with a list of the names and locations of all the Genocide victims, in order to find out the real number…". (Even non-Armenian genocide research organizations such as the Lemkin Institute, Henry Theriault, President of Genocide Scholars reacted negatively to this.)

22) 2024 May: He ordered police to block the entrance of the Catholicos to Sardarabad..

23) 2024 June: He conceded it his biggest failure was not giving Artsakh to Azerbaijan when he first came to power: "Yes, I admitted yesterday that it was my greatest mistake and my greatest failure that I did not do it in 2018." This is the same man who proclaimed while visiting Artsakh in 2019: "Artsakh is Armenia. Period." He then turned around in 2023 and said the exact opposite: "Artsakh is part of Azerbaijan." No wonder, Pashinyan's critics think that something is wrong with him.

24) 2024 Nov 14 «**Հայաստանի Անկախության հռչակագրի բովանդակությունն այն մասին է, որ Հայաստանի Հանրապետությունը չի կարող գոյություն ունենալ»,**

25) 2024 Nov: When asked about the political prisoners in Baku, instead of saying he was working on their release, he simply said: "I did not understand why Rouben Vardanyan went to Artsakh." This caused further accusations in Baku against Vardanian.

26) 2025 Jan 27: In Switzerland he made comments posing a question on the Genocide again. He said similar things as the perpetrators of the Genocide.

27) 2025 Jun/July: As if the country had no other problems, he and his unofficial wife attacked the Catholicos in public. With his instructions, he got two bishops and big benefactor Samvel Garabedyan arrested on trumped up charges.

28) 2025 August: Went to Washington without a list of items to negotiate, whereas Azerbaijan

went with an agenda and they got concessions.

29) 2025 August 28: "I AM the government, whoever has different ideas about my decisions should resign."

30) 2025 August: On the anniversary of the 1990 independence declaration. In his official speech he said (and wrote): "We have to prepare for defeat as we cannot expect victories all the time…"

31) 2025 August: He told Armenian journalists on August 27 that Netanyahu's statement (about Israel's parliament's recognition of the Genocied) had nothing to do with Armenia or the interests of the Armenian people. He also questioned whether Armenians have gained anything from genocide recognition by dozens of countries. He even revealed that he had asked foreign leaders why they had recognized the Armenian Genocide. Pashinyan is thus actively undermining the pursuit of justice for the Armenian Cause. This is what happens when a politically inexperienced and unpatriotic man ascends to the seat of power.

32) 2025 October – When the Eastern Syunik borders at Chermug were occupied by the Azeri forces, when we have numerous prisoners at Baku jails going through mock trials, when Aliyev is repeating his demands of the "return" of 300,000 Azeris to Armenia (and many of his deputies calling Armenia "Western Azerbaijan"), Pashinyan is busy attacking the Catholicos, under the disguise of "Cleaning the Echmiadzin." Is this a priority? He has *de facto* split the Church by siding with one of the allegedly most corrupt archbishops in Armenia.

33) While he put the Armenian Apostolic Church in turmoil, the Western cults are having a field day in Armenia.

34) 2025 October: Under the disguise of civil society rapprochement, he let an Azeri delegation of six to visit Yerevan and have high-level meetings with Armenia's National Security Secretary. One of the members of the Azeri delegation was no other than the key "environmentalist" who back in 2022 had initiated the 11-month blockade of Artsakh, therefore totally ignoring the sensitivities of the displaced people of Artsakh who had lost everything and since September of 2023. This so called "environmentalist" gave interviews on Azeri TV with backgrounds of Ararat and the Azeri flag waving at the Yerevan's Hrabarag.

35) 2025 November: The debt of Armenia has doubled to $15 billion USD, in seven years. Is this not a priority?

36) 2025 November: He selectively released Artsakh negotiations documents with the Minsk Group (including confidential ones) to get points in preparation for the June 2026 elections.

37) 2025 December: He has started talks with the Azeris to bring in oil through Azerbaijan. Do we want an Armenia be dependent on Azerbaijan under the disguise of "peace"? Did we not learn from the blockade of Artsakh before the final attack in 2022-2023?

38) 2025 December: As we know, Aliyev and his deputies are constantly referring to Armenia as "Western Azerbaijan." Pashinyan just said the following: "If you stop calling Armenia 'Western Azerbaijan' we will also never talk about Karbaghtsis 'Right of Return'". This is a travesty. Armenia was never 'Azeri' yet Karabagh was Armenian for thousands of years.

39) 2025 December: During his visit to Berlin, Pashinyan denigrated the Armenian Church and the Catholicos in the presence of the German Council on Foreign Relations. Also claimed the Catholicos is a foreign agent.

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Comments

John Keusseyan – 2026-01-08 16:53:20
I think we should check Nicole's DNA. Is he really Armenian or just by name only?

Mardiros – 2026-01-08 11:55:14
If wishes were horses, beggars would ride. Thank you, Harout, for your advice. Unfortunately, we don't live in Utopia. In fact, some days it seems we are approaching Dystopia. Letters, emails, telephone conversations, and comments are monitored 24/7. People who express their honest and well-informed opinion are blacklisted, harassed, accused of unsubstantiated sins, and crimes. Even TV-radio hosts are fired for not following the "party line." Today I heard a host at Canada's national broadcaster(CBC) call the Venezuela outrage "action," "removal" and extraction. Maduro was a rotten tooth which had to be removed. The powers which are monitoring and punishing "unacceptable" opinions and facts are multi-billionaires and some of the strongest corporations in the world. They also own or control most mass media. It would be foolhardy to express opinions which these dark powers disapprove. Keghart is obviously providing a platform to people whose reasonable opinions wouldn't otherwise be aired for fear of repercussion. In fact, advise that you change your policy, and publish pseudonymous letters. Perhaps if you do, you will receive reader letters. I can't remember the last time I saw a reader letter in The California Courier. Even popular broadcaster Ana Kasparian was harassed in her neighborhood by a woman who was admittedly a member of a group monitoring Ana. People who disagreed with Ana's opinions harassed even her husband who was not part of any interlocution. We are not living in normal times. It would be foolhardy to assume that we live in the age when Nixon, Spiro Agnew, the CIA, the FBI, etc. were sanctioned. It's not an argument of equals. The forces which want to control public debate are vastly stronger than the lone letter writer.

David – 2026-01-07 23:20:06
Harout Sassounian well symbolizes what we say in Armenian «աւաղ փառացս անցաւորի»: And as to counter-arguments, I direct him to read Vicken Darakjian's article in answer to Kalfayan's article.



Arus – 2026-01-07 20:44:43
The writer here forgot to add the 30 year chronology before 2018, without which this article can't be taken seriously… we all know what Pashinyan did, we also know the story before him. Come up with some real solutions, but how could this writer come up with real solutions when he suggests that Pashinyan should have cooperated with Russia to save Armenia, knowing very well Russia handed Artsakh to Azerbaijan on a silver platter. There is nothing new here, maybe that's why this article is getting so many reactions. If there was anything new suggested here there would be either zero comments or complaints, typical of our community which aids in explaining why we are where we are as a people…



Harut Sassounian – 2026-01-06 17:16:16
The no last name David has the same ridiculous reply as all other Pashinyan's stooges. The minute anyone criticizes Pashinyan for his thousands of illegalities and anti-Armenian actions, they respond by this nonsense: you are pro-Russian or a Tashnag. No arguments or counter-arguments presented. Suggestion to Keghart: I have adopted for my newspaper the following policy for all letter-writers. Disclose fully first and last name, email address, and street address. No first name only, no initials, no fake names and no anonymous letters. If you are brave enough to express your opinion, you must be brave enough not to hide your identity.



Keghart – 2026-01-03 20:32:24
We suspect "No last name David" is a literary detective, linguist, style guru , an all-around panjandrum and an expert not only of the Tashnag style but also that of AI. Thus, anything written by Tashnag bureaus in Buenos Aires, Beirut, and Boston would have that inimitable Tashnag style. 1. "David" is suspicious of the author's name because he can't recognize it. Do we have to understand "David" is familiar with the style of every Armenian writer? 2. "David the Language Guru" has concluded the article was written to criticize the Armenians of Armenia for supporting Pashinyan: a laser-sharp deduction which deserves a bow. 3. "Too Shy to Reveal His Name David" extends his speculative powers by assuring us that if AI were assigned to do a number on Tashnags, the outcome would be more compelling. It's enviable to have such perspicacity. 4. Taking a leaf from his scribbling, we suspect David's real name is David Idle Speculation. But seriously… not only does Keghart know the author of the article, two living and breathing staffers edited the text not realizing David's AI was influencing their decisions.



David – 2026-01-03 16:20:53
This article composed by AI and edited by ARF and published in the name of a suspicious name, is indirectly criticizing the people of Armenia for standing behind Pashinian. If AI is asked to compose the shortcomings of ARF and its allies in Armenia, the result will be more compelling than the ones attributed to Pashinian. One should conclude saying that both opposing sides in Armenia have committed miserable mistakes and we can end such debate saying in armenian «երկուքն ալ իրար կ'արժեն»:



Mesrob – 2026-01-03 14:17:00
I love the photo you used (Pashinyan addressing the Yerevan crowd.) An adoring crowd at the city centre is looking up to him the way fans do to their rock stars. To convey the idea that he is a "regular guy," he is wearing a tired baseball hat. He also has a scruffy look: unshaven because he has far more important things to do. He is wearing a camouflage shirt, although he has never served in the army. In addition to the political aspect, Nicol is evoking a religious image...that of St. John the Baptist, just back from the Judean Desert where he ate locust and wild honey. Pure theatre: I can't believe St. Nicol didn't receive professional image-building tips.



Hayorti – 2026-01-03 08:12:54
Anti-Pashinyan forces in Armenia should publish this article plus the points made by the commenters as a pamphlet and distribute it on streets in Armenia. Exposing Pashinyan's crimes and sins should help push this execrable character into a much-deserved life sentence. And yes, let's not forget his girlfriend-adventuress loudmouth, Anna Hakobyan.



avo jerejian – 2026-01-03 05:11:03
I suspect Pashinyan and ms.Agopian being Armenians. Perfect con artists.



David Boyajian – 2026-01-02 23:22:54
Pashinyan and his lackeys in the Civil Contract Party went out of their way to insult the Armenian Genocide, its victims, and descendants. He TAUNTED Armenians to provide the precise number of Armenians killed and their names. In other words, he and his lackeys were trying to hurt and humiliate Armenians for even bringing up the the subject of the Genocide. This is something Turks and their denialists, not Armenians, do, It is a sickness of the soul. The question arises: Does Pashinyan have a Turkish soul? See "Pashinyan Under Fire After Questioning Armenian Genocide," as but one of many critiques of this fool:
https://mirrorspectator.com/2025/01/30/pashinyan-under-fire-after-questioning-armenian-genocide/



Harut Sassounian – 2026-01-02 21:37:14
Mr. Kalfayan has done an excellent job compiling the long list of Pashinyan's mistakes and missteps to the detriment of the Armenian nation. However, the actual list is so long that one needs to write an entire book to list all of them. Here are some additional points: 1) the Oct. 19, 2020 deal that Putin had brokered with Aliyev to stop the Azeri advances at which point Azerbaijan had conquered only a small portion of Karabagh-controlled territories and very few Armenian soldiers had been killed, on condition that Armenia would allow some Azeris to return to Shushi, while remaining under Armenian control. Pashinyan rejected the deal which resulted in the loss of the majority of Karabagh, including Shushi, and caused the deaths of thousands of Armenian soldiers and the wounding of many more. 2) on Nov. 9, 2020, he signed a ceasefire with Aliyev and Putin, which he had no right to sign and conceded large swaths of Karabagh-controlled territories which did not fall under his jurisdiction. He even conceded that he was not elected by Karabagh Armenians. Furthermore, the ceasefire agreement was illegally signed by him, but neither approved by the Constitional Court nor ratified by the Parliament. 3) in 2023, when he signed the Rome Statute, he claimed that he was signing it in order to take Azerbaijan to court for war crimes. Not only he did not do that, he agreed with Aliyev to drop all mutual claims from the international courts. 4) He did not increase the defense budget, while Aliyev increased further its already hefty defense budget. Pashinyan also reduced the length of the military draft from two years to one and a half years, under the pretext that he has brought peace, so Armenia needs neither an army nor weapons. Meanwhile, Aliyev refuses to sign the so-called peace treaty the 17 terms of which he had dictated. On top of all his concessions to Aliyev, he is in the process of preparing a new constitution at Aliyev's demand. Pashinyan will next concede to Aliyev's demand of accepting the settlement of 300,000 Azeris in Armenia which would be the end of Armenia.



John Keusseyan – 2026-01-02 21:32:55
Excellent article. Why so many people in Armenia still support this traitor?



Vahakn – 2026-01-02 20:50:11
I am certain the 58 crimes of Pashinyan can be increased to one hundred. It would be salutary for Pashinyan to learn what happened to other traitors like him. Here are three traitors. 1. Philippe Petain, a "realist" like Pashinyan, went to bed with the Nazis. Nicky is now bedmate of Erdogan and Aliyev. Petain was sentenced to death but because of his age and WWI service was imprisoned for life. Since Pashinyan is not old, prison is not an option. 2. Norwegian military and political leader Vidkun Quisling cooperated with the Nazi occupiers of his country. He was executed for treason. 3. Arthur Seyss-Inquart of Austria welcomed the Nazi occupation of his country. He was executed as war criminal. "Darrosuh" to Pashinyan. Since he is not entitled to be buried in Armenia, he should be incinerated and his ashes sprinkled by a drone on Baku.



Aha – 2026-01-02 19:47:15
The list and analysis could go on for much longer but if one wants to be brief, just google 'The Manchurian Candidate' and read the book or watch the latest movie. Everything should be clear then.



A – 2026-01-02 18:14:12
Great research yet beyond comprehension. Was Mr Pashinyan a great actor with Armenian last name to have succeeded in deceiving masses of the Armenian Nation in the Diaspora, Artsakh, and Armenia with his 2018 promises? In retrospect did any smart Armenian on earth foresee then that the creature was “invented” with an entourage to destroy Armenian lands, history, and deep rooted national values? Should we blame the naive Armenian Nation, or help reconstruct the finale of this suicide?



David Boyajian – 2026-01-02 18:09:46
Excellent article. When he ran for office, Pashinyan said he had no intention of changing Armenia's foreign policy orientation. He lied. He (and his cohorts) have denigrated and questioned the Armenian Genocide in various ways for no good reason. He has denigrated the Western Armenian Diaspora; Armenian national symbols, such as Mt. Ararat; Armenian history; and the church. He once said he had been "too patriotic," a totally idiotic term which indicates some kind of mental imbalance. He recently read Bible verses to Western clergy. So phony. Much more could be said and was said in the above article by Mr. Kalfayan. Frankly, Pashinyan's views and statements are just plain weird. Hardly a rational sentence ever passes his lips. My own opinion is that the people of Armenia are being led around by the nose by a man who is psychologically, morally, and spiritually diseased and unfit to call himself a leader, or even an Armenian. Shame on on all of them.