

ARMENIA'S VELVET REVOLUTION

In the spring of 2018, hundreds of thousands of Armenians changed their government through peaceful and democratic means. This movement, which is now called the Velvet Revolution, was led by former journalist and political prisoner Nikol Pashinyan, who encouraged decentralized street closures across Armenia in protest of the outgoing president's attempt at prolonging his decade-long rule. After the president-turned-prime-minister resigned in response to the protests, Pashinyan was elected Prime Minister by his fellow Members of Parliament, transforming post-Soviet Armenia into an inspiring global model for grassroots-led democracy.



AFP

The Economist's Country of The Year 2018

“[A]uthoritarianism [is] on the rise [but the] fantastic example of peaceful transition of power that was led by youth in Armenia [gives] hope that the new generations will be able to do better than my own generation.”

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES, 09/24/18

“Some badly needed good news for democracy”

THE WASHINGTON POST,
05/12/18

“Keeping the dream of democracy alive”

TIME
07/12/18

“Armenia shows democratic reform can triumph even in Russia's shadow”

THE WASHINGTON POST,
06/14/18

“An ancient and often misruled nation in a turbulent region has a chance of democracy and renewal.”

THE ECONOMIST,
12/18/18



Prime Minister Pashinyan

“Perhaps the most inspiring political story of 2018”

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
12/13/18