



International
Organization for Migration



Police of the
Republic of Armenia



Government of the
United States of America

General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime,
Police of the Republic of Armenia



**Combating
Irregular
Migration**



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Studies show that in recent years irregular migration has become a problem for many countries and is transnational in nature.

In the 1990s, because of difficult socio-economic conditions, the Republic of Armenia (RA) witnessed large-scale emigration. More than 3.2 million people were involved in external migration flows alone, a figure that matches the country's current population size. Emigrants (i.e. people leaving the country to take up permanent residence abroad or stay for three months or more) constituted almost 59% of that figure – some 2.2 million – while only 41% – approximately 1.3 million – were immigrants (i.e. people arriving or returning from abroad to take up permanent residence or stay for three months or more).

Analysis of Migration Patterns¹

Armenia's period of large-scale external migration started with a mass inflow of refugees, mainly ethnic Armenians; between 1988 and 1992 Armenia received over 420,000 refugees. The majority of this influx (360,000 – equivalent to more than 12% of the country's population in those years) came from Azerbaijan, while others arrived from other hotbeds of ethnic conflicts in the dissolving USSR (e.g. Central Asian Republics, Abkhazia, the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation). These immigrants, mostly urban residents who had been totally deprived of social and economic capital, arrived in a country still trying to cope with post-earthquake socio-economic and military-political emergency conditions. This made their resettlement and socio-cultural integration particularly problematic. Primarily for this reason, one quarter to one third of the refugees involved in those migration flows emigrated from Armenia in subsequent years.

Indeed, emigration levels in the newly independent Republic of Armenia peaked in 1992-1994, the toughest years for the country

¹ Source: RA Concept Paper on the Policy for State Regulation of Migration, adopted December 3, 2010.

in terms of military-political, socio-economic, and living conditions. During this three-year period almost one million residents emigrated – that was more than one person in every four.

The majority of the mass outflow – about 75-80% – headed for CIS countries, mainly the Russian Federation (accounting for almost 70%), while the remaining 20-25% left for Eastern and Western Europe and the United States of America (in approximately equal proportions). During those same years, more than one third of this mass re-emigrated (about 370,000 people, 60% of which were “social and family” and only a little more than a third of which were labor emigrants). The remaining vast majority (about 610,000 people) settled permanently abroad, reducing the absolute number of Armenia's population by about 18%. Thus, the negative balance of Armenia's external migration over 1988-2001 comprised about 900,000 people, more than 25% of the country's initial population size. Moreover, taking into account the fact that the balance of refugee flows for that period comprised over 250,000 people, it can be stated that the number of Armenia's former citizens living abroad as a result of external migration flows is even greater – about 1.1 million people, more than one-third of the current number of permanent residents. Naturally, such a mass phenomenon had, and will continue to have, a significant impact on Armenia.

According to expert estimates based on survey materials, external migration in Armenia over 2002-2007 constituted an outflow of 750,000 people and an inflow of nearly 600,000 people – a negative balance of roughly 150,000 people, 5% of the country's population. Thus, the annual average for those leaving comprised almost 125,000, while for those arriving it was about 100,000. When these figures are compared with 1995-2001 data (86,000 and 50,000 respectively), it can be seen that there is a considerable increase in the external migration mobility of the population. However, given the relative increase in the number of arrivals for 2002-2007 (it almost doubled, whereas departures

increased by 45%), the negative migration balance fell by more than 30% – from an annual average of 36,000 to 25,000.

It is noteworthy that while 3.5 million external migration movements were recorded (arrivals and departures), these movements were made by only 320,000 people, about 10% of the population.

First-time immigrants into the RA made up only 3% of this group (about 9,000), re-emigrants comprised about half (nearly 160,000 people), while those abroad made up 47% (about 151,000 people). One third of the latter, about 55,000 people, were permanent emigrants (20,000 – all family members left, 35,000 – their families think they will not return), and the remaining two-thirds – some 95,000 people – were temporary emigrants, whose return is, at least, not excluded.

Surveys also show that for 2002-2007 the vast majority of Armenia's external migratory movements – 9 out of 10 departures, and even 95% of arrivals – were due to the multiple emigration and re-emigration of the 255,000 re-emigrants and temporary migrants (2.8 departures and 2.4 arrivals per person over 6 years). Three quarters of these, some 190,000 people, were labor migrants, including 150,000-155,000 long-term (12 months or more) and 35,000-40,000 seasonal, while the remainder, close to 60,000 people, were mostly family members accompanying long-term labor migrants.

The predominantly labor-related nature of current external migration flows is also confirmed by socio-demographic and geographical data, which reveals that this highly mobile migrant group comprises about 70% men, is mostly 20-54 years old (73%), has an educational level that is lower than the country's average, and is concentrated in Russia (almost 80%, with only 4% in other CIS countries, about 7% in European countries, and 4% in the U.S.).

Currently, changes are being observed in migration patterns:

1. An increase in passenger flows exiting and entering RA has been recorded, which indicates an increasingly active migratory situation (ignoring, of course, the impact of the crisis, which resulted in a slight decrease in the migration growth rate).
2. A trend toward a higher number of returnees to Armenia has been observed, a new feature within Armenia's previous migration patterns.
3. The volume of remittances by individuals has steadily increased (again, without taking into consideration any impact from the crisis); these remittances have become an important factor in the RA economy.

Indeed, since 2004, trends in migration have changed: there has been a significant decrease in outflow (emigrants) compared to inflow (immigrants or returnees). Thus, growth in the previous year's data constituted 18% against 2004, 14% against 2005, 15.9% against 2006 and 33.0% against 2007.

According to data from the survey 'Labor Migration from Armenia in 2005-2007', conducted by Advanced Social Technologies NGO, between 2005 and 2006, 3.0-3.8% of Armenia's population (96,000-122,000 people) were involved in labor migration processes.

Labor migrants left for:

The Russian Federation	92.9%
USA	1.8 %
Ukraine	1.6 %
Spain	1.1 %
Kazakhstan	0.9 %
France	0.7 %
Greece	0.4 %
Austria	0.2 %
Georgia	0.2 %

Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia

Today, Armenia is facing new challenges and problems and has undertaken new commitments to address them. The Government of the Republic of Armenia, based on the experience of the world's leading states and the norms of international law, has initiated reforms in the field of migration management in order to develop a unified migration policy and create a comprehensive migration management system.

The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (RA) regulates citizenship and contains a section on fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms. In 2005, a constitutional amendment placed matters relating to citizenship under the jurisdiction of legislation, thus permitting dual citizenship.

The RA Law 'On Citizenship', adopted November 16, 1995, regulates the acquisition, granting, reinstatement and termination of RA citizenship. Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia is acquired:

- through recognition of citizenship;
- by birth;
- through acquisition of citizenship, reinstatement of citizenship, or acceptance into citizenship via group status;
- by the international treaties of the Republic of Armenia or other statutory grounds.

A dual citizen is a person who holds citizenship in more than one state. A dual citizen of the Republic of Armenia is a person who in addition to having RA citizenship holds citizenship(s) in another state (countries).

The Republic of Armenia recognizes a dual citizen of the Republic of Armenia as an RA citizen. This provision also applies to RA citizens who, after January 1, 1995, accepted or obtained citizenship of another state without renouncing RA citizenship, as well as those who unilaterally renounced RA citizenship. Thus, an RA dual citizen has all the rights and bears all the obligations and responsibilities of an RA citizen, except for cases specified by

international treaties signed by the Republic of Armenia or RA law.

An RA citizen, upon accepting or acquiring citizenship of another state, must notify the relevant RA authority (the RA Police) in the manner specified by the RA Government within one month. Any violation of this requirement subjects the citizen to penalties prescribed by law.

Entry of Aliens into the Republic of Armenia and Their Legal Status

The RA Law ‘On Aliens’ (passed on January 16, 2007) addresses the entry of aliens into the Republic of Armenia, their stay and residence, their transit through and exit from the its territory, as well as issues related to labor performed in the RA by aliens.

The law also contains provisions on: visas types; the granting, rejection, validation and renewal of entry visas; grounds for denying entry into the country; types of residence status and issues relating to their acquisition, rejection, appeal against rejection, and withdrawal; work permits; conclusion of employment contracts; voluntary departure and deportation from Armenia; the extradition, arrest and detention of aliens; and protection of the personal data of aliens.

Four types of visa allow aliens to enter Armenia: visitor visas, official visas, diplomatic visas and transit visas.

A **visitor visa** allows an alien to enter Armenia and stay in the country for up to 120 days (the maximum established period of a visitor visa); however, the maximum period is approved by a set procedure, specified in the border zone. A single entry visitor visa allows an alien a single visit to the Republic of Armenia within the visa’s validity period. A multiple entry visitor visa may be issued to an alien for the period of one year.

A visitor visa is issued when a foreigner intends to enter the country for the purposes of tourism, visiting relatives or other persons, business, transportation and other professional interests,

medical treatment, or other short-term visits. Confirmation for business travelers are received at the Armenian diplomatic mission or consular office. This provision does not apply to nationals of specially listed countries who have proof of Armenian ethnic origin, family members of RA citizens, and those with proof of Armenian ethnic origin.

An **official visa** may be granted to official passport holders, on the following basis:

- employees without diplomatic status from embassies and consulates accredited in RA, international organizations or their representative branches based in RA, and their family members, may receive a multiple entry visa, valid for up to three years;
- officials of foreign states or international organizations arriving in RA for official purposes, at the invitation of RA state bodies, RA accredited embassies and consulates, or international organizations or their representative branch, may receive a single or multiple entry visa, valid for one year;
- members of official delegations holding a regular passport, may receive a single or multiple entry visa, valid for one year.

A **diplomatic visa** may be granted to diplomatic passport holders or persons with diplomatic status, on the following basis:

- employees of embassies and consulates accredited in RA, international organizations or their representative branches based in RA, and their family members, may receive a multiple entry visa, valid for up to three years;
- members of delegations arriving in RA on official, state or working visits or for official purposes, and their family members, as well as their officials, may receive a single or multiple entry visa, valid for one year;
- persons arriving in RA for unofficial purposes may receive a single entry, valid up to 120 days.

A **transit visa** is required when Armenia serves as an intermediate point on a traveler's route. The visa can be single or multiple. An alien who has obtained a transit visa may stay in the Republic of Armenia for a maximum of three days at each entry. This type of visa can only be granted where a standard entry visa to a third (destination) country exists.

Visas are issued by RA accredited diplomatic missions or consular services. They can be obtained in electronic form via the online consular program of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs (such visas are issued for 21 days and are only valid for entry via Yerevan's international airport). Application for visas may also be submitted at representations of the Passport and Visa Department of the RA Police, located at Armenia's border crossing check points. The border crossing check points entitling entry into the country do not provide visas to citizens of specially listed countries unless they have an invitation letter available. Currently, the services at border crossing check points only provide single entry visas for three days (transit visas) and visitor visas (up to 120 days).

Citizens of countries with which Armenia has relevant multilateral or bilateral agreements may enter the territory of RA without a visa – for example, citizens of CIS member states.

A visa application from citizens of the following states will only be considered if it is accompanied **by an official letter of invitation**:

Afghanistan	Libya	Saudi Arabia
Algeria	Mauritania	Sierra Leone
Bangladesh	Morocco	Somalia
Cameroon	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Cote d'Ivoire	Niger	Sudan
Egypt	Nigeria	Syria
Ghana	Pakistan	Tunisia
Iraq	Palestine	Vietnam

Staying within RA territory without a visa or legitimate visa extension is considered an administrative offense, resulting in the imposition of administrative liability and fines (AMD 50,000 to AMD 100,000, Article 201 of the RA Code of Administrative Offences).

Residence status in the Republic of Armenia takes three forms: temporary, permanent and special.

Temporary residence status is granted for a period of one year, and may be extended on an annual basis, where any of the following conditions exist: student status; possession of a work permit; marriage to an RA citizen or an alien with RA residence status (as prescribed by law); close relationship (parent, brother, sister, spouse, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild) to an RA citizen or alien with RA residence status; or involvement in entrepreneurial activities.

Permanent residence status is granted to aliens for a period of 5 years (with subsequent 5 year extensions possible) who: have close relatives (parent, brother, sister, spouse, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild) in RA; have resided in RA in the manner prescribed by law for at least three years prior to filing an application for permanent residence; are able to support themselves in RA (possess accommodation and financial means). Permanent residence status may also be granted to aliens engaged in entrepreneurial activities in RA.

Special residence status (ten years, renewable) may be granted to aliens of Armenian ethnic origin as well as to aliens who are engaged in developing economic or cultural activities in RA.

Residence Permits Issued by RA Police in 2009

Alien's Country of Citizenship	Temporary status	Special status	Permanent status	Total
Iran	558	249	49	856
USA	31	191	9	231
Russian Federation	159	11	59	229
Georgia	160	5	4	169
Iraq	4	132		136
Syria	27	100	7	134
France	19	54	5	78
Lebanon	13	51	3	67
India	7		25	32
Turkmenistan	6	18	2	26
Egypt	2	23		25
Canada	4	15	2	21
The Netherlands	4	13	2	19
Germany	6	7	5	18
Greece	7	7	3	17
Italy	10	5	1	16
United Kingdom	2	9	2	13
Australia	1	7		8
Poland	7	1		8
China	7			7
Switzerland		7		7
Turkey	2	5		7
Stateless persons		7		7
Other	47	33	9	370
Total	1083	943	187	2494

An alien may be denied entry (**visa is rejected**) or deported (**visa is revoked**) under the following conditions:

- the alien was deported from RA territory, or their residence status was revoked, and three years have not yet passed since such a decision was issued;
- the alien incurred administrative liability for violating the RA Law ‘On Aliens’ and has failed to fulfill the resultant obligations, except for cases where one year has passed since incurring such liability;
- there is reliable information that he/she is: organizing or carrying out activities that harm RA national security, overthrow constitutional order, or weaken defense capacity (or is participating in or a member of an organization whose objective is such); conducting terrorist activities; smuggling prohibited goods across the border; trafficking humans; or carrying out illegal border crossings;
- the alien is suffering from a communicable disease that is a threat to the health of the population, as defined by the relevant RA Government list, except for cases where he/she enters the country for the purpose of treating such a disease;
- the alien has presented false information about himself/herself when applying for an entry visa or has failed to present the necessary documents, or where evidence suggests that his/her stay in the Republic of Armenia has a purpose different from the one declared; and
- the alien poses other serious and well-grounded threats to RA national security or public order.

An alien must voluntarily leave RA territory where:

- his/her entry visa or residence status validity period expires or is revoked;

- his/her application for the acquisition or extension of residence status is rejected; or
- his/her residence status is revoked.

If the alien has not voluntarily departed from RA territory, the RA Police can file a deportation order and present it at court, after which the court passes a verdict on the alien's deportation.

It is prohibited to deport an alien to a state where human rights are being violated, particularly if he/she is under the threat of persecution for race, religion, social origin, citizenship or political convictions, or where he/she may be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or the death penalty.

It is also prohibited to deport an alien if he/she is a minor and his/her parents live in the Republic of Armenia on a legal basis, he/she has a minor child under his/her care, or he/she is older than 80 years' old. The collective deportation of aliens is likewise prohibited.

Combating Irregular Migration through the RA Police General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime

On January 21, 2003, the **Division for Combating Irregular Migration and for International Cooperation (DCIMIC)** was created and has been operating within the structure of the **General Directorate of the RA Police for Combating Organized Crime**. The goal of the Division is to counter crimes in the area of irregular migration and to ensure the process of international cooperation against organized crime.

One of the first issues to be dealt with is the need for an estimate of irregular migration flows. The data and figures available can only be viewed as relative indicators since persons irregularly

entering and staying in a country are reluctant to provide information about themselves.

Another complexity of analyzing irregular migration is that there is no universal concept of what constitutes irregular migration – the term is often used to describe a broad range of phenomena, from the illegal crossing of borders and autonomous migration to staying in a country beyond an established timeframe and all forms of illegal job placement. As a result, it is almost impossible to determine the full scope of irregular migration.

For example, migrants heading from Armenia to the CIS and a number of European countries mainly do so on a legal basis, but later their status becomes illegal; they evade law enforcement bodies and thus are deprived of the right to access health and education systems, receive benefits, and are even subjected to exploitation by employers in the given country.

Currently, citizens leaving Armenia are mainly headed for the Russian Federation and Ukraine as well as Austria, Germany, and other Schengen Agreement countries, and the USA.

Statistics show that, of all CIS Member States, Russia receives the largest migrant workforce. According to data from Russia's Federal State Statistical Service, 123,245 of Russia's legally registered migrants for 2000-2008 were RA citizens. Data from Russia's Federal Migration Service shows that, in 2005, 26,100 RA citizens worked legally in Russia, while in 2006 there were 39,800. Of this figure, 56.6% worked in the construction sector, 11.5% worked in the processing industry and the mining sector, 10.4% in the services sector, 4.9% in the transport and communications sector, and 1.8% in the agricultural sector.

It is a common sight at Russian airports to see how those arriving from Armenia are met by compatriots who recruit appropriate workers and provide phone numbers and addresses of persons offering work. However, many of these arrivals end up being exploited by falling into the trap of employers and swindlers who falsify documents.

It should be noted that many legal violations and criminal offenses have been committed by RA citizens when leaving the country to travel abroad – mostly forged passports, visas and other documents as well as other types of fraudulent behavior – often with the support of individuals or intermediaries. Such crimes are also carried out by tour and employment agencies or by individuals who take advantage of the gaps in RA legislation that allow tour and employment agencies to operate unlicensed.

In recent years, the attempts of international criminal groups to use Armenia as a transit country for transporting migrants to Western European countries have increased. For example, cases were revealed in which citizens from Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, Egypt, Somalia, and Ghana were using false passports (claiming to be from France, Portugal, Great Britain, Greece and other countries) to enter Armenia with the purpose of traveling on to Western European countries and the USA. Such irregular migration has also been utilized by citizens of Georgia and Moldova.

To ensure the prevention and prosecution of violations and crimes in the area of migration, reference is made to other branches of legislation, such as the RA Administrative and Criminal codes, particularly the following articles from the RA Criminal Code:

[Article 329](#). Illegal state border crossing;

[Article 178](#). Swindling;

[Article 324](#). Theft or damage to documents, stamps or seals;

[Article 325](#). Forgery, sale or use of forged documents, stamps, seals, letter-heads, vehicle license plates; and

[Article 326](#). Sale or purchase of official documents or state decorations, and other articles.

If aliens or stateless persons violate the procedures and periods for stay in RA, then they incur administrative liability as stipulated by Article 201 of the ‘Administrative Offences Code’ (Violation by foreigners, inviters and employers of the RA Law ‘On Aliens’) and by Article 200 (Violation of the rules for entering and living

in the border zone). According to data from the Department of Passports and Visas of the RA Police, there were 1,410 aliens in 2008, 939 in 2009, and 701 in 2010, who were subjected to administrative liability for illegal residence.

Due to its functions, the DCIMIC, as part of the RA Police's General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime, closely cooperates with many international organizations (IOM, UN, OSCE, etc.), foreign diplomatic and consular representations in Armenia, the CIS, CSTO States, as well as other foreign law enforcement bodies, and Armenian and international NGOs.

The Division is the immediate implementer of the Interstate Program on Joint Actions of CIS Member States in Fighting Crime and the Cooperation Program of CIS Member States on Countering Illegal Migration, as well as the Action Plan of the CSTO Member States on the Formation of a Collective System for Countering Illegal Migration of Citizens of Third World Countries. The Division coordinates and finalizes the RA Police General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime's implementation of: the Program on Cooperation of CIS Member States against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Substances, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors; the Program on Cooperation of CIS Member States against Terrorism and Other Violent Manifestations of Extremism; the Program on Cooperation of CIS Member States against Trafficking in Humans; the Action Plan for the implementation of the decisions of the annual session of the Collective Security Council of the CSTO Member States; as well as the protocol on the cooperation between the RA Police and the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation for the prevention of the criminal activities of the leaders and organizers of international organized crime groups and criminal communities.

The Division participates in the preparation for and conduct of the annual sittings of the United Collegium of the RA Police and Russia's Ministry of Interior and implements decisions made at the United Collegium.

Relevant preventive and undercover operations are implemented under various programs in order to prevent members of terrorist groups from penetrating RA territory and transnational criminal groups from using RA territory as a transit country. For example, under the responsive-preventive activity *Nelegal* (Illegal) conducted in 2008-2010, 366 violations of RA entry-exit procedures were revealed (of which 332 were connected with false documents); also uncovered were 294 cases in which the procedures for stay in RA territory were violated by citizens of China, Syria, Iran, Iraq, India, Lebanon, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Canada, the United States and other countries. Fines levied for these administrative offense totaled the equivalent of \$53,220. *Nelegal* also exposed 689 criminal cases, of which: 134 were illegal acquisition or possession of arms and ammunition; 88 were illegal acquisition or possession of narcotic substances; 1 was murder; 141 were cases of inflicting various degrees of bodily harm; 136 were thefts; 3 were assaults; 10 were robberies; 68 were cases of fraud; 13 were cases of appropriation and waste; and 2 were cases of swindling. Overall, 427 wanted persons were arrested, of whom 35 were citizens of third world countries.

Additionally, joint visits are made by the DCIMIC staff and representatives from the Representation of the Federal Migration Service (FMS) of the Russian Federation (RF) in Armenia to the regions of Armenia in order to inform the population about Armenia's and Russia's current immigration laws, the rights and responsibilities of aliens, the legal and organizational measures implemented by the RA government, the potential dangers awaiting them in foreign countries, and other issues. There is also a hotline operating at the RA Police and the RF Representation of the FMS, which enables the public to receive legal advice on migration.



The DCIMIC also works closely with the embassies and consular missions of foreign states accredited in the RA. For example, collaboration with the US Embassy to Armenia led to the uncovering of numerous cases of illegal border crossings and falsification of passports and other state-issued documents, both by RA citizens and aliens.

In 2003-2004, a criminal group was exposed that was involved in the illegal transportation of RA citizens to the USA, document falsification, etc. One of the group leaders was Sedrak Asatryan, son of the famous singer Aram Asatryan, who avoided the investigation by leaving for the USA, where he died. It transpired that the group had been operating since the late 1990s, acquiring the passports of citizens who had been issued a US visa, removing the visa, sticking it into other persons' passports, and sending them to the USA. In 2006, a case of a Syrian citizen attempting to unlawfully migrate to the USA was revealed – he had illegally received a passport with another person's biographical data from an Armenian citizen. Between 2009 and 2010, at least 17 criminal cases were exposed through cooperation with the US Embassy.

Additionally, the DCIMIC received a wide range of technical and methodological support in accordance with a letter of agreement signed by the Governments of Armenia and the United States.



Close cooperation also exists with the Embassies of the Republic of Italy and the Federal Republic of Germany; in 2009-2010 more than 8 cases of the use of false documents were exposed.

In total, for 2009-2010, over 135 crimes related to irregular migration were revealed as a result of measures taken by DCIMIC staff. In particular:

- Through cooperation between the General Directorate for Combating Organize Crime and the RA Police Department of Passports and Visas (DPV), more than 2000 cases of passports issued on false grounds to Georgian citizens of Armenian ethnic origin were discovered by DPV offices in Jermuk, Armavir, Vardenis, Sevan, Baghramian, Nubarashen, Kapan and Byureghavan;
- 19 cases of false statements made in documents of Georgian citizens of Armenian ethnic origin who had filed applications at the DPV for Armenian citizenship; and

- Cooperation with Interpol Armenia's National Central Bureau (NCB) led to the identification of a false passport of a citizen of the Czech Republic with the name of a wanted Armenian citizen in it – it was uncovered when the owner tried to illegally cross the border of Denmark.
- Undercover operations discovered a case in which an RA citizen tried to send five RA citizens to the United States, taking \$25,000 from each of them. With false US entry visas in their passports, they were sent to the Russian Federation and Middle East countries in order to depart from there to the United States; however, the plan failed.



- Information from undercover operations helped to expose the activities of a criminal group making and selling false documents. A search of the group's offices and personal apartments revealed a fake diploma, three fake passports of an RA citizen, copies of several documents, 21 apostille blanks, one state register certificate, one military ID, 90 covers and transcript blanks of various certificates and diplomas, 11 blank statements with the seal of the RA Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 33 various sealed forms, a total

of 237 round seals of the RA Passport Service and other public and private organizations, 75 rectangular seals, date stamps, 195 sheets of A4 paper stamped with various seals, 18 sheets of A3 paper with a bluish coat of arms and a metal press.



Contact Information for the Division for Combating Irregular Migration and for International Cooperation at the General Directorate of the RA Police for Combating Organized Crime.

Nine police officers currently work for the Division for Combating Irregular Migration and for International Cooperation at the General Directorate for Combating Organize Crime.

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Annex.**Legislation of the Republic of Armenia relating to Migration and International Migration Legislation that has been Signed and Ratified by the Republic Of Armenia**

The RA Constitution (July 13, 1995, amended December 5, 2005)

RA Law on Citizenship (November 16, 1995)

RA Law on Foreigners

RA Law on the State Border (December 17, 2001)

RA Law on Political Asylum (October 19, 2001)

RA Law on Refugees and Asylum (November 27, 2008)

RA Law on Legal and Socio-Economic Guarantees for the Persons Forcibly Deported from the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1988-1992 and Granted Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia (December 27, 2000)

RA Labor Code (November 9, 2004)

RA Criminal Code (2003)

RA Administrative Violations Code (1985)

RA Government Decision No. 200 on Approving the Procedure for the Performance of the Functions of the Authorized State Agencies at the State Border Crossing Points (March 24, 1998)

RA Government Decision No. 884-N on Creating an Information System for the Electronic Border Management, Establishing Its Operational Procedures and the List of System Users (June 22, 2006)

RA Government Decision No. 11-N on the Procedure for Granting Temporary Asylum to Foreign Citizens or Stateless Persons in the RA (January 25, 2003)

RA Government Decision No. 1417-N on Establishing the Profile of the Convention Travel Documents Issued to Refugees and the Procedure for Issuing the Document (December 3, 2009)

RA Government Decision No. 330 on Establishing the Procedure for the Registration of Refugees in the RA in Need of Housing and Providing them with Residential Spaces (August 9, 1997)

RA Government Decision No. 407-N on Creating the ‘Special Asylum’ State Non-Commercial Organization (April 3, 2003)

The Republic of Armenia is a member of:

The International Organization for Migration, by Decision No. 601 of the RA Government ‘on the Membership of the RA to the International Organization of Migration’, dated November 30, 1993.

The United Nations Organisation and the International Labor Organisation (since March 2, 1992).

The Council of Europe, by the decision of the National Assembly ‘on Ratifying the Charter of the Council of Europe’ (January 25, 2001).

United Nations Conventions

The 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (Armenia became a member of the Convention on July 6, 1993)

The 1961 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (ratified July 1, 2003)

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

ILO Conventions

1949 No. 97 Convention concerning Migration for Employment
1975 No. 143 Migrant Workers Convention
and their related Recommendations (ratified in 2006).

Council of Europe Conventions

The 1950 European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ratified in 2002)

The 1957 European Convention on Extradition (ratified in 2002)

The 1975 Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (ratified in 2003)

The 1978 Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (ratified in 2003)

The 1959 The European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (ratified in 2002)

The 1978 Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (ratified in 2004)

The 1972 European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (ratified in 2004)

The 1983 European Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (ratified in 2001)

The 1987 European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (ratified in 2002)

The 16 May 2005 European Convention Action against the Trafficking of Human Beings (Armenia is a signatory; ratification is expected soon)

CIS Agreements

6 March 1998 Agreement on Cooperation of CIS States in Combating Illegal Migration (effective August 13,1999)

29 December 1991 Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation, Mutual Support and Cooperation towards the 21st Century

1994 Agreement on Cooperation in Labor Migration and Social Protection of Migrant Workers (effective February 26, 1996)

9 October 1992 Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Visas of CIS Countries

15 May 1992 CIS Treaty on Collective Security

9 October 1992 Agreement on Restoration of Rights of Deported persons, National Minorities and Peoples (entered into force October 19, 1993)

9 December 1994 Agreement on Mutual Recognition of the Rights of Workers to Compensation Benefits for Injuries on the Job, Occupational Disease, or Otherwise Damaged Health (entered into force October 27, 1995)

9 December 1994 Agreement on the Procedure for Examination of Workplace Accidents with Workers outside Their Country of Residence (came into force March 10, 1995)

13 January 1999 Agreement on Cooperation in the Use of the Common Tariffs and Qualifications Directory for Workers' Activities and Professions and the Directory for the Qualifications of the Positions of Servants (entered into force April 27, 2000).

Agreements signed by the Republic of Armenia on readmission of citizens

Germany (entered into force 20 April 2008)

Bulgaria (entered into force 20 April 2008)

Denmark (entered into force 1 January 2004)

Lithuania (entered into force 22 May 2004)

Switzerland (entered into force 1 March 2005)

Sweden (entered into force 19 April 2009)

Norway (entered into force 26 June 2010)

Czech Republic (signed 17 May 2010)

Russian Federation (signed 20 August 2010, ratification pending)

Draft readmission agreements with Cyprus, Estonia, Lebanon, Poland and Ukraine are being negotiated.

**General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime,
Police of the Republic of Armenia**

Combating Irregular Migration

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