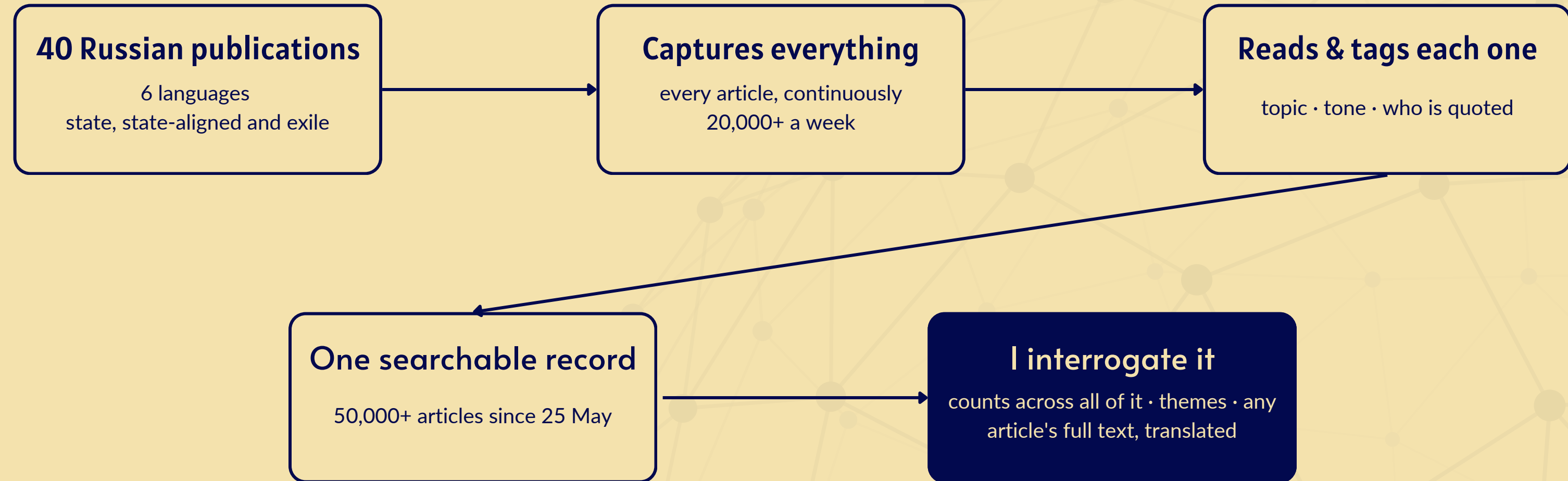


How the Russian media reported the Armenian election:

A study of 2,813 articles, 25 May – 9 June 2026

Vigeat Monitor | 6 languages | 40 publications

Vigeat Monitor: Russia



The machine reads everything; I verify everything I show you.

For this analysis: I captured and analysed 2,813 articles relating to Armenia
between 25 May and 9 June.

The breakdown of outlets analysed, 25 May – 9 June 2026

<u>Publication type</u>	<u># of articles on Armenia</u>	<u>Outlet names</u> [# of outlets]
The state itself:	9	Kremlin (kremlin.ru + English edition) · Foreign Ministry (mid.ru) [3]
State wires & dailies:	1,414	TASS · RIA Novosti · Lenta · Izvestia · Rossiyskaya Gazeta · Gazeta.ru · Komsomolskaya Pravda · Moskovsky Komsomolets · Argumenty i Fakty · Vzglyad · Tsargrad · Regnum · EADaily · Ukraina.ru · Zvezda · RT (Russian) [16]
Russia's foreign-language editions:	967	Sputnik Armenia (Armenian) · Sputnik Georgia (Georgian) · Sputnik Azerbaijan (Russian) · Sputnik China (Chinese) · Sputnik International (English) · Sputnik Iran (Farsi) · TASS English · RT English [8]
Business press & broadsheets:	294	Kommersant · RBC · Interfax · Nezavisimaya Gazeta [4]
Exile press:	129	Meduza (Russian + English) · Novaya Gazeta Europe · The Insider · iStories · Verstka · TV Rain · Mediazona · The Bell [9]

“Armenia’s voters were offered a genuine choice against a backdrop of direct foreign pressure and uneven campaign opportunities”

– International Election Observation Mission (OSCE/ODIHR-led), 8 June 2026

Two weeks of pressure – announcement by announcement

- 22 May **Russia restricts Armenian flowers (Rosselkhoznadzor)**
- 28 May **...then strawberries, mineral water, brandy, fruit & veg “from 30 May”**
- 29 May **Astana summit: four presidents demand a referendum – EU or EAEU
Putin invokes “the fate of Ukraine”**
- 30 May **Russia summons its ambassador from Yerevan for consultations**
- 31 May **Lukashenko:
“Armenians must be very careful... [not to] repeat what happened in Ukraine”**
- 2 June **Live fish imports restricted**
- 6 June **The eve of the vote, the press carries Medvedev:
such elections “will not be considered legitimate”**
- 7 June **THE VOTE – 49.8% preliminary, turnout 59%**

■ Economic pressure ■ Diplomatic pressure ■ Pressure spoken – veiled threats or accusations

They called the election illegitimate... the day before the vote.

Twelve days of campaign – most days, not one piece in the ‘home press’ (0-1%) >> 6 June, the eve, before the election:

TASS · 6 June

«Медведев: выборы в Армении не будут считаться легитимными»

Medvedev: Armenia's elections will not be considered legitimate

Kommersant · 6 June

«Медведев назвал парламентские выборы в Армении нелегитимными»

Medvedev calls Armenia's parliamentary elections illegitimate

МК · 6 June

«Медведев: выборы в Армении не признают легитимными»

Medvedev: Armenia's elections won't be recognised as legitimate

TASS · 6 June

«МИД РФ поставил под сомнение легитимность выборов в Армении»

Russian Foreign Ministry casts doubt on the legitimacy of Armenia's election

Medvedev, 6 June – carried by 13 outlets: the election “will not be considered legitimate”
The Foreign Ministry, 6 June – carried by 11 outlets: Yerevan commits “a crime against democracy”

After the vote: the verdict executes

8 June

MFA verdict (Zakharova): "unprecedented pressure on the opposition and interference by the West" · Moscow's course will follow "the real steps of the Armenian leadership"

TASS, 09:00: "Russia may expand restrictions on fish supplies from Armenia" · the fisheries chief, on chilled fish, at SPIEF

Slutsky, Duma foreign-affairs chair:

The results "raise questions about the free expression of the voters' will"

Peskov, the Kremlin's own voice: no congratulations before the final count:

"We are recording the many reports of violations"

9 June

8–9 June: beyond the officials, the verdict saturates the state press — close to 30 pieces in three days, the same handful of analysts recycled across the outlets (Ukhov, Danilin, Bashirov).

■ Economic pressure ■ Diplomatic pressure ■ Pressure spoken – veiled threats or accusations

Still to come: Opposition demands recounts at 555 precincts · final results 14 June · court challenges from 19 June

Accusation: the Kremlin's instructions to its own media

Meduza – the exile press – 8 June

- meduza_ru: "The Kremlin explained to Russian media how to write about the Armenian elections..."
- meduza_en: "Kremlin tells Russian media to portray Pashinyan's election win with under 50% as a 'loss'"

THE INSTRUCTION

Frame Pashinyan's result as a "loss"

– and use that word.

Stress the "violations"

– to "sow doubts about the legitimacy."

(Reported by Meduza, sourced to an employee at a Kremlin-friendly outlet.)

WHAT THE STATE PRESS THEN RAN

RIA — the lead "narrowed", then "continued to fall"

«Лидерство партии Пашиняна ... сократилось после подсчёта 40%»
→ «...продолжило снижение после обработки 50% голосов»

Regnum — "Pashinyan's party gets less than 50%" → Kosachev: "the results point to a defeat for Pashinyan's party"

«Партия Пашиняна набрала менее 50% голосов» → «Косачев: итоги ... скорее говорят о поражении партии Пашиняна»

Tsargrad — "Pashinyan kept power in Armenia but lost the election"

«Пашинян сохранил власть в Армении, но проиграл выборы»

He won. 49.8%, 61 of 105 seats (preliminary) – a governing majority. The instruction was to call that a loss.

To Armenians: the ban is paperwork; the alarm is in their own mouths

Sputnik Armenia – Russia's own Armenian-language outlet.

THE BANS, IN SPUTNIK ARMENIA'S OWN VOICE

50 of 51

articles mention the food-safety ban as routine –
certificates, paperwork.

Only one acknowledges Russian pressure.

Food-safety, certificates, paperwork.

The agency acts; Russia is never named as the actor.

Typical framing:

"Rosselkhoznadzor suspended imports citing phytosanitary non-compliance."

THE DAMAGE, IN QUOTED VOICES

"...three hours after Putin's birthday call, restrictions hit all fruit and veg."

Robert Kocharyan, 2 June

"Some people are already on the verge of bankruptcy – the consequence of Pashinyan's miscalculated policy."

Zurabyan, 1 June

15

quoted Armenia voices name the damage

Russia does the punishing. Armenian voices do the blaming.

After the vote: the result is procedure; "stolen" is in their own mouths

Sputnik Armenia – the same outlet, the same move.

THE RESULT, IN SPUTNIK ARMENIA'S OWN VOICE

O

Russian voices assert the election was stolen. The Kremlin's own spokesman, asked directly, refused:

"I will refrain from any official comment on this, because the CEC's final results have not been announced – we are waiting for those results... We are also noting the reports of the numerous violations that occurred during the election."

A Russian senator on the observer mission only relayed that "all the parties say" their complaints went unanswered.

THE DAMAGE, IN QUOTED VOICES

"With this election the Armenian citizen's vote has been stolen."

Unity Wings Party, 8 June

"Seeing their results shamefully falling, they stopped the count."

Samvel Karapetyan, Strong Armenia, 8 June

20+

quoted Armenian opposition voices call the vote stolen

**Russia subcontracts the verdict. The accusation is everywhere in its Armenian service.
But never once in a Russian mouth that will own it.**

The turn, tier by tier

Each tier sold the same squeeze to its own room. Once the result landed, the tiers Moscow controls converged on one verdict – only the exiles and the business wires kept their distance.

<u>Publication type</u>	<u>Before the vote</u>	<u>After the vote</u>
The state itself:	A stick and an open door	The official verdict: illegitimate, conditional
Home wires & tabloids	“Choose Europe and you lose”	He won under a cloud – “a second Moldova”
English editions	The reasonable invoice	Same, via officials – “the West is the real meddler”
Sputnik Armenia	“Europe is ruin” – in Armenian mouths	“It was stolen” – in Armenian mouths
Business press	The sourced ledger	largely passes over the verdict – reports the result and quotes the Armenian government (1 in 8 pieces)
Exile press:	Names it coercion	He won despite it – and leaks the memo

Before the vote they tailored. After it, the tiers Moscow controls fell into line.

The facts didn't change. The story did.

Before the vote, the economy.

The day before it, the verdict. And that has continued since.

One thing is clear, the election is the beginning of something,
not the end.

Vigeat Monitor – the full Armenia analysis publishes Friday

vigeat.substack.com

Contact:

vigeat.eu

