**

COMMITTEE TO PROTECT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

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# **ON SITUATION WITH FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS OF JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA IN ARMENIA**

**2022 Third Quarterly Report by the   
Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression**

*The Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression regularly submits to the public its reports on the working environment and issues of Armenian media and its personnel, on the status of the freedom of expression and the violations of the rights of media outlets and those of journalists. This report reflects the data from the third quarter of 2022.*

*The sources of facts included in the report are the following:*

*- phone calls to CPFE “hot line”,*

*- meetings and conversations of the CPFE experts with media personnel,*

*- replies to official inquiries sent to public bodies,*

*- materials from court cases with media involvement,*

*- materials disseminated by the partner journalist organization,*

*- publications by the media.*

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***The views and assessments expressed in the report belong to the CPFE and may not coincide with the international views and opinions of the National Endowment for Democracy.***

***BRIEF SUMMARY***

The third quarter of 2022 was a tense period for the Armenian media, conditioned by a number of emergencies, namely the large-scale explosion in August in Surmalu Trade Center in Yerevan that took the lives of over 15 people, followed by the new aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan, continued clashes in the territory of the RA, as well as escalations of the domestic political struggle.

The military activity of Azerbaijan has become a serious threat to the representatives of media, covering those actions. In particular, in the border settlement of Sotk in Armenia the adversary targeted the journalists’ group and fired in that direction. Russian peacekeepers also created unnecessary impediments for the staff of Armenian media outlets and banned the entry of some journalists to Artsakh without any decent substantiation.

In the reporting period, conflict indicents happened among top officials and the representatives of the media when the latter were fulfilling their professional duties.

Generally speaking, the cases of various kinds of pressure against media outlets and jouralists, including those with the use of legal mechanisms, increased by 7. As for violations, related to physical violence as well as those of the right to receive and disseminate information, these decreased by **9** and **4** respectively. However, the situation continues to cause concerns, and since cases of unjustified use of force by law enforcement officers continue to be repeated in crisis situations, public agencies often do not properly respond to the requests of the media to provide information, and the relations between officials and journalists remain problematic.

***Thus, in the course of the past three months CPFE recorded 18 cases of various types of pressure against journalists and media outlets, 20 violations of the right to receive and disseminate information and 2 facts of physical violence with 3 victims that are media represenatives. The number of new lawsuits against media outlets is 9.***

11 media organizations made condemning statements on the relatively more egregious violations of the rights of journalists and media outlets.

The events in the media field were in the focus of international organizations, too. In particular, Freedom House Human Rights organization welcomed the decriminalization of “grave insults” in Armenia, in this context highlighting the role of the Memorandum,[[1]](#footnote-1) signed between the government and civil society organizations back in April. That document was aimed at the development of a joint concept paper on reforming media-related legislation and the adoption of a new law that would be in compliance with modern requirements due to adherence to principles enshrined therein.

Nevertheless, the attempts of the authorities to promote legislative initiatives without proper consultations and discussions with specialized non-governmental organizations cause some concern. During this quarter the package of amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Audio-Visual Media, proposed by the Ministry of High Technology Industry on July 21, came as a surprise, which as a result of the sharp criticism by experts was withdrawn for improvement. Later, on September 30th, a draft law by Sisak Gabrielyan – an MP from the Civil Contract faction – was officially circulated, however has not been yet included in the agenda of NA sessions. This, too, was circulated in contradiction with the agreement achieved in the Memorandum, namely without any discussions with journalistic organizations.

The draft law on the amendments to the RA Code on Administrative Offenses, adopted by the National Assembly on September 14 in the second reading and its entirety, was a positive development, according to which the amount of the existing fine for illegal failure to provide information as envisaged by law was increased.

During this quarter the litigation between the Armenian Second TV Channel LLC and the Commission on Television and Radio on the decisions of the Commission passed as a result of the licensing competitions continued. This is an unprecedented situation when after losing the lawsuit in court instances, the Commission on Television and Radio had to open the call for a new competition for licensing the use of slots in the Public Multiplex for republican and capital broadcast.

*According to Article 19 international organization’s report, published on July 12, Armenia has been classified as a country with “less restricted” freedom of expression, coming 46th among 161 countries. By the way, Azerbaijan comes the 136th, Turkey is the 141st, Iran is the 143rd, all three were classified as countries “in crisis.”*

***MEDIA ACTIVITIES ENVIRONMENT***

*The situation in Armenia continues to be worrisome due to various pressures against the media, new lawsuits, physical abuses, arbitrary decisions by the authories and violations of the right to receive and disseminate information.*

The new aggression by Azerbaijan against the RA sovereign territory made the challenges related to the coverage of military activities a priority again. These, first of all, have to do with the bloody events in the confrontation zone, informing the public on the domestic and external political processes related to those events in a proper manner and ensuring comprehensive information to the extent possible. This problem would become even graver since competent public institutions – the Ministry of Defense and the Headquarters – did not work sufficiently with media outlets which created an information vacuum and public defiance because even the lists of fallen in combat were not published, and the results of military activities were not presented.

Naturally, the work of media representatives in the battle zone was linked with serious risks. This, on September 14, the Azerbaijani military units that incursed into the territory of the RA targeted Armenian and foreign journalists and cameramen in Sotk village in Gegharkunik marz, and the artillery fired in their direction twice. The correspondents of *Public TV*, *Armenpress* news agency, *Radar Armenia* news website, as well as a representative of a foreign media outlet, a total of 7 people, were among this journalistic group. This targeting was quite far from the battle front, in a settlement, which proves that the attack of the Azerbaijani armed forces was also against the civilian population. This circumstance, as well as the fact of targeting journalists, is a very grave violation of the Geneva Convention. The RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed this issue, too, inviting the international community and organizations specialized in the protection of human rights and freedom of expression to pay attention to this attempt at the violation of the right of collecting and disseminating information. This attempt was about impeding the process of documenting the consequences of Azerbaijan’s aggression and presenting them to the international community.

Prior to that, on August 4 and 8, journalists were hindered from fulfilling their duties on the border between Armenia and Artsakh: the Russian peace-keepers did not allow the shooting crew of *1in.am* news website to visit Nagorno Karabakh and act in their professional capacity, forced the employees of that media outlet to get in their car, took them to another place, where an indecent conversation took place between the journalists and some Russian military servicemen in masks (probably, of higher rank) who released them some time later. The correspondent of MediaHub.am was also banned from entry to Artsakh. The above-mentioned cases are presented in further detail in the *Pressures* section of the report.

When covering the domestic political life, media outlet employees experienced obstacles, too. Difficulties emerged both in the course of the actions organized by oppositional forces, and when interacting with the representatives of the authories, with the use of groundless and unproportionate restrictions against these journalists. Thus, on September 15 another conflict started in the National Assembly among the MPs of the ruling faction and the employees of some media outlets accredited in the NA. Ani Gevorgyan, a correspondent of *MediaHub.am* news website and Kristine Poghosyan, an MP from the Civil Contract NA faction started a dispute, there was a tense moment between Syuzi Badoyan, a correspondent from *Yerevan.Today* during her interaction with the MPs from Civil Contract. Later, the President of the NA Alen Simonyan instructed to remove those two journalists from the Parlimanet building, by the way, in case of Ani Gevorgyan with use of force, Geghaznik Hovakimyan – the cameraman from *Yerevan.Today* was dragged out, and the cameramen Erik Tovmasyan from *MediaHub.am* was asked out. 11 journalistic organization made a joint statement on this matter, qualifying this step by the President of the NA as arbitrary and unacceptable, because no restriction can be applied against a journalist, accredited in the National Assembly upon oral instruction, without prior discussion and a respective decision.

The use of physical force by law enforcement bodies against journalists fulfilling their professional duties during protest actions still causes concern. On September 15, when covering the protest action in the vicinity of the NA, in Demirchyan street, the correspondent of *24lurer.am* Artur Hayrapetyan was subjected to physical violence. Police officers snatched the journalist’s phone, threw him on the asphalt and hit him, leaving him helpless and lying on the ground. Journalistic organizations addressed this case, too, calling to the Police to be consistent, resolve the case and hold the guilty liable.

In fact, the vicious tendency of leaving law-enforcement officers, hindering the lawful activity of journalists unpunished, persists among us. As a rule, cases of the kind, even if initiated, get dismissed or are left without any investigation, on the grounds of impossibility of identifying the guilty persons. However, an unbiased internal investigation could bring some clarity to this matter, especially that in many cases recordings or journalistic stories of the incidents are available.

**2** cases of unnecessary use of force by law-enforcement officers with **3** victims were recorded in the reporting period. The details of all the above-mentioned cases are presented in the respective sections of the report.

As for the other and various cases of pressure, **18** cases of pressure on media outlet representatives were recorded in the third quarter, 9 of which are new lawsuits against media outlets, 4 are manifestions of unfriendly attitude and insults against journalists, 4 are incidents, related to the state of war and escalation along the borders of the country, and 1 was a hacking case.

Receiving information from state authorities, especially in crisis situations, continues to be a serious issue for media outlets. In the reporting quarter, journalists continued to complain about the indifference of agencies towards journalists’ requests for official information, undue delays, refusals to reply, and inadequate responses. The latter amounted to **20** in the reporting period.

In this regard, the adoption of draft amendments to the RA Code of Administrative Offences by the National Assembly on September 14, by the second reading and its entirety was important. It entailed an increase of the penalty for failure to provide official information subject to publication from the previously set 10 – 50-fold minimum salary to the new amount of 30 – 70-fold minimum salary, and in the case of re-offending within a year after the administration of the penalty, the previously set amount of 50 – 100-fold of minimum salary was increased to an amount from 100 – 150-fold of minimum salary.

During this quarter, on July 7, Freedom House international human rights organization welcomed the decriminalization of the so-called “grave insult” in Armenia. In this context, the organization prioritized the commitment, enshrined in the Collaboration Memorandum, signed between the Government and civil society organizations, which established the necessity for holding consultations and discussions with broader circles on amending the legislation that regulates media activity as well as the need for drafting new bills.

We should remind that back at the beginning of the year the authorities decided to remove the criminal liability for “grave insult” from the new version of the RA Criminal Code which was effective for approximately a year, up until July 2022. In fact, responding to the sharp criticism of domestic civil society and international organizations, the ruling power considered that the regulations of civil liability already effective are sufficient for fighting against that unacceptable phenomenon. Along with these processes, 11 local journalistic organizations put forward an initiative which might entail a partnership between the legislative and executive powers and civil society organizations for the sake of developing a concept on legislative amendments on the media and the development of the information sector in Armenia joining their efforts. As a result, the Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression, being authorized by 10 partner organizations, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the relevant Committee at the NA and the RA Deputy Minister of Justice on April 19.[[2]](#footnote-2) According to this, the development of the above-stated concept was launched. This is what Freedom House hinted at on its Twitter page.[[3]](#footnote-3)

By the way, after the signature of the Memorandum, the Government, in the person of the Ministry of High Technology Industry, uploaded its draft on making supplements and amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Audio-Visual Media on the official e-draft.am website from July 21 to August 5.[[4]](#footnote-4) It caused concern because it did not stem from the obligation undertaken by the Memorandum that whenever proposing a legislative amendment, related to the sector, it should be discussed with media organizations. Neither was it understandable why the Government failed to wait for the adoption of the concept, especially that these published amendments were not very urgent. For example, it was proposed that the public broadcaster’s Board members should be appointed not by the Prime Minister, but the regulator – the Commission on Television and Radio, which is a disputable approach. Besides, it aimed at eliminating the ban, according to which the member of the Public broadcaster’s Board could not be elected into that position more than twice, which was problematic, too. Such substantive amendments that would require serious discussions were quite too many. After the criticism put forth by journalistic organizations the draft was fortunately called back, with the elimination of those substantive provisions that were considered as an intervention into the broadcasters’ editorial policy. But since September 30th another draft that had to do with the measurements of the TV audience, the establishment of the industrial committee and its mandate has officially been put into circulation.

The wide dissemination of and the fight against misinformation still persists as a major issue in the media sector. This is what authoritative international organizations would pinpoint at: thus, Freedom House wrote on his Twitter page: “The Armenian authorities should support the independent media and civil society by maintaining an active dialogue with them and the people to counteract disinformation that poses threat to Armenian democracy around crucial topics for the country.”[[5]](#footnote-5)

In fact, most media outlets continue to remain intertwined with political forces and service their interests. In this regard, active steps to make the information sector more sound are necessary. And since any attempt at fighting against fake accounts and misinformation clashes with quite a serious resistance, the implementation of complex measures becomes even more urgent, in particular, the implementation of legislative amendments, the improvement and development of a self-regulation system, the wide spread of media literacy, the creation and application of state mechanisms to support quality journalism.

By the way, on July 4th, the Prosecutor General’s office published a statement according to which in an investigation in the state’s non-property interest, the Department of State Interests Protection of this agency discovered by that in the recent years due to the wide spread of the Internet, the dissemination of information that contains ethnic, religious, gender or other types of discrimination, as well as overt advertisement or sale offers of substances forbidden in Armenia, including narcotics or the dissemination of information containing any other form of criminal manifestation via internet websites and the social media had become much more intense. At the same time, the review of domestic legislation showed that the security of information, disseminated via widely viewed Internet resources is not guaranteed in the RA from the legal perspective, there are no legislative regulations, and no public agency has been granted the mandate of controlling information security and undertaking measures, stemming therefrom.

Given the above mentioned, already the former Procutor General of the RA Artur Davtyan sent a letter to the RA Government, recommending a discussion on applying legislative regulation over the security of information, disseminated by Internet channels, guaranteeing the Constitutional right of freely expressing an opinion and establishing state control in the sector based on such a regulation.

In its previous reports, CPFE mentioned that the RA Prime-Minister Nikol Pashinyan had shifted to remote press conferences for more than 2 years already. Accordingly, media outlets and NGOs were given an opportunity of sending in a question each in advance, which, however, in some cases were read out to the PM in an edited version or were not read out at all. This is the reason why Pashinyan’s regular remote press conference, organized on June 27th, was boycotted by dozens of media outlets, calling to him to return to the common format of direct interaction. On July 7th, Freedom House addressed the issue in its Tweet, urging Nikol Pashinyan to take the concerns of the media seriously and leverage direct communication channels, including through open and transparent press-conferences to ensure a healthy functioning democracy.**[[6]](#footnote-6)**

*Nonetheless and on the whole, international organizations assess the freedom of speech in our country positively. Thus, according to the report published on July 12 by the authoritative organization Article 19, Armenia comes as the 46th with an index of 76, classified as a country with “less restrictions.”[[7]](#footnote-7) To compare, it should be mentioned that Georgia is the leader in the region, coming the 43rd with its index of 78. Azerbaijan comes the 136th, Turkey is the 141st, Iran comes the 143rd, these are all countries that are in crisis from the viewpoint of freedom of expression.*

During the quarter, disputes between the *Armenian Second TV Channel* LLC and the Commission on Television and Radio on broadcast licensing, including litigation continued. Thus, on July 15th the Commission on Television and Radio published the name of winner in the competition for using the capital broadcast slot on public multiplex, namely *Boon TV* scientific and cultural foundation. The *Armenian Second TV Channel* filed a lawsuit against the Commission on TV and Radio with the Administrative Court on August 9 to appeal this decision.

On August 10, the Commission opened the call for another competition, this time to license the use of republican broadcast slot in the public multiplex, which *Armenia TV* CJSC, *ATV* LLC, *Shant* LLC, *Multi Media-Kentron TV* CJSC, *Husaber* CJSC and the *Armenian Second TV* *Channel* participated in. October 10, 2022 was set as the date of publishing the documents.

We should remind that the *Armenian Second TV Channel* filed a lawsuit on June 24, 2021, appealing against the decision of the Commission on leaving it out of the competition for using the slot for broadcasting in the capital over public multiplex. And since by its judgement of August 25, the Administrative Court found that the decision of the Commission was illegal (the Court of Appeal left the judgment unchanged and the Court of Cassation passed a judgment on June 7, 2022 which refused to accept the suits of *Public TV* and the Commission on TV and Radio for proceedings), the Commission on TV and Radio had to open the competition to license the use of the slot for broadcast in the capital in public multiplex again on September 15. The *Armenian Second TV Channel* LLC and *Armenian Public TV* CJSC took part in it. The Commission has up to two months to assess the applications after which it will announce the name of the winning company through a rating-based assessment.

***VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA OUTLETS***

We report the violations of the rights of journalists and the media in the third quarter of 2022 according to the following classification by the CPFE:

* physical violence against journalists,
* pressures on the media and their personnel,
* violations of the right to receive and disseminate information.

This classification of CPFE is somewhat conditional. In particular, sometimes hindering the access and dissemination of information is accompanied by violence against the journalist. Such facts are attributed to the type of violation that the authors of the report consider to be the closest. Nonetheless, the classification used allows for a more concise and prominent picture of the violations of journalists’ and media rights.

The relevant sections of the report list the facts on the violations of the rights of journalists and the media in the third quarter of 2022, as well as тхе developments related to the previous incidents.

***In total, there were 40 reported violations of the rights of journalists and the media in the third quarter of 2022. 2 were cases of physical violence, 18 were cases of pressure against the media and their personnel, and 20 were cases of violations of the right to receive and disseminate information.***

The table below presents these data, also in comparison with the indicators of the past year.

**Quantitative Data on Violations in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Types of violations | 1st quarter of 2022 | 2nd quarter of 2022 | 3rd quarter of 2022 | Total |
| Physical violence against journalists | 1 | 11 (12 victims) | 2 (3 victims) | 14 (15 victims) |
| Pressure on media outlets and their personnel | 12 | 11 | 18 | 41 |
| Violations of the right to receive and disseminate information | 45 | 24 | 20 | 89 |

**Quantitative Data on Violations in the 3rd Quarters of 2021-2022**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Types of violations | 3rd quarter of 2021 | 3rd quarter of 2022 |
| Physical violence against journalists | 3 | 2 (3 victims) |
| Pressure on media outlets and their personnel | 23 | 18 |
| Violations of the right to receive and disseminate information | 37 | 20 |

**Lawsuits, Involving Media and Journalists in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Types of court cases | 1st quarter of 2022 | 2nd quarter of 2022 | 3rd quarter of 2022 | Total |
| On the grounds of insult and slander | 7 | 8 | 9 | 24 |
| Economic and other disputes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Lawsuits, Involving Media and Journalists in the 3rd Quarters of 2021-2022**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Types of court cases | 2nd quarter of 2021 | 2nd quarter of 2022 |
| On the grounds of insult and slander | 17 | 9 |
| Economic and other disputes | 0 | 0 |

As in the previous reports, the Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression would like to note that the data in the table may not be comprehensive and do not claim absolute accuracy. Media representatives sometimes find it unnecessary to publicize facts about impediments to their professional activities, ignore various threats to them, or prefer to solve problems themselves and overcome illegal restrictions on their own. Therefore, CPFE is convinced that the real number of obstacles is greater than stated in this report. The following are the most significant facts.

1. ***Physical Violence Against Journalists***

*In the third quarter of 2022 there were 2 cases of physical violence against media workers, with 3 victims. Below we present facts and developments related to both that case and past instances of use of violence in chronological order.*

**On July 6,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Ararat and Vayots Dzor marzes (Artashat residence) continued the trial on the case of violence against the journalist Ani Gevorgyan.  
 We should remind that on June 4,2021,during the coverage of the meetings of the acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Artashat City, Ararat Marz, one of the citizens snatched Ani Gevorgyan’s phone, insulted and slapped her.[[8]](#footnote-8) On September 3, the criminal case initiated on the fact of violence was filed to the Court with an indictment of two persons - sister and brother Sona and Vahagn Hakobyans. The first is accused of seizing the journalist's phone, the second of hitting the journalist while filming.

Court hearings on the case were held on August 18 and September 27.

**On July 7,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan continued the trial on the fact of violence against Artak Khulyan, correspondent at *Shantnews.am* news website, and Hovhannes Sargsyan, cameraman at *Factor.am* news website.

We should remind that the criminal case was initiated in connection with the violence that took place during the days of the April Revolution in 2018, including against representatives of media outlets. It was sent to the Court with the indictment of 8 people.(For details see CPFE’s annual and quarterly reports for 2018-2022 in the *Reports* section on khosq.am website).

A court hearing on the case was held on September 29, and the next hearing is scheduled for October 27.

**On July 14,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan continued the regular court hearing on the case of *168.am news website correspondent Ani Keshishyan and Public Radio correspondent Liana Yeghiazaryan and other citizens v. former commander of RA Police armed forces Levon Yeranosyan*.

We should remind that Levon Yeranosyan was charged for intentionally committing acts that were manifestly outside his powers, using special measures, and caused substantial damage to citizens' rights, and negligently brought about severe consequences. Ani Keshishyan was injured on Baghramyan Avenue, Yerevan, on April 16, 2018, and Liana Yeghiazaryan was injured at the intersection of Artsakh-Erebuni Streets, on April 22, covering the protests and police activities. (For details see CPFE’s annual and quarterly reports for 2018-2022, in the *Reports* section on khosq.am website).

A court hearing on the case was held on September 7, and the next court hearing is scheduled for October 24.

**On September 15**, a conflict arose in the National Assembly between the MPs of the ruling faction and the representatives of some media outlets accredited in the parliament, after which the Speaker of the National Assembly Alen Simonyan ordered the law enforcement officers to remove those journalists from the Parliament building. As a result, Ani Gevorgyan, the *Mediahub.am* website journalist, was taken out by law enforcement officers with the use of force, they also dragged Geghaznik Hovakimyan, the cameraman from *Yerevan.Today*.[[9]](#footnote-9) More details of the case on putting pressure on other journalists, however, without the use of physical violence, can be found in the following section of our report. 11 journalistic organizations issued a statement condemning this incident.

In response to the inquiry by CPFE, the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia stated that after the incident, Arsen Babayan, the head of Amaras Expert Center NGO, filed in a crime report to the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Armenia on an allleged obstruction of the legal professional activity by a journalist. The respective report was forwarded to the Investigative Committee on September 30, where no criminal proceedings were initiated, because the report did not document such an incident, action or inaction that could reasonably be qualified as an act in compliance with any offense provided for by the RA Criminal Code.

**On September 15**, Artur Hayrapetyan, the reporter of *24lurer.am* news website, was physically abused while covering the protest action organized on Demirchyan Street of the capital. Police officers snatched the journalist’s phone, threw him on the asphalt and hit him, leaving him helplessly lying there. By the way, this happened after Artur Hayrapetyan had shown his reporter's badge. 11 journalistic organizations issued a joint statement on the occasion of this incident and condemned the violence.

In response to the inquiry made by CPFE, the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Armenia informed that on September 15, criminal proceedings were initiated in connection with the incident, and the preliminary investigation is ongoing.

***2. Pressure on the Media and Their Personnel***

*In the third quarter of 2022, apart from the above-stated cases of violence, 18 cases of various pressures against the media and their personnel were registered. All those pressures are presented below, in this subsection of the report, along with the developments and outcomes of similar facts, registered in the previous years, in chronological order.*

**On July 1,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan accepted a lawsuit for proceedings for a new trial, filed by the *NA Deputy Speaker (currently NA Speaker) Alen Simonyan v. Iravunk Media Ltd.* with claims of compensation for the damage caused to honor and dignity.

The lawsuit, filed on August 4, 2020, was caused by a publication in the *Iravunk* newspaper, where thoughts were attributed to Alen Simonyan. He allegedly said that the ruling political team was not ready to work if no bonuses were to be paid. On September 29, 2021, the court partially upheld the claim. *Iravunk Media Ltd*. was obliged to publicly refute the information considered defamatory and to pay 200,000 AMD as an attorney's reasonable fee. On April 29, the Civil Court of Appeal upheld the defendant’s appeal against the judgment and sent the case for a new trial.

A court session on the case was held on August 19, the next session is scheduled for October 10.

**On July 4**, the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular court hearing on the case of *Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (currently NA Speaker) Alen Simonyan v. Anna Gevorgyan, the Director of the* *Haykakan Zham* *news website*, demanding public refutation of the defamatory information and compensation for the damage caused.

The lawsuit, filed on May 19, 2020, was caused by an article, entitled: “Did he Pay for Silence?”, published on *Hzham.am* on April 20, which stated that Alen Simonyan had made a row in the restaurant, cursed, broke the table and the dishes, then paid the restaurant owner to keep silent. [[10]](#footnote-10)

On July 25 the claim was partially upheld. The court obliged the defendant to publish a refutation and to confiscate 4000AMD from her as state duty and 200,000 AMD as an attorney's reasonable fee. The judgment has not been appealed.

**On July 4,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular hearing on the case of Aram Mamikonyan, a lawyer and former employee of the Control Chamber against Karmen Davtyan (third party: *Zhoghovurd Daily Editorial Office LLC*), claiming an obligation of a compensation for the damage caused to honor and dignity, refuting the information considered as defamation and making an apology. The plaintiff also demands compensation of 2 million drams.

The lawsuit was caused by Karmen Davtyan's article published on July 30 on *Armlur.am* website, entitled: “Immorality also has a limit”.[[11]](#footnote-11) The author accused the plaintiff of corruption and bribery. By the way, at the end of the article, the editorial office stated that it was not responsible for the author's opinion.

On September 6, the court rejected the plaintiff's motion to apply injunction to ban the defendant from taking certain actions. In addition, the court ruled to reject the motion to provide evidence. The decision was appealed in the Court of Appeal on October 7 and was rejected on the ground that the plaintiff had not provided any evidence that the failure to apply injunction to secure the claim would render the enforcement of the court judgment impossible or difficult, or would inflict any significant damage on the plaintiff.

On July 22, 2022, the court decided to dismiss the proceedings of the case on the ground that Karmen Davtyan passed away on August 28, 2021.

**On July 4,** the defendant on the case of *citizen Edgar Janibekyan v. Shamshyan Media LLC and its founder Gagik Shamshyan*, applied to the Court of Cassation for the second time, appealing the rejection by the Court of Appeal of the complaint against the judgment of the Court of General Jurisdiction.

We should remind that the lawsuit was filed on July 14, 2020, and was caused by an article on *Shamshyan.com*, entitled: “Discovery of Another Large Batch of Drugs by the Arabkir Police in Yerevan. The 26-Year-Old Suspect Acquired It Through Telegram. Photo-Report”, published on June 14, where it was stated that Edgar Janibekyan was among the detained.[[12]](#footnote-12) By the decision of the Court of General Jurisdiction, the *LLC* was obliged to refute the statements considered as defamatory through *Shamshyan.com* website, to pay 100,000 AMD to the plaintiff as compensation.

The Court of Cassation had already returned the appeal once because of the deficiencies in the documents, and on July 13, 2022 it ruled to leave the appeal unexamined.

**Օn July 6,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held the trial on one of the two lawsuits filed by Senik Julhakyan, director of *Armhydroenergy Project CJSC*, against Hmayak Hovhannisyan, Chairman of *the Political Scientists Union of Armenia* and *BATS TV online* TV Company, demanding a public apology for insult, as well as refutation of information and confiscation of a compensation for defamation.

We should remind that the 2 lawsuits, filed on March 17, were caused by the political scientist’s views expressed on the air of the TV Company on December 21, 2021[[13]](#footnote-13) and January 15, 2022,[[14]](#footnote-14) according to which the plaintiff obtained construction permit through corruption transactions and that through him the former RA President Serzh Sargsyan wants to take over the building of the Armhydroenergy Project Institute, where the office of *Political Scientists Union of Armenia* is located.

The next hearing on the first lawsuit has been scheduled for October 24; as for the second lawsuit, judicial examination was scheduled for October 5 in the hearing held on August 24.

**On July 6,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan partially upheld the lawsuit, filed by *Hraparak Daily* LLC *v.* *Media Initiatives Center* *NGO*, demanding to oblige the defendant to make a public refutation of the information considered as defamatory and pay a compensation.

We should remind that the lawsuit was filed on July 19, 2021, and was caused by the publication of information within the framework of a program initiated by the NGO, which revealed fake news and misinformation materials, and Facebook and Instagram blocked their dissemination.[[15]](#footnote-15) Hraparak Daily LLC thinks that the choice of materials was not objective, and in general the initiative is about putting pressure on the press.

The court passed a judgment obliging Media Initiatives Center to upload a written refutation on its publications, it also ruled to confiscate 500.000AMD in favour of *Hraparak Daily* *LLC* as compensation for the damage caused to honour, dignity and good reputation through defamation and 44.000AMD as the state fee, paid in advance for the lawsuit.   
On August 5, the defendant filed an appeal against this judgement which was accepted for proceedings on September 7.

**On July 6,** the Court of General Jurisdication of Yerevan held a regular court hearing on the case of *Mega Trade LLC owned by the businessman and currently NA MP Khachatur Sukiasyan vs. NewsAM LLC (the founder of the News.am news website),* with claims of public refutation of factual data that are considered as defamatory as well as a payment of compensation.

The lawsuit was caused by the article entitled: “Khachatur Sukiasyan's Petrolium Spoils Cars. Déjà vu”, published on March 25, 2021.

The next court hearing is scheduled for November 22.  
 **On July 25,** the defendant in the *Khachatur Sukiasyan v. the founder of News.am website NewsAM LLC* case went to the Court of Appeal, appealing the judgment of the Court of General Jurisdiction which had partially upheld the claim in relation to the publication of a refutation and the compensation of court fees.

We should remind that the lawsuit with claims of public apology, publication of the court judgment, refutation of the factual information considered as defamatory, as well as payment of a compensation, was cause by the same article, entitled “Khachatur Sukiasyan's Petrolium Spoils Cars. Déjà vu”.[[16]](#footnote-16)

On August 16, the appeal was accepted for proceedings, without any further developments by the end of the quarter.

**On July 29,** the Court of Appeal turned down the appeal of the defendant in the case of *Khachatur Sukiasyan v. 168 Zham LLC, the founder of Blog.168.am* against the judgment of the court of general jurisdiction: the website was obliged to print refutation and pay 100.000 AMD as an attorney’s reasonable fee.

We should remind that the cause of the lawsuit, claiming a public refutation of the factual information considered as defamatory and payment of a compensation was an article, published on March 25, 2021 and entitled “Pashinyan’s Beloved Oligarch Khachatur Sukiasyan is Founding a Airline. *Mediaport*” with a link to a Telegram Channel.[[17]](#footnote-17) The court of general jurisdiction found that Telegram social network is an unidentifiable source, and making reference to publications in this platform by unknown persons and does not exempt the defendant of the liability for insult and slander provided for by the RA Civil Code.

The judicial act passed by the Court of Appeal was appealed against on August 29 after which no other developments have been observed.

**On July 7,** the case of *teacher* *Susanna Sargsyan v. Shushanna Grigoryan*, *the correspondent of Hraparak.am website,* claiming an apology and a public refutation of the information as defamatory was accepted for new proceedings atthe Court of General Jurisdiction of Lori Marz (Vanadzor residence) after the change of the judge.

We should remind that the case is being re-examined in the Court of First Instance. The lawsuit, filed on June 6, 2014, was caused by articles, entitled: “The Headmaster of Vanadzor School N8 was Fired”[[18]](#footnote-18) and “A Teacher in Vanadzor Received 12 Million AMD for Forced Idle Time”[[19]](#footnote-19) which were published on the aforementioned website on October 4 and December 5, 2013. (For details see the annual reports of CPFE for 2016-2021 in the *Reports* *section on khosq.am website*).

On April 7, the court denied Susanna Sargsyan's motion for the judge's recusal on the grounds of biased attitude, however, after the term of the secondment was over, the judge was replaced. Hearings on the case were also held on August 24 and September 29. The date of the next court session was not scheduled as of September 30.

**On July 8,** Satik Seyranyan, the founder of *168.am* website, informed that Kristine Grigoryan, the Human Rights Defender, targeted media outlets, organizaing a campaign that slandered and incited hatred towards non-progovernmental media.[[20]](#footnote-20) In particular, the Human Rights Defender accused *168.am* in disseminating false information. However, it turned out that the piece of news that the Human Rights Defender disagreed with was not authored by *168.am*. The latter, making reference to the original source website, re-published the article, quoting a citizen on the work of the HRD.

**On July 8,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular session on the case of *citizen Larisa Harutyunyan v. Shark LLC (the legal person representing 5 TV)*.

We should remind that the lawsuit was filed on October 26, 2021, with claims of public refutation. The lawsuit was caused by the October 16 news report in the *Haylur* newscast on *Channel 5*, entitled: “She makes me grieve; the neighbor doesn’t allow to erect a khachkar in tribute to heroes”.[[21]](#footnote-21) The plaintiff suggested the media outlet that they published refutation since the disagreement among fellow villagers had nothing to do with the khachkar, but was rather a routine argument, and the assertion in the title did not reflect the reality. According to the lawsuit, the TV company admitted the inaccuracy, but refused to publish a proper refutation.

The next court hearing is scheduled for January 17, 2023.

**On July 11,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan accepted the lawsuit *of Hayk Khanumyan, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of Artsakh v. the* *Hraparak daily*, claiming refutation of defamation and payment of a compensation, caused by an article published in the newspaper that Hayk Khanumyan was facing several criminal cases related to corruption and abuse of powers, and the RA authorities supported Khanumyan and did everything to exonerate him from liability.[[22]](#footnote-22)

According to the publication, the criminal case concerned people, displaced from Artsakh: the accusation stated that a hotel in Artsakh embezzled 19.5 million AMD from the state by presenting false data, but the problem was not the hotel, rather the Ministry of Territorial Administration of the Republic of Artsakh, which dealt with the issues of displaced people, because it exercised control and determined the scope of beneficiaries.[[23]](#footnote-23)

On September 5, the court defined the burden of proof for the parties. The next hearing is scheduled for January 24, 2023.

**On July 11, the pre-trial session on the case of the *Director of Alaverdi Medical Center CJSC Stepan Mosinyan v. journalist Larisa Paremuzyan and CivilNet online television (later Civilitas Foundation was recognized as the proper defendant)* was held at the Court of General Jurisdiction of Lori Marz (Alaverdi residence), with claims of public refutation of information considered as defamatory and a compensation for the damage caused to honour and dignity.**

**The lawsuit, filed on April 4, was caused by the article, entitled: “The Director of Alaverdi MC - the Monopolist of the “Death” Business” [[24]](#footnote-24) published on the *Civilnet.am* news website on March 14, in which it is specifically stated: “...Mosinyan uses the Patho-Anatomical Department of the Medical Center as a source of enrichment. Meanwhile, the Prosecutor's Office of Lori Marz turns a blind eye to Mosinyan's crimes”. [[25]](#footnote-25)**

Court hearings on this case were held on July 28 and September 8, and on September 20 the court ruled to turn down the claim regarding the Januray 19 publication on the grounds of the statute of limitations, and in relation to the article published on March 14 the case was separated and was accepted for new proceedings on September 26 with a court hearing being scheduled for October 28.

**On July 11, after reassignment at Yerevan Court of General Jurisdiction, the lawsuit filed by *Spayka LLC v. Zhamanak daily LLC and First Armenian News Platform (1in.am website)* was accepted for proceedings,** demanding refutation of defamation, discrediting business reputation and publication of its reply, public apology and confiscation of compensation for the damage caused.

The lawsuit was filed on April 15, 2021, caused by the article published in the *Zhamanak* daily and *1in.am* website on March 11, entitled: “Slavery at Spayka: Employees work also on Sundays without pay”.

A court hearing is scheduled for October 26.

**On July 12,** the Court ofGeneral Jurisidction of Yerevan held the pre-trial session on the case of *Arman Martirosyan v.* *Exclusive Media Holding* LLC (founder of *Exclusive.am* news page), demanding refutation of slander, apology for insult, compensation, publication of the conclusive part of the court judgment.

The lawsuit, filed on October 22, 2021, was caused by an article, published on September 29, entitled: “Arayik Harutyunyan Rewarded the Owner of Entertainment Clubs with a Weapon: for What Act of Heroism? For running the clubs during the war?”[[26]](#footnote-26)

The next court session is scheduled for November 7.

**On July 12,** journalist Tehime Yenokyan reported a crime on her Faceboook page: again her window was shot at from an unknown weapon which broke the glass and the round landed in the living-room of her apartment.[[27]](#footnote-27) The reporter informed that earlier, on June 29, there was a similar incident, too, and on March 9, unidentified individuals committed an act of arson at the enterance door to her apartment.

In response to the inquiry by CPFE, the RA Prosecutor’s Office informed that criminal proceedings had been initiated in relation to all the three above-mentioned cases which were later consolidated. On July 13 someone was arrested in relation to this case and was charged later.

**On July 12,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular hearing on the case of *NA MP Hayk Sargsyan v.* *Hraparak Daily LLC*, demanding compensation for the damage caused to honor, dignity and good reputation through slander and insult.

We should remind that, on February 2,the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan resumed the trial on the case of *NA MP Hayk Sargsyan v.* *Hraparak Daily Ltd.*, demanding compensation for the damage caused to honor, dignity and good reputation through slander and insult.

The lawsuit was filed on June 21, 2019, and was caused by an article published on May 26, 2019, entitled: “MP Hayk Sargsyan “Made a Row” on the Yerevan-Moscow Plane”.[[28]](#footnote-28) At the hearing of February 28, 2020, the Court decided to leave the case without trial, on the grounds that the plaintiff and the defendant had failed to attend two successive hearings. The plaintiff filed an appeal against this judgment with the Court of Appeal. After rejection the plaintiff appealed to the Court of Cassation. The most recent claim was upheld and the proceedings resumed.  
 The next court hearing on the case is scheduled for October 12.

**On July 13,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan continued the investigation of the criminal case, related to the execution of the judicial act implemented by the lawsuit of *the second President of the Republic of Armenia Robert Kocharyan v. Skizb Media Kentron LLC.*

We should remind that on July 6, 2020, the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan received a criminal case from the Prosecutor’s Office of Kentron and Nork-Marash administrative districts against Hasmik Martirosyan, Director of *Skizb Media Kentron LLC*, who was charged for the deliberate failure of the execution of a legally effective judicial act in the prescribed period. Thus, on January 18, 2019, the Court of General Jurisdiction partially upheld the lawsuit, filed by Robert Kocharyan against *Skizb Media Kentron LLC,* claiming a public refutation of the defamatory information, as well as compensation. The lawsuit was caused by the articles about R. Kocharyan, published on *1in.am news website*, which is owned by the company, on June 7, 23 and 24, respectively (for details see the annual and quarterly reports of CPFE, 2019-2022 on *www.khosq.am, Reports* section).

The next court hearing is scheduled for October 14.

**On July 13,** the regular session on the case of *attorney Lusine Avagyan v. Naira Terteryan (Live News Media LLC as third party)*, with claims of refuting information considered as defamatory and compensation of damage caused to the diginity, honour and business reputation continued at the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan.

The cause of the lawsuit filed on August 10, 2021 was caused by the allegations made by Naira Terteryan during the authorial *Ditaket* program on *Livenews.am* website that Lusine Avagyan who was her ex-husband Mher Terteryan’s lawyer, apart from fulfilling her professional activity, would also interfere in their private and family life.[[29]](#footnote-29)

The next court session was scheduled on December 8.

On September 27, 2021, **Mher Terteryan** filed another lawsuit against Live News Media LLC on the same occasion and the same claims. During the reporting quarter a court session was held on July 20 and the next one was scheduled for October 6.

**Mher Terteryan** has another lawsuit against lawyer Hakob Charoyan (with Live News Media LLC as third party) with the same claim and on the same occasion, with claims of refuting the information considered as defamatory and compensating the damage caused by dignity, honour and business reputation. This lawsuit was filed on October 22, 2021. In the third quarter of 2022, a court session was held on September 7, and the next one was scheduled on November 16.

**On July 13,** the preliminary investigation on the case of the *tour agency Anriva Tour LLC v. citizen Ani Alexanyan (the Public TV of Armenia CJSC and Educational Planet LLC were involved as third parties)* was completed at the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan.

We should remind that the lawsuit, filed on August 1, 2019, was caused by the statements made on the *One Window* program about *Anriva-Tour* on the Public TV Channel on July 1, which the plaintiff considers to be defamatory.[[30]](#footnote-30)

Trial on the case is scheduled for October 13.

**On July 13,** the defendant in the lawsuit of the *Speaker of the NA (incumbent NA Speaker) Alen Simonyan v. lawyer Ani Gevorgyan* filed a complaint with the Court of Appeal, appealing the judgment of the general jurisdiction court.

This lawsuit, claiming a public refutation of the information considered as defamatory was diled on May 13, 2021. It was caused by a press conference by Ani Gevorgyan at the *Mirror* club on April 16, where the latter accused Alen Simonyan of organizing a campaign against her with threats and insults.[[31]](#footnote-31) By the way, on October 5 upon the decision of the Court, *News.am LLC* was involved in the case as a third party. Hence, a decision was made to complete the lawsuit, i.e. to urge Ani Gevorgyan to refute the slander in public on *News.am*, and if impossible, on the Facebook page of the defendant. Besides, a sum of 2 000 000 AMD was to be confiscated from Ani Gevorgyan in favour of the plaintiff as compensation for slander.

On May 23, 2022, Alen Simonyan's claim was partially upheld. Ani Gevorgyan was obliged to publicly refute the information considered as defamatory, pay 150.000 AMD as compensation for the damage caused through defamation, 100.000 AMD as an attorney's reasonable fee, and 7000 AMD as a state duty.

The defendant appealed this judgment at the Court of Appeal, and it was accepted for proceedings on August 12. There were no developments as of September 30.

**On July 15,** Ruben Arakelyan, the former Director of *the Center for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise SNCO*, filed a new lawsuit in the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan against the *Power of Speech NGO* (*4rd.am* website), demanding a public refutation of the factual information considered as defamatory. Earlier, on May 31, the filed lawsuit was returned because of the deficiencies in the documents.

The lawsuit was caused by the article entitled: “Reform According to Nikol Pashinyan” published on the website on April 20, about the numerous violations recorded during the internal audit at the SNCO, as a result of which the culprits were fired, and the initiated criminal case related to the violations was archived. The publication also mentioned that the Director of the organization Ruben Arakelyan, together with his relative - the Head of the Training Center of the SNCO Grigor Basentsyan, extorted the money, allocated to the SNCO. [[32]](#footnote-32)

On May 9, the website published the plaintiff's letter demanding refutation of defamatory information about the above-mentioned 2 officials.[[33]](#footnote-33) Nevertheless, Ruben Arakelyan filed a lawsuit with the Court.

On July 27, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings. The court hearing is scheduled for November 25.

**On July 19,** NA Deputy Speaker Hakob Arshakyan filed a lawsuit with the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan for the third time against *International Media Holding LLC* (founder of *Lurer.com* news website) and *ArmDay.am* *LLC* (the founder of ArmDay.am news website), demanding public refutation of the defamatory information through relevant publications on these websites and a compensation in the amount of 5 million AMD.

The lawsuit was caused by an article, entitled: “Post-Revolutionary “Accomplishments” of Former Employers of Civil Contract Officials. Part I”, published on February 14 first on the former outlet[[34]](#footnote-34), then on the latter outlet [[35]](#footnote-35) with a difference of only a few minutes. The article particularly states: “Hakob Arshakyan has forced the Government to adopt a decision, by which the state shall take a loan in the amount of $10 million from the World Bank to build an Engineering City in Jrvezh in cooperation with Hakob's former employer (National Instruments), Hakob's own firm (Araxis Engineering) and a few other companies.”

We should remind that on March 16 and June 9, the same plaintiff filed a lawsuit against the same media outlets for the very same reason, which were both returned because of deficiencies in the documents.

On July 28, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings, however, no court session was scheduled as of the end of the quarter.

**On July 19,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular court hearing on the case of *Ara Harutyunyan, a former employee of the National Security Service, v.* *Skizb Media Kentron LLC*, *founder of* *1in.am* *news website*, demanding public refutation of defamatory information and compensation of the damage caused to honour and dignity.  
 The lawsuit was filed on August 31, 2020, and was caused by an article published on *1in.am* on July 31, stating that the plaintiff had allegedly served in the RA NSS for more than 20 years, and according to the hearsay information: “For years, he was paid with money in an envelope by the chief accountant of the South Caucasus Railways Company for “turning a blind eye” to the robbery on the railways, organized goods smuggling, and engaged in sponsorship”.[[36]](#footnote-36)

A court hearing on the case was held on July 19, too, and on September 28 the court passed a judgment, partially upholding the claim: the media outlet was obligated to publish a refutation, pay 350.000AMD as compensation for slander, and 200.000AMD as an attorney’s reasonable fee.

**On July 20,** the Court of Cassation rejected the complaint of *Armenian Second TV Channel LLC* against the decision of the Court of Appeal which had turned down the appeal, upholding the judgment of the court of first instance which had rejected the lawsuit of *Armenian Second TV Channel LLC, represented by Executive Director Samvel Mayrapetyan, against the Commission on Television and Radio.*

The lawsuit was filed on February 3, 2021. The Court of General Jurisdiction involved *Armenia TV CJSC, Husaber CJSC* (founder of *Yerkir Media* TV company), *Shant CJSC* (founder of the eponymous television company), *A-TV LLC*, *Multi Media-Kentron TV CJSC* (founder of *Kentron* TV company) as third party. The lawsuit demanded the abolition of Decision N 2-A of January 8, 2021 “On Changing the Number of Slots in the State-Metropolitan Broadcast Competitions for Licensing the Use of Slots in the Public Multiplex” and Decision No. 14-A of January 15, 2021 “On Issuing a License to Recognize the Winners of the Competition of State Broadcast for Licensing the Use of Slots in the Public Multiplex”. On February 8, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings; *Armenia TV CJSC, Husaber CJSC* (founder of *Yerkir Media* TV company), *Shant CJSC* (founder of the eponymous television company), *A-TV LLC*, *Multi Media-Kentron TV CJSC* (founder of *Kentron* TV company) were involved as third party.

On April 2, 2021, the court of first instance dismissed the lawsuit on the part of abolishing Decision No. 2-A. Regarding the abolition of Decision No. 14-A of January 15, the claim was upheld - that act was repealed. In addition, the court decided to confiscate 4,000 AMD from the Commission in favor of the plaintiff as compensation, and 300,000 AMD as attorney's fee. On May 5, the defendant filed an appeal, which was accepted for proceedings on July 2.

On May 5, 2021, the defendant filed a complaint with the Court of Appeal which was turned down on January 26, 2022. The defendant went to the Cassation Court on Febrary 25.

**On July 25,** the Court of General Jurisdiction passed a judgment, partially upholding the lawsuit, filed by *Sasun Khachatryan, former Head of the RA Special Investigation Service and Chairman of the RA Corruption Prevention Commission v.* *Zhoghovurd Newspaper Editorial Office*, demanding public refutation of the defamatory information and compensation for the damage caused to his honour and dignity.

The lawsuit was filed on September 24, 2021, and was caused by an article published in the newspaper and on the *Armlur.am* website belonging to the same company on September 11. The article with the following heading: “Sasun Khachatryan Has an Apartment in Moscow. He Signed His Indictment,” [[37]](#footnote-37) attributed the ownership of real estate and money of great value to Sasun Khachatryan as assets the official had failed to declare. By the way, before filing a lawsuit, the plaintiff suggested the media outlet should publish a refutation, but this offer was turned down.[[38]](#footnote-38) The amount of compensation mentioned in Sasun Khachatryan's claim is 2 million AMD and in case the lawsuit is upheld, he intends to fully contribute the money to the Rehabilitation Center for Soldiers wounded and disabled in the 44-day war as charity.

The court ruled to confiscare 200.000 AMD in favour of the plaintiff as compensation for slander, as well as oblige the media outlet to publish a refutation. On September 19, the defendant appealed the court ruling in a higher instance court.

**On July 21,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan upheld the suit, filed by *the former Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Suren Papikyan (currently the Minister of Defense) v.* *Media Plus* LLC, with claims of refuting the information considered as defamatory.

The lawsuit filed on June 17, 2021 was caused by an article, published on June 11 on *Yerevan.today* website owned by the LLC and bearing the following headline: “Armenia's New Millionaires. Within 3 Years Papikyan Became a Dollar Millionaire due to the Income from Asphalting”.[[39]](#footnote-39)

The court obliged the defendant to pay 200.000AMD as attorney’s reasonable fee and 4000AMD as state duty. The judgment was not appealed against as of the end of the quarter.

**On July 22,** the Civil Court of Appeal upheld the complaint of *Lydian Armenia company v. journalist Tehmine Yenokyan,* however turned down the complaint filed by the defendant.

The lawsuit was filed with the Court of General Jurisdiction in Ararat and Vayots Dsor Marzes on September 5, 2018, and was caused by Tehmine Yenokyan’s live-stream on her Facebook page from the mineral water drinking hall of Jermuk city on August 12. According to the plaintiff, in her public statements the journalist used expressions discrediting the business reputation of the company, for which they demanded 1 million AMD as compensation, as well as refutation of data considered defamatory via a Facebook public live-stream from the same venue. On December 15, 2021, the lawsuit was partially upheld (For details see CPFE’s annual reports for 2018-2021 in the *Reports* section on *khosq.am website*) and both parties went to the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal overturned the judgment of the lower instance court and changed the judgment, obliging Tehmine Yenokyan to refute the data considered as defamatory, confiscate 500.000 AMD as compensation for defamation, 500.000 AMD as compensation for insult, 24.000 AMD for the advance payment of state duty, 200.000 AMD as attorney’s reasonable fee, and 40.000 AMD more as state duty.

On August 29, the defendant appealed against the judgment of the Court of Appeal in the Court of Cassation. No other developments were recorded as of September 30.

**On July 25,** the Court of Appeal accepted the defendant’s appeal against the judgment of the court of general jurisdiction on the case of *Deputy Speaker (the incumber Speaker of the NA) Alen Simonyan v. the owner of Alternative.am website Gegham Simonyan* which partially upheld the claim.

The lawsuit, filed on September 18, 2020 and claiming compensation for the damage caused to honour and dignity was triggered by an article with the heading: “Close Relations between Vivaro and Alen Simonyan that Cost $300,000. Why aren't the Violations by Vivaro Properly Investigated?” and published on *Alternativ.am* *website* on August 20 of the same year. The article particularly stated that Alen Simonyan took $300,000 from Vivaro company and promised to use his connections in the Government to keep the company out of scandals and away from liability for violations**.**[[40]](#footnote-40)

On May 6, the court partially upheld the claim, obliging Gegham Simonyan to publicly refute the statements about Alen Simonyan considered as defamatory, pay 500,000 AMD as compensation for defamation, 300,000 AMD as attorney's reasonable fee and 14,000 AMD as state duty. The Court noted that the published statements did not reflect the truth, because the defendant failed to present evidence thereof. On June 17, the defendant appealed the judgment.

**On July 26,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular court hearing on the case of *Medisar LLC v. News AM LLC*, *the founder of News.am news website*, demanding compensation for the damage caused to its business reputation.

The lawsuit, filed on July 2, 2021, was caused by an article published on May 29 on the above-mentioned website, entitled: “Did They Get Super Profit by Purchasing a DNA Identification Device for War Victims? New Facts from a Suspicious Deal”. The website particularly stated that as a result of the tender conducted by the Scientific and Practical Center of Forensic Medicine SNCO of the RA Ministry of Justice, a contract worth 295.8 million AMD was signed with *Medisar LLC*, engaged in the supply and import of laboratory equipment and chemicals, which received a profit of at least 111 million AMD ($ 212,237) as a result of the procurement process.

The next court hearing is scheduled for November 22.

**On July 27,** the defendant of the case of *the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Kazakhstan Hayk Terteryan v.* *Hraparak Daily LLC* filed an appeal against the judgment of the first instance court.

We should remind that the lawsuit, demanding refutation of the defamatory information and compensation for the expression discrediting his business reputation, was filed on February 2, 2021, and was caused by an article, entitled: “The Pig Farm of the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Kazakhstan has Caused an Ecological Disaster”, published on December 9, 2020 on *Hraparak.am* website.[[41]](#footnote-41) The article particularly mentions that the bodies of sick pigs were buried in the land around the pig farm belonging to Hayk Terteryan, causing enormous damage to the communities around the city of Aktoba. Although on January 21, 2021, the website published a refutation, correcting some of the information in the article that caused the lawsuit, it did not satisfy the plaintiff.[[42]](#footnote-42)

On May 30, 2022, the Court upheld the claim, obliging to publish a refutation, to confiscate 120.000 AMD in favor of the plaintiff as an attorney's reasonable fee and 4.000 AMD as a state duty.

On September 5, the defendant’s complaint against this judgment was accepted for proceedings by the Court of Appeal. The judicial act will be published on December 5.

On the same day, on February 2, 2021, Hayk Terteryan’s son – **Mher Terteryan –** too, filed a lawsuit against the founder of the media outlet for the same reason and with the same claims. On August 24, 2022, this case was reassigned on the ground of termination of the judge’s powers.

**On July 28,** the Civil Court of Appeal returned the complaint against the first instance court judgment, filed by the defendant of *Mher Derdzyan v. Zhoghovurd Newspaper LLC* case, because of deficiencies in the documents.

We should remind that the lawsuit, filed on April 15, 2019, was caused by the newspaper’s concerns that Mher Derdzyan’s construction program could be a deliberate hoax.[[43]](#footnote-43) The plaintiff demands a public apology and 1,5 million AMD compensation for insult and slander. (For details see CPFE’s quarterly and annual reports for 2019-2022 in the *Reports* section on *khosq.am website*). The Court of General Jurisdiction rejected the lawsuit, after which the appeal was upheld at the Court of Appeal, the judgment was overturned and the case was sent for a retrial. On April 19, 2022, the court of first instance partially upheld the lawsuit, obliging the defendant to apologize, publish a refutation, pay 300.000 AMD as compensation for insult, 500.000 AMD for defamation, as well as 500.000AMD as attorney’s reasonable fee and 68.000 AMD for the pre-paid state duty.

On August 29, 2022, a new appeal was filed, and on August 31, the judge was replaced. On September 2, the complaint was not accepted since the plaintiff had not abolished the violation, established by the judgment of the Appellate Court of July 28.

**On July 29,** the Civil Court of Appeal accepted for proceedings the complaint of the defendant in the case of citizen *Erik Yeghinyan v. C-M-G LLC (founder of Factinfo news website),* appealing against the ruling of the first instance court on rejecting the lawsuit.

We should remind that the lawsuit, filed on February 14, 2019, was caused by the September 10, 2018 publication on the website, entitled: “The Prisoner Attempted a Suicide Because He was not Taken to the Dentist”.[[44]](#footnote-44) (For details see CPFE’s reports for 2019-2022 in the *Reports* section on *khosq.am website*). The plaintiff claims 1 million AMD to be confiscated in his favor, a written apology and a published refutation.

No court hearing was scheduled as of September 30.

**On August 2,** Armenian National Interests Fund CJSC filed a lawsuit against Pastinfo LLC, claiming a refutation of the information defaming the business reputation and a payment of monetary compensation. The cause of the lawsuit was an article, published on PastInfo.am website owned by the LLC on June 25. The article stated, that in violation of the RA Law on Freedom of Information, the Fund failed to disclose the contact information of foreign members of the Board of Directors, and the inquiries made by the editors sent to the Fund office did not reach the right addresses.[[45]](#footnote-45) On August 17, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings.

On the same day, the plaintiff filed a motion to place a lien on the property and funds belonging to Pastinfo LLC in the amount of 5 million drams, which was rejected by the court's ruling of August 17. On September 8, the plaintiff filed an appeal against that ruling, the appeal was accepted for proceedings on September 27, and October 11 was set as the date of publication of the judicial act.

**On August 2,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular hearing on the case of *News.am LLC v. Dareskizb LLC, founder of the Haykakan Zhamanak newspaper*.

We should remind that the lawsuit was filed, caused by the article, entitled: “*Ararat, Armnews, H2, News.am, Yerkir Media*, fakes; which Media Outlets were “Bought” by Kocharyan?”, published in the *Haykakan Zhamanak* on August 21, 2018.[[46]](#footnote-46) According to the plaintiff, the publication contained a number of statement in regard to News.am and those, together with the heading of the article, caused damage to the business reputation of News.am. News.am LLC claimed a compensation of 200.000 AMD from the founder of the *Haykakan Zhamanak.*

The next court hearing on the case is scheduled for November 17.

**On August 3,** the same plaintiff filed a complaint on the case against ArmDaily News Agency LLC to the Civil Court of Appeal, challenging the ruling of the Court of General Jurisdiction, which the case was left without trial on the ground that the plaintiff, though duly notified, failed to appear in two consecutive court hearings.

The lawsuit, claiming compensation for the damage caused to honour, dignity and good reputation through slander and insult, was filed on November 25, 2020, and was caused by an article, entitled: “URGENT. Criminal Authorities Ara and Alik Banduryans from Noratus Intimidate My Step MPs. Mediaport” and published on *Armdaily.am* website on November 20, and was triggered, in particular, by the phrase “the one who held bottles”, used about the MP.[[47]](#footnote-47)

The Court of Appeal accepted the complaint for proceedings on August 15. No developments were recorded as of the end of the quarter.

**On August 4,** the Russian peacekeepers prohibited Zhirayr Voskanyan, the correspondent of 1in.am news website and cameraman Khachatur Yesayan from entering Artsakh. The peacekeepers behaved rudely, holding machine guns at the media representatives and saying: "If you want problems, we will easily create them. We are the ones to solve problems here, we are ones to decide."[[48]](#footnote-48) Then, the journalist and the cameraman were forced to sit in a military armored vehicle and were taken to other peacekeepers who were wearing masks. Hours later, Zhirayr Voskanyan and Khachatur Yesayan returned to Armenia.

**On August 8,** the Russian peacekeepers prohibited Ani Gevorgyan, the correspondent of MediaHub.am news website, from entering Artsakh.[[49]](#footnote-49) The reporter turned to the Foreign Affairs Minister of Artsakh David Babayan on the matter, who answered that there were security related issues and she should try to come some other rime. The reporter could not receive any clarification from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

**On August 12,** NA MP Khachatur Sukiasyan filed a lawsuit with the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan against Vazgen Sagahatelyan, the Press Secretary of the Reviving Armenia party (third party: NewsAM LLC), with claims of public apology, refutation of information considered as defamatory as well as payment of a compensation.

The lawsuit was caused by the ideas expressed by Saghatelyan during the July 29 demonstration of the opposition in Yerevan according which an MP was involved in the business of licensing the gas cylinders in cars and was benefitting from the relevant decree of the Government. The speech under question was published by News.am website, belonging to NewsAM LLC, involved in the case as third party. On August 23, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings, and the plaintiff’s motion of placing a lien on the property, as well as the monetary assets of the defendant in an amount equal to the claim, was rejected. As of September 30, no other developments were recorded.

**On August 19,** Arayik Harutyunyan, the Chief of Staff of the RA Prime Minister filed a lawsuit with the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan against Hraparak Daily LLC with claims of refuting the information considered as defamatory and payment of compensation.

The lawsuit was caused by an article with the heading “Hrach is inside, Avinyan is outside: there will be no clashes” which stated that Arayik Harutyunyan and his brother, too, who had a private business and was taking over all well-funded projects would play an active role in city management.[[50]](#footnote-50) On August 30, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings. No other developments were recorded as of September 30.

**On August 23,** citizen Mariam Hovsepyan filed a lawsuit against International Media Holding LLC (the founder of Lurer.com news website) with claims of public apology, refutation of defamation and payment of compensation. The lawsuit was caused by an article with the heading: “The court fined citizen Mariam Hovsepyan for an insulting conduct on social media and forced to apologize in writing”, published in Lurer.com on July 7 which stated that citizen Hovsepyan was famous for her insulting, provocatory and unilateral statements about public institutions, political figures, journalists and business people and was fined at the amount of 200.000 AMD by a court ruling for the insults she made on Facebook.[[51]](#footnote-51) On August 31, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings. No developments were recorded as of September 30.

**On August 23,** Mariam hovsepyan filed a lawsuit against Slaq Media LLC (the founder of Slaq.am news website) for the same reason and with the same claims.[[52]](#footnote-52) It was returned for the deficiencies in the application. On September 30, Mariam Hovsepyan filed a new lawsuit against Slaq Media LLC.

**On August 30,** the Administrative Court partially upheld the motion of Armenian Second TV Channel LLC on applying a measure to secure the claim, prohibiting the Commission for Television and Radio to hold a competition for assigning a slot of national broadcast in public multiplex until the judicial act resolving the merits of this case took effect.

We should remind that the lawsuit was filed on March 15, 2021 against the Commission on Television and Radio, claiming to oblige the Commition to recognize Armenian Second TV Channel as the winner in the tender for licensing the use of national broadcast slot in public multiplex and adopting a decision on issuing the license. *ArmNews CJSC, Shark LLC, Multi Media Center TV CJSC, Armenia TV CJSC, A-TV LLC, Skizb Media Kentron Ltd., Free News LLC, Meltex LLC, Armenian Public Television CJSC, Husaber CJSC, Shant LLC*, and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry were involved as a third party.

A hearing on the case was held on September 28, too.

**On September 2,** the General Jurisdiction Court of Yerevan held the pre-trial hearing on the case of *Ruben Khachatryan, the former Director of the Yerevan Zoo v. citizen Manuk Manukyan and Iravunk Media LLC*, demanding refutation of defamatory information and monetary compensation.

The lawsuit, filed on April 29, was caused by the statements, made by Manuk Manukyan on the air of *Iravunk TV* on April 1, according to which the Zoo was standing on the edge of an abyss, because for years, in particular, when Ruben Khachatryan was in office, a corruption scheme was in full function: public funds were embezzled and the animals were neglected.[[53]](#footnote-53)

The next court hearing is scheduled for November 28.

**On September 5,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan continued the trial of businessman *Vahe Keushgueryan v. Dareskizb LLC* case.

The lawsuit was filed on October 12, 2020, demanding to refute the information considered as insulting and slanderous. The lawsuit was caused by an article, published on *Armtimes.com* website (owned by the company) on September 7, which particularly stated that a semi-secret auction was an attempt to alienate the Chrran waterfall near the border village of Khachik, which is the most spectacular place in the village, to the Armenian American businessman Vahe Keushgueryan.[[54]](#footnote-54) The website also wrote that the businessman was still enjoying the privilege, granted to him by the former government, and was almost the only buyer of all the grapes grown in Khachik village, this being an exceptional raw material for producing his expensive wine.

The next court hearing was scheduled for November 4.

**On September 6,** the Civil Court of Appeal upheld the complaint of the defendant in *the former Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (currently the Minister of Defense) Suren Papikyan v. Anna Gevorgyan Private Entrepreneur* (founder Hzham.am news website) case against the ruling of the Court of General Jurisdiction which rejected the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was filed on June 22, 2020, demanding public refutation of the defamatory information and payment of compensation. The lawsuit was caused by an article published on *Hzham.am* website on May 15, entitled: “Civil Contract Party Members are Interested in the Real Estate Market”, which stated in particular that province governors, led by Minister Suren Papikyan, were buying houses in the capital “without paying” as they provided services, demanding an apartment as a donation.[[55]](#footnote-55) On December 17, the motion to apply injunction of a freezing order on the property was upheld.

On March 31, 2022, the Court ruled to reject Suren Papikyan’s claim, and the measure to secure the claim, namely maintaining the freezing order on the PE’s assets in the amount of 1 million and 200 thousand AMD until the court judgment entered into legal force. The court established that the author of the article featuring in this dispute had signed off as Armen Sargsyan which means that a proper reference was made to the source of the information, namely the author, and this served as sufficient ground so that the defendant in the case was exempt from liability.

The Court of Appeal overturned the judgment of the Court of General Jurisidction in relation to the claims of obliging the defendant to refute the information considered as defamatory, and the case was sent to the same court for a new trial in relation to this part.

**On September 9,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Ararat and Vayots Dzor marzes (Artashat residence) continued the court hearing by double trial on the case of *Nver Mnatsakanyan, a journalist and anchor, v. Hayeli Club and Garnik Isagulyan*, demanding public apology and publication of the judgment in the media.

The lawsuit, filed on May 15, 2019, was caused by a video, entitled: “Hey, Nver, aren’t You Ashamed: You will Serve Whoever Pays You: Garnik Isagulyan” published on *Hayeli.am* website on April 14, 2019, where the latter made his assessment on Nver Mnatsakanyan's activities.[[56]](#footnote-56)

By the decision of August 16, 2021, the Court rejected Nver Mnatsakanyan’s lawsuit finding that the plaintiff failed to substantiate the fact that the defendant was seeking to insult the plaintiff and discredit his honor and dignity and that the disputed expressions were not addressed to the plaintiff. However, on December 24, the Civil Court of Appeal, decided to overturn the judgment of the First Instance and send the case to the same court for a retrial. The Court of Appeal came to the conclusion that the publicity of the statements made by the defendant and their reference to the person of the plaintiff are indisputable.

In the latest session the Court made a judgment to distribute the burden of proof. The next hearing was scheduled on December 5.

**On September 12,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan ruled not to try the case of *businessman Ashot Grigoryan v. 24News LLC*, and Tigran Seyranyan, the RA Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, claiming compensation of damage to the honor, dignity and business reputation. The Court substantiated this judgment on the ground that the notified plaintiff failed to appea in two successive court hearings, failed to submit a motion for postponing the trial or resolving the case in his absence, and the defendants failed to motion for the continuation of the trial of the case.

We should remind that the lawsuit, filed on August 27, 2018, was caused by a video, entitled: “Chance Comer in Yerevan: Who is the Big Schemer, Initiating the Restart of Nairit?” that was published on the YouTube channel of the website.[[57]](#footnote-57) (For details see CPFE’s annual and quarterly reports for 2018-2022 in the *Reports* section on khosq.am website).

**On September 13,** NewsAM LLC. filed a lawsuit with the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan v. Hraparak Daily LLC. with claims to oblige to refute the information considered as defamatory, make a public apology for the insult and compensate the damage caused to the business reputation. The lawsuit was caused by an article, published on Hraparak.am website on August 10, [[58]](#footnote-58) which stated that upon a request from the Ministry of Defence News.am refuted a news story on an unpleasant event, featuring the Minister.[[59]](#footnote-59)

On September 26, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings.

**On September 14, the former Mayor of Yerevan Hayk Marutyan filed a lawsuite with Yerevan Court of General Jurisdiction against the public figure Hovhannes Shahinyan (with Hayeli Club NGO as the third party), claiming a compensation of 2 million AMD for the damage caused to honour and dignity.**

**The lawsuit was caused by an interview, published on** Hayeli.am website that is owned by the NGO and entitled “Hayko Marutyan is a Failed Clown: Hovhannes Shahinyan”. The interview was held live on the youtube channel of the website, where Shahinyan in particular stated that there was widespread looting in the municipaty during Marutyan’s tenure.[[60]](#footnote-60)  
 On September 29, the lawsuit was returned because of deficiencies in the documents.

**On September 14,** the Azerbaijani forces tareted reporters, fulfilling their professional duties, in the Sotk village of Gegharkunik marz, RA, shooting from the artillery in their direction twice.[[61]](#footnote-61) Vahe Ksotandyan from Public TV, cameraman Seyran Antonyan, the correspondent of ArmenPress News Agency Karen Khachatryan, photographer Hayk Manukyan, cameraman Hovhannes Mkrtchyan, the correspondent of Radar Armenia news website Hayk Magoyan were in the journalists’ group. The reporters were not wounded or injured in any other way.

**On September 14,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan accepted the lawsuit of *Artur Vardanyan v.* *168 Zham LLC* *and citizen David Pirumyan* for proceedings for a new trial, with claims of obligating the defendant to apologize, refute the defamatory information and confiscating a compensation.

We should remind that the lawsuit was filed on July 10. The lawsuit was caused by an article, entitled: “Nikol Pashinyan talked to Artur Vardanyan during his campaign” and published on March 6.[[62]](#footnote-62) The website quoted Pirumyan: “The Prime-Minister warmly greeted the terrorist Artur Vardanyan who was incomprehensibly released by the court during the former’s rule.”

On June 15, 2021, the court decided to reject the claim on the grounds of statute of limitations, for which the defendant had filed a motion. On July 26, the plaintiff filed an appeal to the Civil Court of Appeal, which was upheld: the decision of the Court of General Jurisdiction was overturned, the case was sent to the same court for a new trial.

A court trial was scheduled for October 24.

**On September 15,** a conflict emerged in the National Assembly between the MPs of the ruling party and the representatives of a number of media representatives, accredited in the Parliament. Thus, Ani Gevorgyan, a correspondent from MediaHub.am news website, and Kristine Poghosyan, an MP from the Civil Contract faction got into an argument. In particular, the latter threatened she would strike with the phone, and Ani Gevorgyan responded that the MP belonged in the street.[[63]](#footnote-63) A tension built up in the interactions between Syuzi Badoyan, the correspondent of Yerevan.Today news website and some MPs.

On the same day the Speaker of the NA Alen Simonyan, making a decision on his sole discretion, instructed the law-enforcement officers to remove Syuzi Badoyan and Ani Gevorgyan from the NA building, for disrputing the normal operations of the NA. 11 journalistic organizations made a joint statement on this occasion, condemning the pressure against media representatives.

As in the case of physical violence related to the same case, which we presented in the previous section, in this case, too, no criminal proceedings were initiated, because the report did not document such an event, action or inaction that could reasonably be given a preliminary legal assessment of compliance with any act provided for by the RA Criminal Code. The RA Prosecutor's Office informed the CPFE on this matter.

**On September 19,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular court hearing on the case of *citizen Arusyak Mkrtchyan v. Zhoghovurd Daily*, demanding refutation of defamatory information and compensation for damage.

The lawsuit was filed on August 12, 2019, and was caused by an article published on *Armlur.am* website on July 12, entitled: “A DJ in Healthcare Sector: Circa $ 20,000 to the Minister's Acquaintance”.[[64]](#footnote-64) The author noted that the RA Ministry of Health had allocated over 9.5 million AMD from the state budget to In Progress Production Company, founded by Arusyak Mkrtchyan, i.e. DJ Vaccina, to film social ads.

The next court hearing is scheduled on November 30.

**On September 20,** Yerevan Court of General Jurisdiction received the case of *former**NA MP Vahe Enfiajyan v. Social Media LLC, the founder of Mamul.am website* for a new trial.

The lawsuit filed on April 16, 2021, demanding public refutation of the information discrediting his honor and dignity and compensation for defamation, was caused by an article published on *Mamul.am* website on December 9, 2020, entitled: “Vahe Enfiajyan's Assistant Offers to Write Praises about Tsarukyan in Exchange for Money, to Discredit Pashinyan”.[[65]](#footnote-65) (For details see CPFE’s annual and quarterly reports for 2018-2022 in the *Reports* section on *khosq.am website*).

On March 9, 2022, the claim was partially upheld, the website was obliged to publish a refutation. On April 18, the defendant filed a complaint with the Civil Court of Appeal. On June 22, the Court of Appeal overturned the judgment on the grounds of insufficient evidentiary facts and sent the case for a retrial.

**On September 22,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan rejected the lawsuit filed by *lawyer Aram Orbelyan v. the Republic of Armenia*, in the person of the National Security Service and the Public TV Company of Armenia CJSC. We should remind that the case is being retried.

The lawsuit was filed on March 3, 2020, demanding a refutation of the defamatory information and a compensation for the damage caused. The lawsuit was caused by a report within the main *Lurer* newscast on the *Public TV Company* on January 30, which, according to its author Gevorg Tosunyan, was based on official explanations. The report contained information provided by the NSS, stating that lawyer Aram Orbelyan regularly visited the Constitutional Court without presenting an ID, and his entries were not logged.[[66]](#footnote-66)

On July 26, 2021, the Court decided to reject the lawsuit by regarding the disputed judgements as value judgements, to confiscate 100.000 AMD from Aram Orbelyan in favor of *Armenian Public TV* *Company CJSC* as the attorney’s fee. On August 30, an appeal was filed against the court ruling, which was upheld on December 15: the case was sent to the same court for a retrial.

This time, too, the Court found that the information presented by the plaintiff within the context of the published material did not contain any defamatory statements and cannot be evaluated as discrediting the honour and dignity of a person.

**On September 26,** Samvel Kharazyan, a healthcare expert and a former official of the State Healthcare Agency filed a lawsuit with the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan against the *Zhoghovurd Daily Editorial Office LLC* and its editor-in-chief Knar Manukyan, for the part of the compensation for the damage caused to honour and dignity. The lawsuit was caused by an article, published in the *Zhoghovurd* newspaper, owned by the LLC, and Armlur.am website on August 25 and entitled “The Corrupt System Persists even Today: New Disclosures by the State Supervision Service head[[67]](#footnote-67) which reminded that Samvel Kharazyan, together with a number of other officials, was involved in a criminal case and the editorial office would pursue the disclosure of the corrupt activity, related to the case.

We sould remind that the same plaintiff filed a lawsuit against the same media outlet in 2021, which was partially upheld. The new lawsuit was not accepted for proceedings as of September 30.

**On September 26,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular session on the case of St. Gregory the Illuminator Medical Center v. Hraparak Daily LLC, demanding refutation and compensation for defamatory information discrediting business reputation.

The lawsuit, filed on January 11, 2021, was caused by an article, entitled: “One of the Deputy Directors of St. Gregory the Illuminator MC Lost 1 billion AMD in Toto”, published in the December 9, 2020 issue of the *Hraparak Daily*. The article stated: “…one of the deputy directors made bets at the Toto bookmaker's office, using the hospital's cash register and lost great amount of money, over 1 billion AMD. As a result, the hospital staff is deprived of a salary…”. On the day of the publication of the article, the medical center refuted the information published by the media outlet on its Facebook page, considering it an absolute lie, which was discrediting the reputation of the medical center.[[68]](#footnote-68) The *Hraparak* was offered to publish a refutation, which they failed to fulfil.

The next court hearing was scheduled for October 7.

**On Septmber 26,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regulat court hearing on the case of *the former NSS intelligence colonel Eduard Harutyunyan v. former NA MP Taron Sahakyan (with founder of Zhamanak daily Skizb Media Center LLC as the third party),* demanding a public apology for insult, refutation of defamatory information and a compensation.

We should remind that the lawsuit was caused by an article published in the daily on May 29, 2019, and reprinted on 1in.am website, entitled “” The lawsuit was caused by the article, published in the daily and republished on *1in.am* website, entitled: “The Harutyunyans Dynasty is Still Rooted in the State Administration System: Who Occupies a Post, What Post and Where?”[[69]](#footnote-69)

A court hearing was held on September 28 with the next one scheduled for November 23.

**On September 26,** a regular court hearing was held on the case of *NA MP Hayk Sargsyan v. Armenuhi Hovsepyan, founder of Newspress.am website*, demanding compensation for the damage caused to the honor, dignity and good reputation through slander and insult.

The lawsuit, filed on April 13, 2020, was caused by posts and live broadcasts on the defendant's Facebook page, dated March 20, where, according to Hayk Sargsyan, a number of expressions were made in the plaintiff’s address in an ironic and insulting tone, criminal slang and street jargon. In particular, “Tell little Hayk, who used to hold the water bottle for Nikol, that I have collected good bottles for him to hold”, etc.

The next court hearing is scheduled for November 22, 2022.

**On September 27,** the Galatv.am website was hacked by Azerbaijanis. As a result, the operations of the website were disrupted, and a number of materials were deleted. The Azerbaijanis uploaded the photos of their fallen on the Home page of the website and left a note that they would never forget September 27. Later, the normal operation of the website was restored by specialists.

**On September 29,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular court hearing on the case of the *NA MP Hayk Sargsyan v. the Irates social-political newspaper and eponymous electronic website*, demanding compensation for the damage caused to the honor and dignity through slander and insult.

The lawsuit was filed on October 1, 2019 and was caused by an article, published in the September 6 issue of the newspaper, entitled: “You Only Used to Hold the Water Bottle for Nikol: Anna Hakobyan”.

The next court hearing is scheduled for November 30.

**On September 29,** the Editorial office of the *Zhoghovurd* daily and ArmLur.am website made a statement which said that their bank account has been frozen. It turned out that this was related to the enforcement of the court judgment on the case of former official Samvel Kharazyan v. *the Zhoghovurd* Newspaper Editorial Office LLC: the media outlet was obliged to make a public apology for discrediting the honour and dignity of the plaintiff, pay 150000 AMD as an attorney’s fee and 4000AMD as a state duty.

10 journalistic organizations made a joint statement in this regard, considering the above-stated pressure against media, especially when the Investigative Committee confirmed the fact that a criminal action was initiated against Samvel Kharazyan in the past, and the plaintiff filed 2 judicial cases against the media outlet.[[70]](#footnote-70)

**On September 30,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan held a regular court hearing on the case of *Olymp Construction LLC v. Hetq LLC*, demanding refutation of defamatory information and a compensation.

We should remind that the lawsuit was filed on June 29, 2020, and was caused by an article, entitled: “The Construction Company Developing a New Building Refuses to Hand Over the Pumping Station to the Water Committee: Residents are Complaining” and published on *Hetq.am*.[[71]](#footnote-71) Although the author of the article incorporated the comment from the representative of the construction company, too, the plaintiff does not agree to the residents’ complaint.

The next court hearing on the case was scheduled for February 1, 2023.

1. ***Violations of the Right to Receive and Disseminate Information***

*In the third quarter of 2022, the CPFE recorded 20 facts on the violation of the right to receive and disseminate information. The facts recorded during the period under review, as well as the new developments related to the events from past periods are presented below in chronological order.*

**On July 1,** Armlur.am news website wrote that the Editorial office inquired from the RA NSS Head Armen Abazyan what illegalities were disclosed in relation to the suspicious sale of former NA Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan’s mansion, built in the vicinity of the Victory park in the capital and the status of the criminal case. In response to this inquiry, the NSS investigative department informed: “In relation to the criminal case, as stated in your inquiry, Narek Nalbandyan was invited to the investigative department of the NSS and was interrogated.” The questions raised by the editorial office were not answered in essence. By the way, the secrecy of the inquiry stage was not invoked either, which could lead to a conclusion that the inquiry made by the media outlet was legit, and that the information was supposed to be provided.

**On July 5,** Yerkir.am news website wrote that the editorial office sent an inquiry to the RA Minister of Healthcare to find out why Narek Grigoryan, an MP from the NA Civil Contract faction had not been summoned by the psychiatric ward since 2018, what grounds were presented in this regard, whether his mental health allowed him to mobilize a squad, get armed and take people to participate in military action. The information received by the media outlet that before 2018 Grigoryan would regularly visit Sevan phychiatric ward and stopped doing so only after Pashinyan came to power triggered this inquiry. The website wrote that Minister Anahit Avanesyan avoided a concrete answer, considering the requested information as a medical secret. However, it is known that information on the health of top officials is of public interest and cannot be a secret.

The website sent another inquiry to the Ministry of Defense to find out the grounds for letting Narek Grigoryan bear arms and mobilize a squad in the days of war. No answer was received.

**On July 7,** the Administrative Court partially upheld the joint lawsuit filed by Transparency International Anti-Corruption Center, Law Development and Protection Foundation and Civilitas Foundation (Civilnet.am news website founder) against the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of the RA. The lawsuit was filed on August 23, 2021, demanding to oblige to provide the information and documents requested on July 12, 2021 which had to do with the results of the inspections, conducted in the mining sector in the concrete timeframe.

The court ruled that the defendant was obliged to provide the requested information and consider the issue of court fees distribution resolved. On September 5, the Administrative Court of Appeal received the complaint of the defendant against this judgment.

**On July 11,** theHetq online periodical sent an inquiry to Syunik Governor’s Office on the operation of Kapan airport, particularly asking of the functions it fulfilled currently, since it had been commissioned since November 18, 2020, but was in factual forced idle time. The answer did not provide any substance, reading as follows: “Syunik Airport LLC received an airport commissioning certificate by the Civil Aviation Committee on November 18, 2020, which served as a ground for the airport to fulfil all those functions which are envisaged by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and in the manner, defined by the RA Aviation authorities.” The next question on the number of positions and vacancies at the airport was answered that due to security consideration, they found it inexpedient to publish information on the payroll.

**On July 11,** 168.am news website wrote that on June 27 the editorial office sent in an inquiry to the staff of Kristine Grigoryan, the Human Rights Defender, requesting full information about the bonuses paid during her tenure, however, the answer was rated as incomplete. The website wrote: “Even though we had asked to answer how much reward was paid per position, but the staff of the HRD preferred to stay away from problems and provided us with general numbers, hoping that we would not figure out what happened and why.”

**On July 15,** the defendant in the case of the *Freedom of Information Center v. Yerevan Miniscipality* went to the Administrative Court of Appeal.

We should remind that the lawsuit, demanding to oblige the Municipality to provide the requested information on 60/1 Silikyan Old Highway in Yerevan, was filed on November 5, 2021, and before that , starting from August 12, FOICA had sent an inquiry to Yerevan Minicipality, asking to provide information on the community property, requesting information on a stone factory, located on a community-owned land adjacent to the Silikyan Highway residential area and operating illegally for more than 10 years and to clarify why it was not destroyed or dismantled. The municipality, in fact, did not respond to the questions and skipped them, providing an abstract comment.

On June 9, the court upheld the claim, and the defendant was obliged to provide the requested information, as to whether the businessman who operated the stone factory had a permit to use the community-owned land legally or had signed a rental agreement with the municipality or the district administration of Ajapnyak or he had simply occupied the community land.

On September 6, the appeal was returned because of the deficiencies in the documents.

**On July 19,** after the replacement of the judge, the case of *Civilitas Foundation as the founder of CivilNet.am news website and Transparency International Anti-Corruption Center v. the Staff of the Prime Minister* was accepted for new proceedings.

We should remind the on October 4 and November 23, 2021, Mkrtich Karapetyan, a correspondent of the news website *CivilNet.am*, sent an inquiry to the RA Government, requesting to provide the agreement on donating 15% of shares of Zangezur Copper and Molybdenum Combine to the Government. The Government, considering that the document contained a trade secret, refused the request.

On December 16, Civilitas and *Transparency International* filed a lawsuit in the Administrative Court, demanding to obligate to provide a copy of document.

A hearing was scheduled for October 12.

**On August 1,** the defendant in the Investigative *Journalists NGO (the founder of Hetq Online periodical) v. the Speaker of the National Assembly Alen Simonyan (with the RA Ministry of Finance as the third party)* case filed a complaint with the Administrative Court of Appeal.

The lawsuit was filed with a lower instance court on December 14, 2021, in relation to receiving answers to the following questions requested in writing on November 15: who is served by each of the 43 vehicles of the National Assembly, and how much is the expense, caused by each? On June 30, the suit was partially upheld: the court judgment obliged Alen Simonyan to provide the requested information, charge him 80,000 AMD as an attorney's fee and 8,000 AMD as a state duty.

On September 5, the appeal was accepted for proceedings. The court session is scheduled for November 30, 2023.

**On August 8,** the Administrative Court held a regular hearing on the case of the founder of *Fip.am website the Union of Informed Citizens NGO v. the staff of the RA Prime Minister and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan*, claiming to oblige to provide the full list of media outlets and organizations that posed questions for the Facebook press conference on November 23, 2021, sending them to [press@gov.am](mailto:press@gov.am) e-mail address. The lawsuit was accepted for proceedings on January 3, 2022. The next court hearing is scheduled for October 3.

**On August 11,** Infocom.am news website requested from the Ministry of Economy the total number of tourists who arrived in Armenia through various border crossing points, as well as the break down of this information per border crossing point. After receiving the answer, it became clear that the information was inaccurate: the total sum of persons who arrived in the country through various crossing points was smaller than the sum total provided by the Ministry. First, the editorial office made a call to inform them about the issue, and then sent a new inquiry which was answered to with only general information on the maintained statistics, but the answer to the inquiry was not provided. When they called the agency again, they were referred to the specialist of the relevant unit, which, however, did not answer the calls.

**On September 6,** Freedom of Information Center sent an inquiry to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asking to provide information on whether the RA MFA was going to take part in the Information and Democracy Forum, to be held in the USA on September 22, 2022. If yes, at what level. The Ministry gave a vague answer, that did not contain the information requested by the inquiry.

**On September 8,** Milena Khachikyan, acorrespondentof Infocom.am news website, wrote that a month before they had sent in a written inquiry to the Investgative Department of the RA State Revenue Committee, in order to clarify the news about the termination of the investigation against the former ambassador of RA to the Vatican, Mikael Minasyan. In particular, whether Minasyan was ever internationally wanted, whether this search for him was terminated, and if yes, when, at whose initiative and on what ground, and if any country had terminated the search for him, whether the RA had requested and received clarification on the matter.

In response to this, the Investigative Department of the SRC, inter alia, informed that the search for Minasyan had not been stopped to date, and it was not appropriate to provide more detailed information at the given stage of the inquiry. Taking into account that the question referred to the specific international search of an individual, and not to search in general, the journalist made an additional call trying to verify whether the provided information also referred to the international search. In response, the press department of the SRC urged them to contact the RA police on this matter.

The police refused the reporter, too, with a justification that the requested information as a service secret could not be published. However, there were cases when such information was officially published.

Milena Khachikyan wrote to the Prosecutor General’s office, asking whether any country had stopped the search for Minasyan and/or rejected Armenia’s application for his extradition and whether the Procedutor’s Office had received a clarification on this matter. However, the Procutor’s office redirected the letter to the Investigative Department of SRC with the justification that the prosecuting body is the SRC, and this entity sent the same answer to the reporter with the same old date. After all of this, about a month later, the Prosecutor’s Office officially announced that, based on the publications in the media outlets, it had rapidly undertaken respective measures, to verify the authenticity of the information contained in them regarding the termination of the international search for Minasyan by Interpol, given that they had not received previously any official information or notification on the matter. It was not clear to the journalist what hindered the Prosecutor’s office to undertake measures in the same rapid manner to find out and present that information based on the reporter’s inquiry.

**On September 12,** MediaHub.am news website wrote that the multiple inquiries sent to the Syunik Governer’s Office, and then various departments of the National Security Service and Ministry of Defense on the potential military activities remained unanswered.[[72]](#footnote-72) The agencies put the responsibility of commenting on the accumulation of the adversary’s military forces at the border, the statements made by Azerbaijan and disseminated information on one another.

**On September 14,** Infocom.am news website sent an inquiry to the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport on the steps, taken for organizing the education of pupils and students who arrived in Armenia from Ukraine.[[73]](#footnote-73) In the written answer, the Ministry only reflected the effective legislative regulartions which, according to the media outlet, was a generic answer without any specificities.

**On September 15,** the*Chorrord Ishkhanutyun* newspaper sent a letter to the RA Cadastre Committee of the RA on receiving information on 17 units of real estate in a number of settlements in Kotayk marz and in Yerevan. However, they received an “answer” from the Deputy of the Cadastre Committee Head Arman Petrosyan that they could provide the newspaper with information only if they submitted a receipt of a payment of 1000 AMD per unit in their inquiry, in the given case, a receipt for a total of 17.000AMD.

**On September 15,** Vahe Sarukhanyan, the correspondent of the Hetq online periodical, sent inquiries to Suren Papikyan, the Minister of Defense, requesting information on the loss of military posts, the threats to the Sisian – Goris and Kapan – Chakaten – Tsav road communication, as well as information on the toll, wounded and PoWs of the Armenian side as a result of the offensive by the adversary on September 13. Hamlet Batikyan, Secretary General of the Ministry of Defense, gave a generic and vague answer to all the questions, avaoiding any concrete commentary: “At the moment, we are working to check, juxtapose and analyse information as a result of which the Ministry of Defense would regularly make official statements on the relevant information and the situation, too.” We should mention that as of September 30, no information was available on those issues.

**On September 26,** Araks Mamulyan, the correspondent of Hetq online periodical, wrote that she had sent an inquiry to Yerevan Mayor Hrachya Sargsyan a month before on the potential violation of the construction permit package of Norashen 2 distrtict in the capital. All the deadlines set by the law were broken, and yet the journalist had not received any answer.

**On September 27,** *Infocom.am* news website wrote that the RA General Prosecutor’s Office and the RA Investigative Committee, violating the requirement set by the Law on the Freedom of Information, did not respond to the written inquiry of the editorial office in relation to the criminal cases on the 44-day war and the course of the investigations. However, both entities spoke on this matter many times before.[[74]](#footnote-74)

**On September 30,** Armlur.am news website wrote that the *Zhoghovurd* daily sent inquiries to the RA Ministry of Defense and the National Security Service to learn about the fate of the 2 groups of the adversary who penetrated into the territory of Armenia in the course of the September offensive, whether they were found and neutralized. The editorial office did not hear from either entity.

***OTHER EVENTS ON THE ACTIVITY OF MEDIA AND JOURNALISTS***

**On July 7,** the Administrative Court held a regular hearing on the case of *the Armenian Second TV Channel LLC v. Commission on Television and Radio* on the lawsuit of August 6, 2021, claiming to oblige the Commission on TV and Tadio to recognize the former as the winner in the tender for licensing the use of slot for broadcast in the capital in the public multiplex and making a decision on issuing a license.

On March 24, the court rejected the defendant’s motion on using a measure to secure the claim, that is to uphold the plaintiff’s claim temporarily. The next court hearing was scheduled on January 12, 2023.

**On August 2,** the *Armenian Second TV Channel* filed another lawsuit with the Administrative Court against the Commission on TV and Radio, claiming the recognition of the lack of jurisdiction to impose a fine of four-hundred-fold the minimum wage specified in Article 57, Part 22 of the Law On Audiovisual Media on the LLC, as stipulated in Decision No. 85-A of June 13, 2022, which was drawn up and unsigned by the Commission. On August 9, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings and no other developments were recorded by the end of the quarter.

**On August 9,** the same plaintiff turned to the Adminsitrative Court against the Commission on TV and Radio, claiming the abolishment of Decision N 103-A of July 15, 2022. This decision is on the recognition of the winner of the licensing tender for the use of the slot for broadcasting in the capital in public multiplex and on the issuance of the license, according to which the competitor of the Armenian Second TV Channel – BOON scientific and cultural foundation (Boon TV) was granted the right to broadcast. On August 16, the court decided to accept the lawsuit for proceedings and to request all materials that served as background and substantiated the decision made. On August 18, Boon foundation was involved in the proceedings as the third party. Court hearins were held on September 12, 26, 29, and 30. October 10 was scheduled for the publication of the judicial act.

**On September 19,** the Armenian Second TV channel filed another lawsuit against the Commission on TV and Radio (with BOON scientific and cultural foundation as the third party), claiming to oblige the Commission to recognize the plaintiff as the winner in the tender of March 24, 2022, for the use of the broadcast slot in the public multiplex with coverage in the capital and make a decision on the issuance of the license. On September 23, the lawsuit was returned because of the inaccuracies contained therein.

**On July 8,** the General Jurisdiction Court of Armavir (Echmiadzin residence) held a regular hearing on the case of *Mariam Tashchyan, a journalist of Econews.am, v. Armen Tadevosyan, the president of the Armavir Zoo and Wildlife Rescue Center NGO*, demanding an apology for the insult and confiscation of a compensation.

The lawsuit, filed on August 23, 2021, was caused by the insulting remarks, made by the defendant on Facebook Live on July 24, after the Mariam Tashchyan visited the aforementioned park during her journalistic investigation on July 9. The journalist saw how the brown bear (included in the red list) was kept in a cage and wrote a Facebook post about it on July 15. The lawsuit was accepted for proceedings on September 1. On October 20, Armen Tadevosyan filed a counterclaim in the same court, demanding refutation of the defamatory information and confiscation of a compensation. The March 21, 2022 judgment of the Court separated the case in relation to the counterclaim.

A court hearing on the case was also held on August 26, and the next one was scheduled for October 28.

**On July 14,** Huasber CJSC (the founder of Yerkir Media TV company) filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court against the Commission on TV and Radio, claiming the abolition of the latter’s Decrision N 98-A of July 7. This decision was caused by a swear word, pronounced on air, during a live broadcast under the heading “Protests in Yerevan and in the Regions Continue,” the vulgarisums and obscenities, as well as the scenes, undermining and discrediting universal values in the “Corrpution 2: Retribution” film.

On July 22, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings, and a pre-trial session was scheduled for October 27.

**On August 31,** the same plaintiff filed a lawsuit with the Administrative Court against the Commission on TV and Radio, this time claiming to annul the former’s decision of August 17. By that decision the Commission imposed a fine on Husaber CJSC in the amount of 500 fold of the minimum wage for the violations of the Law on Audio Visual Media and the Law on Advertising. On September 9, the lawsuit was accepted for proceedings, and the trial was scheduled for December 8.

**On July 15,** the Court of General Jurisdiction of Yerevan ruled to partially uphold the lawsuit in the case of *News AM LLC v. political scientist Styopa Safaryan*, demanding compensation for the damage caused to their business reputation.

We should remind that the lawsuit, filed on August 28, 2019, was caused by the defendant’s post on Facebook that the website had received an order from Robert Kocharyan’s office to publish some articles about judges.[[75]](#footnote-75)

The court obliged the defendant to make a public refutation of the defamatory information, discreting the business reputation of NewsAM LLC on his personal Facebook page and publish the court judgment. Besides, it was ruled to confiscate 500.000 AMD from Styopa Safaryan in favour of the plaintiff as compensation for slander, 18.000 AMD as state duty and 250.000 AMD as an attorney’s fee.

On August 22, the defendant filed a complaint with the Court of Appeal which was returned for deficiencies in the documents.

**On July 20,** the Court of Cassation rejected the acceptance of the complaint of the plaintiff in the case Investigative Journalists NGO v. National Security Service.

We should remind that the lawsuit was filed on August 26, 2020, demanding public refutation of the defamatory information, and was caused by the video released by the NSS on July 15, in which the publication of *Hetq.am* (owned by the NGO) on the shelling of Tavush border village of Aygepar was presented as misinformation among the posts of Azerbaijani media materials and social media users.[[76]](#footnote-76) *The Investigative Journalists NGO* considered this as an unfounded accusation, as the information provided by *Hetq.am* from the site of the incident was confirmed by the representative of the RA Ministry of Defense and the Human Rights Defender.

The lawsuit was rejected by the decision of August 6, 2021. Accordingly, the Service did not slander the plaintiff, did not discredit its honor, dignity, or business reputation. The plaintiff’s appeal to the Court of Appeal was rejected, too.

On April 7, a complaint was filed with the Court of Cassation.

**On September 13,** the Administrative Court held the pre-trial hearing on the case of the *Armenian Second TV Channel LLC* *v. the Commission on Television and Radio* for the recognition of lack of jurisdiction for imposing an fine of 100-fold the minimum wage, as established in Decision 86-A of the Commission of May 27, 2022, invoiking Article 57 Part 28 of the RA Law on Audio-Visual Media. That penalty was administered on the ground that according to the Commition on TV and Radio the TV company had not shared last year’s information on its revenue and income generation gaps with the state regulator.

The lawsuit was filed on February 18, 2022. The next court hearing was scheduled on November 29.

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59. [**https://news.am/arm/news/715553.html?fbclid=IwAR1ylYKEbbCvMHBqgLEU1oIYoEovjLuBLWdQw6lpFy326e0iQXYlf-\_3uLw**](https://news.am/arm/news/715553.html?fbclid=IwAR1ylYKEbbCvMHBqgLEU1oIYoEovjLuBLWdQw6lpFy326e0iQXYlf-_3uLw) [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPBZZ76elew&t=152s**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPBZZ76elew&t=152s) [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. [**https://armenpress.am/arm/news/1092539/**](https://armenpress.am/arm/news/1092539/) [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. **<https://168.am/2020/03/06/1269324.html>**  [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. [**https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1122278228370324**](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1122278228370324) [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. [**https://armlur.am/915337/**](https://armlur.am/915337/) [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
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67. [**https://armlur.am/1207461/?fbclid=IwAR3hlR0kzAVPi\_f6et8QSZdwfw8KMvH08X8RGBtG9w3ogtP78C\_juZaf69I**](https://armlur.am/1207461/?fbclid=IwAR3hlR0kzAVPi_f6et8QSZdwfw8KMvH08X8RGBtG9w3ogtP78C_juZaf69I) [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. [**https://www.facebook.com/sglmc/posts/1450040148537675**](https://www.facebook.com/sglmc/posts/1450040148537675) [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. [**https://www.1in.am/2567780.html**](https://www.1in.am/2567780.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. [**https://khosq.am/2022/10/01/%d5%b0%d5%a1%d5%b5%d5%bf%d5%a1%d6%80%d5%a1%d6%80%d5%b8%d6%82%d5%a9%d5%b5%d5%b8%d6%82%d5%b6-100/**](https://khosq.am/2022/10/01/%d5%b0%d5%a1%d5%b5%d5%bf%d5%a1%d6%80%d5%a1%d6%80%d5%b8%d6%82%d5%a9%d5%b5%d5%b8%d6%82%d5%b6-100/) [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
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72. [**https://www.mediahub.am/post/107331d3409ecbf8cc201d8d9892cffc**](https://www.mediahub.am/post/107331d3409ecbf8cc201d8d9892cffc) [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. [**https://infocom.am/hy/article/89450?fbclid=IwAR2Mj6p23GcYDSx1JTLM1QodpJ-IsAZQ2M5TNvsuFujeQUl-H1JCW3r4lL4**](https://infocom.am/hy/article/89450?fbclid=IwAR2Mj6p23GcYDSx1JTLM1QodpJ-IsAZQ2M5TNvsuFujeQUl-H1JCW3r4lL4) [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. [**https://infocom.am/hy/article/89216?fbclid=IwAR3su-sG-poCu6-o1IwpT4RAEdzLNcTJf\_yIZQlYHAHXtk9grhhSx5ebn\_U**](https://infocom.am/hy/article/89216?fbclid=IwAR3su-sG-poCu6-o1IwpT4RAEdzLNcTJf_yIZQlYHAHXtk9grhhSx5ebn_U) [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. [**https://www.armdaily.am/?p=61205&l=am**](https://www.armdaily.am/?p=61205&l=am) [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. [**https://hetq.am/hy/article/119421?fbclid=IwAR0BvMzs5u1nhud3KOWKhn6yqatwDHqw7QvcuVZNqSmZxD5L-eCMqO-WQDU**](https://hetq.am/hy/article/119421?fbclid=IwAR0BvMzs5u1nhud3KOWKhn6yqatwDHqw7QvcuVZNqSmZxD5L-eCMqO-WQDU) [↑](#footnote-ref-76)