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TRANSITION IN ARMENIA TASK 1

TOPIC: SOVIET DISSIDENTS AND THE TRANSITION

DURATION: 60 minutes

TARGET GROUP: High School and 9th grade students,
up to 25 participants

MATERIALS: Internet, projector, flipcharts and markers

STEP BY STEP DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Step 1, 27 minutes

Listen to the account of Vardan Harutyunyan

<https://youtu.be/zyI2XWiE6BU>



Step 2, 15 minutes

Divide participants into groups of 4-5 and let them discuss/answer the following questions:

- What are three main things you learned from Vardan's account?
- What were the main ideas of dissident groups in Armenia for which they were persecuted by the Soviet state? Were those groups marginalized and vulnerable? Why and how?
- Which dissident ideas/notions became prevalent/mainstream ideas during the Karabakh movement and set the ground for the construction of Armenia's independence? Why and how?
- Do you think the status of political/civic dissidents have changed during the transition? How?

Step 3, 15 minutes

Presentation and discussion of group work.