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## ARMENIAN OPPOSITION HITS BACK AT FRENCH ENVOY'S CLAIM ON KARABAKH

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Azatutyun Radiokayan (24 February 2025)

Ruzanna Stepanian

*Armenian opposition leaders on Monday rejected as untrue French Ambassador Olivier Decottignies claim that Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian was not the first leader of Armenia to recognize Azerbaijani sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh.*

Some of them also accused Decottignies of trying to absolve Pashinian as well as French President Emmanuel Macron of blame for the fall of Karabakh.

The Armenian opposition maintains that Pashinian paved the way for Azerbaijan's recapture of the Armenian-populated region with a statement issued as a result of his 2022 talks in Prague with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev mediated by Macron and then European Council President Charles Michel. The statement cited the December 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration in which Armenia and other newly independent Soviet republics recognized each others Soviet-era borders.

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