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## **'LET EVERYONE FOCUS ON THEIR OWN INTERNAL AFFAIRS': MIRZOYAN RESPONDS TO LAVROV'S CONCERNS**

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Massis Post (22 January 2026)

Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan warned his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov against interfering in Armenias internal affairs on Wednesday when he dismissed the latters criticism of criminal proceedings against a pro-Russian Armenian politician.

Vartan Ghukasyan, the opposition mayor of Armenias second largest city of Gyumri, was arrested in October on corruption charges and indicted under an Armenian legal provision that makes it a crime to call for a violent overthrow of the constitutional order or violation of the countrys territorial integrity.

Arresting people for expressing political views, views that are in no way aimed at undermining Armenias sovereignty and territorial integrity, views that are aimed at maximizing the opportunities of its foreign relations in the interests of its own development □ of course, this has caused serious bewilderment and concern, he told a news conference.

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