

# THE PROPAGANDA OF THE "NATION-ARMY" IDEOLOGY IN THE RA EDUCATION SYSTEM

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## Introduction

The report was prepared based on a survey conducted by Union of Informed Citizens NGO.

The report aims to present a short summary on militarization process in the educational institutions of Armenia for the period of October 1, 2016 to March 10, 2018, particularly focusing on the propaganda of the “nation-army” concept.

The report has been prepared based on the results of the monitoring of media outlets, publications of the schools and higher education institutions' on their own websites and dasaran.am, as well as public posts on the Facebook social network by the official profiles of educational institutions.

The monitoring aimed to find out whether there is a systematic propaganda imposed from top to bottom inside the Armenian educational institutions. According to the Article 4 of the first chapter of the RA Law on Public Education, it is prohibited to carry out propaganda in educational institutions.

During the Nation-Army conference on April 20, 2017 the Minister of Education and Science Levon Mkrtchyan stated the following: “The main goal of the Armenian education system is to ensure the continuity of the Armenian kind.” He particularly emphasized the importance of patriotic ideology and the return of military science teachers to schools.

The Minister also particularly stressed the fact that during April war, hundreds of students from various universities volunteered to go to the army and there were voluntary victims.<sup>1</sup> “We should manage to make the Nation-Army ideology comprehensible and accessible to each family. This is the greatest mission of the education system... We must ensure that there are dozens of children in each school who dream to become officers.”- stated the Minister addressing the teachers and school directors at the conference.

The Minister of Education and Science also thanked the Minister of Defense for cooperation. This cooperation, though not new, has advanced since the launch of the “nation-army” concept. The cooperation between defense and education head offices and their subordinate structures has grown extensively. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense, high-ranking officials, have attended educational institutions and presented the MoD



<sup>1</sup> Our country does not have a rear or a border, front line or back line. Levon Mkrtchyan, RA Ministry of Education and Science, official website, [edu.am/index.php/am/news/view/6568](http://edu.am/index.php/am/news/view/6568)

programs “I am” and “I have the honor” to the pupils and students. The Ministry of Education and Science has conducted joint events with the Ministry of Defense. Previously held events, such as the Koryun Military sports games, have also become a tool for the campaign of the nation-army concept.<sup>2</sup>

The "Education" weekly, which is the official newspaper of the Ministry of Education and Science, has actively covered the army related topics in the context of the "nation-army" concept. The January 31, 2017 edition of the weekly had a separate "Army" column. Facebook page of the weekly is carrying out the campaign for the “nation-army” concept.<sup>3</sup>

The Ministry of Defense has also proposed initiatives aimed at expanding the interconnection between the army and the field of education. In February 2017, the MoD Press Secretary, Artsrun Hovhannisyan, announced during a program on the "Ararat" TV channel that the "nation-army" concept is also "the work that will be carried in universities and in schools, through close cooperation with them."<sup>4</sup> During the same program, Hovhannisyan also mentioned that the concept “will first of all cover the educational segment, because the education is a strategic component” and that “army and education are interlinked phenomena.

Since the discussions on introducing the “nation-army” concept, one of the most essential changes in the education sector is the unprecedented increase in the number of military related events in educational institutions.

The results of the observations carried out by the monitoring group of the Union of Informed citizens from January 2017 to March 2018 allow us to conclude that due to the collaboration between the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Education and Science, the educational system was one of the most active platforms for propaganda of "nation-army" ideology.

### ***Pre-school institutions***

The results of the monitoring revealed that although a systematic "nation-army" concept's campaign was not implemented in the pre-school institutions of the republic, various army-related events were organized with the participation of the kindergarten students.

In the context of strengthening the society-army relations, efforts were made to establish links between the kindergarten and the army. Moreover, a number of kindergartens of the republic organized events aimed to provide material support to servicemen.

For instance, the Nubarashen kindergarten students and staff visited one of the military units on the occasion of the anniversary of the formation of the Armenian Army on January 28 and took gift packages with them.<sup>5</sup> On the same occasion, festive events were held in kindergartens and performances were organized.

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<sup>2</sup> The start of the "Koryun" military games has been announced, the official website of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia , [edu.am/index.php/am/news/view/6798](http://edu.am/index.php/am/news/view/6798)

<sup>3</sup> Education weekly, Facebook page, [facebook.com/krtutyun.am/posts/1837350506524257](https://facebook.com/krtutyun.am/posts/1837350506524257)

<sup>4</sup> Ararat TV channel, “Cornerstone, 08.02.17 broadcast <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcv0JbuawOI>

<sup>5</sup> Nubarashen kindergarten, Facebook page, [facebook.com/nubarashenmankapartez/posts/1989935661261348?pnref=story](https://facebook.com/nubarashenmankapartez/posts/1989935661261348?pnref=story)

During these events the kindergarten students wore military uniforms; goose stepped, and performed military songs. Kindergarten teachers also wore military uniforms<sup>6</sup>:



On the anniversary of the formation of the Armenian Army, some kindergartens have also organized special events to glorify the fallen soldiers.<sup>7</sup> The students of some of these institutions have visited the graves of deceased soldiers to pay tribute to their memory.<sup>8</sup>

### *Schools*

As a result of the monitoring, we can state that a systematic propaganda of the “nation-army” concept has been implemented in the general educational institutions of the republic. In some cases, we also observe individual, non-coordinated initiatives aimed at militarizing the students.

Referring to the public posts of the schools on social media, we state that in 2017 various schools of the republic organized diverse events on the theme of "nation-army".

These events were periodic and were both informational-propaganda (open lessons, discussions, and project presentations) and cultural-propaganda (special events, performances) oriented.

Within the framework of informational-propaganda activities, two programs of the Ministry of Defense, “I am” and “I have the honor”, as well as the notion “the role and the importance of the army” and the “nation-army” concept were presented to the high-school students.<sup>9</sup>

The officers of the Armenian Police Juvenile Affairs Department also participated in the events. The police officers delivered lectures on the topic of "Army-soldier-homeland".<sup>10</sup> In the Yerevan high-schools N94<sup>11</sup>, N142<sup>12</sup>, N182<sup>13</sup> the employees of the department delivered lectures entitled “A student, a police officer, and a soldier--devotees of the Homeland”. Similar events were organized in other cities of the republic too.

A discussion on the topic of "Homeland-Army" was held in Armavir city,<sup>14</sup> as well as in other communities of Armavir region. A lecture was also organized at the school of village

<sup>6</sup> Open lesson dedicated to the Army Day in Kindergarten # 150, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLup1uDOWXQ>

<sup>7</sup> Starting it over - The 25th anniversary of the Armenian Army (#114 kindergarten)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-CVakW5FZU>

<sup>8</sup> Alaverdi # 1 kindergarten students visited the monument to an Unknown Soldier, Ankyun+3 TV, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzSPed9iXXU>

<sup>9</sup> Vanadzor N5 high school, Facebook post 04.10.2017, <https://www.facebook.com/vanadzorschoolhamarhing.teryan/posts/1958125611102223>

<sup>10</sup> School N36 after Raffi, Facebook post 13.10.2017, <https://www.facebook.com/im.dproc/posts/1756957437934528>

<sup>11</sup> Zina Khachatryan's 16.11.2017 Facebook post, <https://www.facebook.com/zina.khachatryan.3/posts/1524380337597058>

<sup>12</sup> High School N142 After A. Gharibyan, Facebook post 13.10.2017, [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=883283081853961&id=252662304916045](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=883283081853961&id=252662304916045)

<sup>13</sup> High School N182 after Gevorg Emin, Facebook post 03.10.2017, [https://www.facebook.com/pg/GEmini182AvagDproc/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=836396736524649](https://www.facebook.com/pg/GEmini182AvagDproc/photos/?tab=album&album_id=836396736524649)

<sup>14</sup> Armavir High School N4, Facebook post 03.10.2017, <https://www.facebook.com/Armavir4/posts/451855385215895>



Tairov in the same region with the participation of the police and the military.<sup>15</sup> An event entitled "A student, a police officer, and a soldier--devotees of the Homeland" was held in Goris N1 and N4 high schools as well.<sup>16</sup>

The employees of the RA Police and Ministry of Defense had a discussion with the 12th grade students on the topic of "strengthening army-society ties." Moreover, the opportunity of a volunteer service on a contractual basis for women was introduced to the school-girls.

In several schools, the Ministry of Defense officers have regularly delivered lectures, including lectures on the topic of "Armenian National Ideology".<sup>17</sup> Various discussions on the topic of "nation-army" were organized with high-school students both in Yerevan and in the regions.<sup>18</sup>

Several educational institutions came up with their own initiatives too and organized charity events for the army. Yerevan N127 School hosted an event titled "Nation-Army, School-Army", and, as reported, "the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, particularly the Minister Levon Mkrtchyan, welcomed the events with great enthusiasm". Moreover, the events were supported by the Yerevan City Hall and the RA Ministry of Defense.<sup>19</sup>



Similar events were organized in the regions too. Aimed at strengthening the school-army relations, students of the N1 School in Berd visited the N military unit of the RA Ministry of Defense taking with them parcels of sweets.<sup>20</sup>

During the school year various military game competitions and essay competitions on militaristic topics were organized in a number of Armenian schools as cultural-propaganda events.<sup>21</sup> Officials from the Defense Ministry were present at some of those events. "Armenian Games" military training competition was organized at the secondary school N132 in Yerevan. There were also series of initial military training sessions organized for middle school pupils in which both girls and boys were involved.<sup>22</sup> With the support of the Ministry of Defense, a shooting range has been opened and furnished in the school.<sup>23</sup> The Minister of Defense

<sup>15</sup> Tairov village School, Facebook post 21.10.2017, <https://www.facebook.com/100009495666919/videos/1921345288191975/>

<sup>16</sup> Meeting with senior high school students, Armenian Soldiers, 25.10.2017, <http://www.hayzinvor.am/50347.html>

<sup>17</sup> Kapan School # 7, Facebook post 24.01.2018, <https://www.facebook.com/kapani.tivyotdproc/posts/2004871869752379>

<sup>18</sup> Masis Secondary School, Facebook post 05.10.2017, [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=531224417213401&id=100009775418314](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=531224417213401&id=100009775418314)

<sup>19</sup> Mariam Hayrapetyan's Facebook post 12.12.2017,

[https://www.facebook.com/perhttps://www.facebook.com/kapani.tivyotdproc/posts/2004871869752379malink.php?story\\_fbid=458640527864949&id=327863454275991](https://www.facebook.com/perhttps://www.facebook.com/kapani.tivyotdproc/posts/2004871869752379malink.php?story_fbid=458640527864949&id=327863454275991)

<sup>20</sup> Berd School N1, [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=189687281782781&id=100022245301337](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=189687281782781&id=100022245301337)

<sup>21</sup> Razmik Jan user's Facebook post 16.12.2017, <https://www.facebook.com/razmikhrshoyan94/posts/2037997206478889>

Militray sports games Gyumri, Tsayg.am, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moHAnu6DrBc>

<sup>22</sup> Armenian Military Sport games <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqwH7VGfddI>

<sup>23</sup> Look for me among those who are present, Armenian soldiers, 18.12.2017, <http://www.hayzinvor.am/51650.html>

invited the students to the military college after Monte Melkonian, which, according to the organizers, "may guide the new generation to choose the honorable profession of military in the future when choosing a profession."<sup>24</sup>

"Koryun" military-patriotic games have been implemented jointly by the RA Ministry of Education and Science and the RA Ministry of Defense. In 2017 these games were used as a platform for disseminating propaganda on Nation-Army concept among pupils of 9-12 grades.<sup>25</sup>

Some schools hosted a poster illustration contest called "Armenian Soldier" aimed at creating nation-army ties.<sup>26</sup> Wall newspapers on army topics were posted in a number of schools.<sup>27</sup>

The program called "Officer runs the lesson" was held at schools, within the framework of which servicemen of different ranks from various MoD military units conducted "patriotism lessons" at schools.<sup>28</sup>

The monitoring of photos published on the social network pages of different schools reveals that during the monitoring implementation period, auditoriums were opened at schools which were named after the fallen soldiers. Moreover, in school corridors besides the "National Heroes" boards on the walls, new posters appeared that tell about the "modern-day heroes" which are dedicated to soldiers killed during the April war.

Abovyan city school N1 named after Khachatur Abovyan has declared the concept "Nation-Army-Homeland" the highest value of the school. According to the Facebook post of the school "everyone at the school realizes this."<sup>29</sup>

Through open lessons, the concept of "Nation-Army" was introduced to the students; "the role of the soldiers and his high moral image" was presented to the students accompanied by patriotic songs.<sup>30</sup>

On the occasion of the anniversary of the formation of the Armenian army, various events were organized at schools too which were attended by military servicemen.<sup>31</sup>

A number of schools have organized events titled "Armenian Soldier" during which Minister Vigen Sargsyan's speech of the "Nation-Army 2017" conference was read to the students.<sup>32</sup>

On March 2018 the representatives of local government in Shirak region awarded the pedagogues whose pupils showed "readiness to sacrifice their life for the homeland" during their military service.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Yerevan, Shengavit district's post from 29.11.2017 on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/shengavit.am/posts/1541236629293219>

Mughni Primary School after M.Ashchashyan's post from 07.11.2017 on Facebook, <http://bit.ly/2ntABAF>

<sup>25</sup> Yerevan Shengavit administrative district, Facebook post 29.11.2017, <https://www.facebook.com/shengavit.am/posts/1541236629293219>

Mughni Basic School after M. AshchashyanFacebook post 07.11.2017, <http://bit.ly/2ntABAF>

<sup>26</sup> Megri news, 28.10.2017, <https://www.facebook.com/MeghriNews/videos/1760759793943586/>

Artsrun Hovhannisyan's Facebook post 08.11.17, <https://www.facebook.com/arcrun/posts/1536447356390867>

<sup>27</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=213014015922664&id=100016422003240](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=213014015922664&id=100016422003240)

<sup>28</sup> KAPAN BASIC SCHOOL N 13, [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1701769226771797&id=100008162078039](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1701769226771797&id=100008162078039)

<sup>29</sup> Abovyan High School N1 after Kh. Abovyan 27.10.2017, <https://www.facebook.com/AbovyanTiv1AvagDproc/posts/1055870014553942>

<sup>30</sup> High School N142 after A. Gharibyan 02.10.2017-h, [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=876453059203630&id=252662304916045](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=876453059203630&id=252662304916045)

<sup>31</sup> "The army is our home, our fortress", <http://my.mamul.am/am/post/77290>

"Congratulations on the Armenian Army Day", <http://my.mamul.am/am/post/77287>

<sup>32</sup> Armenian Soldier, [www.dasaran.am/apps/news/item/id/7363](http://www.dasaran.am/apps/news/item/id/7363), Hajn School N1, [www.dasaran.am/apps/news/item/id/7426](http://www.dasaran.am/apps/news/item/id/7426)

<sup>33</sup> Awarded for patriotic activities, video, Tsayg TV, published 06.03.2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODN2DRGxuW0>

### ***Extra-curricular educational institutions***

Various extra-curricular educational institutions operating in Armenia, such as colleges; creative and aesthetic technological centers; art schools; sports schools; and various clubs have also been engaged in the public support of the “nation-army” concept.

Since February 2017 within the framework of “Tumo-Army” program, the military servicemen have received an opportunity to gain computer programming, robotics and other skills at Dilijan Tumo Center for Creative Technologies.<sup>34</sup> In June, 2017, the Minister of Defense announced about taking TUMO to large military units too.<sup>35</sup>

Festive events dedicated to the army have been held in art schools. During the celebration, the students wore military uniforms.<sup>36</sup> In some art schools, military thematic events and exhibitions were organized.<sup>37</sup>

Similar events were also held in secondary vocational education institutions. As a result of our monitoring on the social networks, we report that different colleges of art and culture, including Yerevan State College of Culture,<sup>38</sup> Yerevan State college of Variety and Jazz Art<sup>39</sup> made a series of publications on the social networks with the headline “nation-army”.

The Republican Sports School of Shooting operates under the Ministry of Education and Science as an out-of-school educational institution.<sup>40</sup>

### ***Higher Education Institutions***

The observations carried out by the monitoring team of the "Union of Informed Citizens" revealed that the propaganda of the "Nation-Army" concept has been actively implemented in the higher educational institutions of the republic as well.

The so-called "university-army" cooperation format includes various types of camps, conferences, visits to military units, meetings with military servicemen, campaigning, etc. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense and high rank officials visited higher education institutions and presented the programs “I am” and “I have the honor”.

The policy of strengthening the ties between the higher education institutions and the army is not new and was used before the “nation-army” concept. However, since 2017 this policy has become more active. The results of the monitoring indicate that HEIs have become the most frequently used platforms for the propaganda of the programs “I am” and “I have the honor”.

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<sup>34</sup> TUMO-Army program in Artshakh, [tumo.org/hy/blog/-2017-05-08-15-08/](http://tumo.org/hy/blog/-2017-05-08-15-08/)

<sup>35</sup> TUMO-Army: when the songs and robots are created by the soldiers, Mediamax, [www.mediamax.am/am/news/society/24698/](http://www.mediamax.am/am/news/society/24698/)

<sup>36</sup> Art School After Budaghyan, FB page, [www.facebook.com/budaghyani.anvarvestidproc/posts/2293572137535855](https://www.facebook.com/budaghyani.anvarvestidproc/posts/2293572137535855)

<sup>37</sup> Art School after Avet Terteryan - Fine Arts Department, FB page, <https://www.facebook.com/kerparvest.ru/posts/2438009983006336>

<sup>38</sup> Yerevan State College of Culture, FB page, <https://www.facebook.com/YSCCOfficial/photos/a.1450299415281822.1073741828.1431699783808452/1767005676944526/?type=3&theater>

<sup>39</sup> Yerevan State college of Variety and Jazz Art, FB page, <https://www.facebook.com/jazzcollege/posts/1987829084771443>

<sup>40</sup> Patriotism is not limited to one subject. L. Mkrtchyan, Ministry of Education and Science official webpage, <http://edu.am/index.php/am/news/view/6570>

The Yerevan State University (YSU) has repeatedly stressed the importance of "YSU-Army" connection. For the first time, initial military training courses were organized for young university professors. It is expected that they will be continuous.<sup>41</sup> Military University representatives have organized officer trainings for students at the YSU.<sup>42</sup>

According to the statement of the Chairman of YSU Trade Union Armen Avetisyan, "This initiative, intended for the nation-army concept, will contribute to the improvement of the readiness of the lecturers, the development of military knowledge, as well as the strengthening and development of army-society relations."<sup>43</sup> Besides, the YSU has trained MoD civilian and military personnel, in particular officer-psychologists.<sup>44</sup> The students have visited military units that perform combat duty and presented with cultural performances.<sup>45</sup>

The Pan-Armenian Student Military Camp was held in Nagorno-Karabakh in July 2017.<sup>46</sup> The participants of the camp visited military units, and while at camp lived according to the military routine.<sup>47</sup> During the program, a meeting was organized with the Armenian Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan. During the meeting YSU Rector Aram Simonyan touched upon the various programs implemented by YSU within the framework of the nation-army concept and emphasized the importance of their continuity.<sup>48</sup>

The annual "United Armenia" program of the YSU Military-Patriotic Education Club "Vardanank" was held under the slogan "Nation-Army" in 2017. The program aims to "strengthen the army-society relations".<sup>49</sup> In the framework of the program, the MoD programs "I am" and "I have the honor" were also discussed with the students.<sup>50</sup>

Apart from YSU, special attention was paid to the conceptualization of the Nation-Army concept at the Medical University of Armenia. In March 2017 during a meeting with the Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU) students the Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan stated that in order to face the common problems of the nation, "everything starts from such audiences, such as a school, a university, and a family." The minister told the students that the Nation-Army concept is "an important component of national ideology and worldview."<sup>51</sup>

In 2017 senior military servicemen also visited other universities. Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces Movses Hakobyan, for example, visited the Armenian-Russian

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<sup>41</sup> YSU lecturers received certificates of preliminary military training, YSU webpage, 02.05.2017 <http://www.ysu.am/news/hy/Preliminary-military-readiness-for-YSU-lecturers>

<sup>42</sup> Officer trainings for students, YSU, 15.03.2017, <http://www.ysu.am/news/hy/Officer-training-for-students>

<sup>43</sup> Young lecturers to undergo preliminary military training, YSU, 07.04.2017, <http://www.ysu.am/news/hy/Military-readiness-for-young-lecturers>

<sup>44</sup> Officer- psychologists trained in YSU, YSU webpage, 28.05.2017, <http://www.ysu.am/news/en/Training-for-officers-psychologists-at-YSU>

<sup>45</sup> The Artsakh visit was dedicated to the May Day celebration, YSU webpage, 10.05.2017, <http://www.ysu.am/news/hy/Triple-holiday-in-Artsakh>

<sup>46</sup> YSU STUDENTS WILL BE NEXT TO OUR SOLDIERS, YSU webpage, 12.07.2017, <http://www.ysu.am/news/en/Pan-Armenian-Student-Military-Camping>

<sup>47</sup> Student Military Camp participants in Artshakh, YSU webpage, 14.07.2017, <http://www.ysu.am/news/en/Students-are-in-Artsakh>

<sup>48</sup> DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH DEFENSE MINISTER, YSU webpage, 18.07.2017, <http://www.ysu.am/news/hy/Final-day-of-Student-Military-Camping>

<sup>49</sup> 9TH EDITION OF THE ANNUAL PROGRAM "UNITED ARMENIA" KICKS OFF, YSU, 31.07.2017, <http://ysu.am/news/en/Pilgrimage-to-Artsakh-2017>

<sup>50</sup> Pilgrimage to Artsakh, aim becomes reality, ԵՊՀ կայքէջ, 09.08.2017, <http://www.ysu.am/news/hy/Pilgrimage-to-Artsakh-2017-Final>

<sup>51</sup> Meeting at Yerevan State Medical University, "Armenian Soldier" 01.03.2017, <http://www.hayzinvor.am/45363.html>



University and spoke about "the ongoing reforms in the armed forces, the recorded successes and the upcoming programs."<sup>52</sup>

According to media reports, Shirak State University named after Mikael Nalbandian offers a Master's degree program in Military Psychology, where participants of the April war and the family members of the deceased soldiers will have an opportunity to study. The University opened the Chair of Military Psychology as a response to the Nation-Army ideology proposed by Minister Vigen Sargsyan.<sup>53</sup>

The Ministry of Education and Science organized a conference titled "Vocational Education: Precondition for Strengthening Border Settlements", which underlined the importance of military education in the context of the nation-army concept. The representative of the Ministry of Defense made a speech entitled "The Nation-Army concept: the cooperation opportunities for its implementation in Tavush region".

The monitoring of the Nation-Army concept propaganda on the social networks revealed that propaganda of the ideology was implemented in the social network pages of the RA Universities, including their educational and educational-scientific boards, for example, the Facebook pages of the Yerevan State Economic University,<sup>54</sup> Yerevan State University,<sup>55</sup> YSU Student Affairs Center,<sup>56</sup> YSU Student Council,<sup>57</sup> YSU Military Training Club,<sup>58</sup> Gavar State University,<sup>59</sup> Yerevan Northern University,<sup>60</sup> National Polytechnic University of Armenia,<sup>61</sup> Yerevan State Medical University<sup>62</sup> and those of other HEIs. Publications of these pages are generally about the cooperation of the university with the army and the "nation-army" concept.

## Conclusion

Since October 2016, after proposing the concept of "nation-army", an unprecedented growth of military-patriotic propaganda has been recorded at schools. Moreover, it is carried out through the cooperation of RA Ministry of Education and Science and the RA Ministry of

<sup>52</sup> Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces visited the Armenian-Russian University, "Armenian Soldier", 10.02.2017, <http://www.hayzinvor.am/44948.html>

<sup>53</sup> Legendary Commandos will teach at Shirak University, students will be participants of the April war, "Aravot", 26.07.2017, <http://www.aravot.am/2017/07/26/899472/>

<sup>54</sup> "Visiting a combat post military unit", source: Yerevan State Economic University Student Council Facebook Page., <https://www.facebook.com/Asue.Sc/photos/a.107673169325038.14537.105291282896560/1235824833176527/?type=3&theater> , 26.02.2017

<sup>55</sup> "On August 8, the 9th educational and cultural one-week campaign-pilgrimage to Artsakh organized by YSU Vardanank Military-patriotic Club was concluded, which this year had the slogan "Nation-Army" , : source; YSU Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ysu.am/photos/a.226952677366780.60229.226947480700633/1569263573135677/?type=3&theater> , 09.09.2017

<sup>56</sup> YSU Student Affairs Center` <https://www.facebook.com/YSUStudentAffairsCentre/>

<sup>57</sup> YSU Student Council [https://www.facebook.com/YSUStudentCouncil/?hc\\_ref=ARRnBgB5wJjzXM2WVklTtKtEjIouU65moNycQnK9kl2u6X7ZrbRMOxr2wH7L-NI4\\_xl&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/YSUStudentCouncil/?hc_ref=ARRnBgB5wJjzXM2WVklTtKtEjIouU65moNycQnK9kl2u6X7ZrbRMOxr2wH7L-NI4_xl&fref=nf)

<sup>58</sup> YSU Military Training Club <https://www.facebook.com/ysumilitaryclub/>

<sup>59</sup> Gavar State University [https://www.facebook.com/Gavar-State-University-%D4%B3%D5%A1%D5%BE%D5%A1%D5%BC%D5%AB-%D5%8A%D5%A5%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%80%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D5%AC%D5%BD%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%B6-209853689038173/?hc\\_ref=ARSQv5FTczHnGCryoIdDLifqJikaQQRdSvolUfreTVBMmjD8NhiYEgYo-8ZlvYaSg4I&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/Gavar-State-University-%D4%B3%D5%A1%D5%BE%D5%A1%D5%BC%D5%AB-%D5%8A%D5%A5%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%80%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D5%AC%D5%BD%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%B6-209853689038173/?hc_ref=ARSQv5FTczHnGCryoIdDLifqJikaQQRdSvolUfreTVBMmjD8NhiYEgYo-8ZlvYaSg4I&fref=nf)

<sup>60</sup> Yerevan Northern University /Official/. <https://www.facebook.com/northern.am/>

<sup>61</sup> Polytechnic Student Council <https://www.facebook.com/scnpuaN1/>

<sup>62</sup> Yerevan State Medical University <https://www.facebook.com/ysmuofficial/photos/a.1930237450543122.1073741940.1848584405375094/1930237557209778/?type=3>

Defense. The employees of the Ministry of Defense, as well as the Police, are actively engaged in the dissemination of propaganda at schools.

Throughout the monitoring implementation process, different tools have been used for the dissemination of the “nation-army” concept and military-patriotic propaganda, such as discussions, open lessons, trips, camps, as well as competitions on essay writing, painting, and military training, etc. In a number of schools shooting ranges were opened.

The distribution of propaganda in RA General and Higher Educational institutions is centralized and is imposed from top to bottom. This is evidenced by the announcements of different officials of RA Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Education and Science; Shirak region local government’s awards to teachers for raising students “readiness to sacrifice their lives for the motherland”; as well as the unprecedented number of propagandistic events inside the walls of official education institutions.

Considering that this report is only based on the open information available on the social networks, we may conclude that it reflects only a small portion of the militarization process in the RA educational institutions. The topic certainly needs further study, since a deeper and versatile research will allow finding out the real scales of the problem. Nevertheless, the information contained in this report is already enough to emphasize the importance of the issue. The unprecedented growth of propaganda in the RA educational institutions definitely requires a wide public discourse. Promoting steps to reduce the impact of propaganda must become the main issue in the center of public attention.