

Armenia celebrates Independence Day



see page 3

In This Issue

- Armenia seeks greater 'peacekeeping' role for ex-soviet bloc** p.2
- Swiss firm may run Armenian power grids** p.7
- OSCE Office marks 40th anniversary of Helsinki Final Act in Armenia** p.10
- The Youth Orchestra: The Sold Out European Tour and the 3rd Khachaturian Fest** p.11
- Is There an Area in Armenia That Wasn't Supported by VivaCell-MTS?** p.p.12-13

Noyan Tapan Video Studio

is offering professional video and photography for indoor and outdoor events such as weddings, birthday parties, official events, seminars and conferences. Tel: 060 27 64 62
Address: Isahakyan 28, 3rd floor, Yerevan 0009

Noyan Tapan Printing House

is offering coloured and black and white offset and digital printing of books, brochures, booklets, journals, etc with high quality and low prices Tel: 060 27 64 62
Address: Isahakyan 28, 3rd floor, Yerevan 0009

Presidents of Armenia, Tajikistan discuss issues on bilateral, international agenda

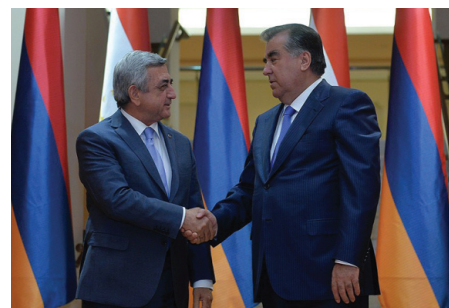
President Serzh Sargsyan, who has arrived in the Republic of Tajikistan to take part in the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council, had a meeting with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon.

The two heads of state discussed issues pertaining to bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Armenia and Tajikistan. The interlocutors particularly touched upon collaboration in political, economic, humanitarian and other spheres, as well as within the frames of the CSTO and other international organizations, talked about the further reinforcement of bilateral ties and the opportunities for implementation of mutually beneficial programs. President Serzh Sargsyan noted that the two peoples' friendship and the current level of mutual understanding and trust between Armenia and Tajikistan provide a solid foundation to jointly develop and deepen interstate relations, promote inter-

parliamentary ties, and enrich the Armenian-Tajik economic agenda with promising projects.

Emomali Rahmon welcomed President Serzh Sargsyan and stressed that Tajikistan is keen on developing its traditionally friendly relations with Armenia, and deepening ties both in bilateral and multilateral formats. To strengthen interstate relations and promote multi-sectoral cooperation, President Rahmon attached importance to the broadening of the legal framework between the two countries, which, according to him, will also contribute to trade growth.

The parties placed importance on senior-level reciprocal visits to develop relations between Armenia and Tajikistan and fulfill the agreements made at a high level. President Serzh Sargsyan invited his counterpart to pay an official visit to Armenia, which was accepted by President Emomali



Rahmon with pleasure.

Presidents Serzh Sargsyan and Emomali Rahmon exchanged views on issues vital to the two countries, as well as on current international and regional issues and challenges which will be discussed in more detail at the session of the CSTO Collective Security Council to be held tomorrow. The RA president presented the efforts of the RA and the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Armenia seeks greater 'peacekeeping' role for ex-soviet bloc



Armenian called on the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) to play a greater "peacekeeping" role as it took over the rotating presidency of the Russian-led military alliance of six former Soviet republics on September 15.

President Serzh Sargsyan offered to open a special training center for that purpose at the premises of an Armenian army brigade that contributes troops to the ongoing NATO-led missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

"It is time to create a basis organization on training CSTO peacekeepers," Sargsyan said at a CSTO summit held in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe. "We propose that the training center of the peacekeeping brigade of the Armenian Armed Forces be considered as the foundation of that basis organization."

"We are ready to share our experience accumulated during a more than 10-year-long participation in various operations," he told Russian President Vladimir Putin

and the other CSTO leaders.

The volunteer unit cited by Sargsyan has received considerable assistance from the United States and other NATO countries ever since it was set up in 2003. As recently as last month, U.S. military instructors trained the first group of teaching personnel for the Armenian army's new paramedic school that will primarily cater for the peacekeeping brigade.

Addressing reporters in Dushanbe immediately after the summit, Serzh Sargsyan said that "expansion of the CSTO's peacekeeping potential" will be a major priority of the Armenian presidency of the Russian-led defense pact. But he did not elaborate on reasons for a greater CSTO peacekeeping role or specify possible areas of joint deployment by Russia and its ex-Soviet allies.

Some analysts are bound to suggest that Sargsyan had the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in mind. Ceasefire violations in the conflict zone have intensified in the last several years, affecting not only Karabakh itself but also internationally recognized parts of Armenia. The CSTO is increasingly criticized in Armenian opposition and media circles for rarely reacting to such incidents, let alone voicing support for Armenia.

Serzh Sargsyan said in his summit speech that he briefed fellow CSTO heads

of state on the "substantial increase in tensions" along "the line of contact" around Karabakh and the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. He blamed Azerbaijan for the periodical upsurges of fighting there, saying that they are "fraught with a destabilization of the situation in the entire region in the absence of a corresponding reaction from the international community."

Serzh Sargsyan said that he also raised the matter with the presidents of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan at a closed session that preceded their public speeches at the gathering.

The Armenian leader has previously accused some of his country's ex-Soviet allies of effectively siding with Azerbaijan in the dispute. Two of them, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, signed up in 2013 to a declaration of Turkic states that called for a Karabakh settlement "within Azerbaijan's internationally recognized borders." Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan well as Tajikistan had previously backed even more pro-Azerbaijani statements adopted by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The CSTO reserved itself the right to launch peacekeeping missions within or even outside the alliance's borders with a treaty that was signed by its member states in 2007. It has conducted no such operations yet.

Serzh Sargsyan: September 21 is the symbol of our faith, our convictions and our confidence

On the occasion of the 24th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Armenia, President Serzh Sargsyan has held a festive reception at Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex.

During the reception, Armenia's president has sent a congratulatory message on the occasion of Independence Day.

Address by President Serzh Sargsyan on the occasion of Independence Day

Your Holiness Catholicos of All

Armenians,

Distinguished President of the Nagorno

Karabakh Republic,

Honorable guests,

Fellow compatriots,

I congratulate all of us on the occasion of Independence Day.

The Armenian people's millennial march has filled each page of our calendar with countless memories, has filled it with tears of joy and pain of loss, has filled it with resolve to struggle and heroes' challenge, has filled it with prayers of hopeless nights and promising victories coming with the early morning rays, has filled it wholly and completely, has filled it from the first line to the last one upon which we are writing.

Our people perfectly recollect every single sheet from the calendar of their struggle and combat. They remember those, who fell on our ages-old path and celebrate each day of our victorious unity.

Our historical calendar includes sheets inscribed in golden letters that have become our destiny for decades, centuries and millennia. They have also become the pages of the passport representing our national character to the world.

It was exactly such a new page inscribed in gold that our people created in their calendar of historical memory this day 24 years ago. On September 21, 1991, an entire people almost unanimously announced to the world that they assume anew the burden, responsibility and honor of mastering their own destiny.

And every time, when sharply a hundred and one days remain until the end of the regular year, we reiterate our pledge and declare to the world vociferously that we are here, we stand firm and determined. We are the masters of our own destiny, and our ancestors' legacy belongs to us. We are the guarantors of cloudless mornings for our children and the pledge of peaceful sunsets for our parents. It is we, and nobody else.

The tongue we speak is Armenian, in which we prayed at the dawn of civilization and which can be heard today from the

highest rostrums of the world. It can be heard thanks to the absolute unity demonstrated by our people 24 years ago.

That unity has not only granted us independence, but has also given us the power to fight and the spirit to create throughout two and a half decades. The Army and the State, market economy and civil society have been the institutes we established as our unambiguous response to the chance given to us by time and challenges imposed upon us.

However, the sweetest fruit of our unity is, without doubt, our present-day prideful and beautiful generation of independence.

Our united and sonorous response to the call of independence, our "Ayo" worked a miracle. It gave birth to the soldier, who stands only a hundred steps away from the cold-blooded mercenary and brainwashed bandit. It gave birth to the soldier, who knows, however, that it is exactly those one hundred steps which separate the serenity, peaceful nights and the very existence of his brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers from disappearance. It gave birth to the soldier, who forces the adventurous neighbor of ours to pay, and pay dearly for every attempt to get through those one hundred steps.

My fellow compatriots,

This calendar day holds significance not only for us, but also for the entire humankind. By coincidence or destiny, on this very day, when our people triumphantly celebrate the holiday of their will to live independently and peacefully, the Peace Bell rings at the United Nations Headquarters. It rings sonorously and loudly to commemorate all those, who were slaughtered and continue to be slaughtered in war crimes. It rings to remind us of the fundamental human right to live peacefully and free from violence. It rings to demand ceasefire and peace for children and for the elderly, for women and men.

Unfortunately, even on this international day of peace the Peace Bell sounds are often muffled by machine-gun fire and shell bursts, by artillery volleys and rocket rumbles.

Likewise, on our borders, in our villages, our mountains and our valleys the 21st day of September sometimes, alas, breaks not under the sounds of the Peace Bell, but under the battle alerts.

People in the Middle East, who gave shelter to genocide survivors, grandfathers and grandmothers of ours, are writhing in agony in the clutches of war that is by international standards just a few steps away from our door. Our sonorous "Aye" on September 21 two and a half decades ago has provided today warm shelter for our consanguine brothers and sisters, who escaped from the engrossing conflicts in the Middle East.

My fellow compatriots,

The key importance of September 21 is, perhaps, the price of our decisions for our generations and our responsibility towards the future, the mark that our actions or inaction leave on the fate of our kind in the depth of time. That mark can be a crown, or a stigma.

Armenians should follow exactly this very message of September 21 since Armenia is now at the important stage of making its choice for the constitutional reform. Whatever decision you make, my fellow compatriot, remember that it is not only about your, but also your children's future, remember that it is not as much yours, but next generations' safety and welfare that is being decided.

May the rays of September 21 disperse the dark in our future and brighten the decisions of our compatriots both for those that have already made their minds up and those, who are still stuck in doubts at this cross-section.

Standing in front of the crucial gates toward the development of the power checks and balances and balancing of the rights and duties, I strongly believe we must have the courage to move toward the amendments, listen to the imperative of time and get out of the clutches of fear to accept the new. We must do that for the sake of generations. We must do that for the sake of a bright future for our people.

My fellow compatriots,

September 21 denotes also revival of our people that survived the first genocide of the 20th century - one of the gravest crimes against humanity.

Yes, this calendar sheet is also filled with lines fraught with our people's blood. We remember those lines very well. And we will continue to remember it as long as the blood of our ancestors martyred by the Ottoman Empire's sword in Van, Mush, Trabzon, Yeznka, Marash, Sebastia, Erzurum and Kharberd has not frozen in our veins. We have also their precept to do everything so that never again shall our kind face the danger of annihilation and massacre. We have the belief that in the world full of contradictions and dangers, that in our frantic and running days, the only true guarantee of the Armenian kind is the Armenian sovereign and independent state. We have the conviction that people are the only source of power. We have the confidence that popular unity at the decisive turns and around vital issues is the only force able to respond to the external and internal challenges.

September 21 is the symbol of our faith, our convictions and our confidence.

*Congratulations on the
Independence Day!
Long live the Republic of Armenia!*

Armenian Parliament opens debate on constitution

The National Assembly began debating on September 15 President Serzh Sargsyan's constitutional reform package envisaging a radical change of Armenia's government system which opposition parties say would prolong his rule.

The long list of amendments drafted by an ad hoc presidential commission reached the parliament floor nearly one month after being sent to the parliament's leadership. Earlier this month the Sargsyan administration agreed to revise some of them in an effort to satisfy the Council of Europe and some opposition groups that seem ready to back Armenia's transformation into a parliamentary republic.

Vartan Poghosyan, a member of the commission, told lawmakers that the draft amendments could undergo more changes during the parliament debates. He said the commission is open to constructive proposals that would "further improve" the text.

Two opposition parties represented in the parliament, the Armenian National Congress (HAK) and Zharangutyun (Heritage), remained adamant in categorically rejecting the proposed reform. They insisted that Sargsyan is keen to

remain in power in a different capacity after his second and final presidential term expires in 2018.

"He should be sent to prison in a manner defined by law, instead of having a bill prolonging his tenure debated here," declared Zaruhi Postanjyan, an outspoken deputy from Zharangutyun.

The verbal attack provoked angry rebuttals from some of her colleagues affiliated with the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK). They repeatedly interrupted Postanjyan's speech.

The HAK's parliamentary leader, Levon Zurabyan, demanded, meanwhile, that the debate be broadcast live on state television. "You are trying to hatch a plot behind the people's backs. This once again shows that you are afraid of public opinion and therefore want to do this secretly," Zurabyan charged after speaker Galust Sahakyan rejected the demand.

Sahakyan announced later in the day that the Public Television of Armenia has agreed to start broadcasting the proceedings on Wednesday.

With the HHK and its allies enjoying a comfortable majority in the assembly, the constitutional bill will almost certainly win parliamentary approval later this



month. This will pave the way for a referendum on the proposed changes.

"I think that we will be prepared to hold the referendum in early December, if the National Assembly gives a positive opinion," said Vahram Baghdasaryan, the HHK's parliamentary leader.

Baghdasaryan suggested that the parliament could tentatively endorse the draft amendments already this week. "We think it right to quickly complete the first phase [of the debate] so that we have more time to work on proposals," he said.

The HAK and Zharangutyun have pledged to spare no effort to try to scuttle the reform. On Saturday, they joined more than two dozen non-governmental organizations in forming an alliance that will campaign against it. The alliance plans to hold rallies across the country in the run-up to the referendum.

Obama, Putin see closer ties with Armenia



Presidents Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin spoke of Armenia's deepening relations with the United States and Russia respectively as they congratulated the South Caucasus nation on the 24th anniversary of its declaration of independence from the Soviet Union marked on September 21.

"Armenia is an important partner with which we share a dynamic and expanding agenda," Obama said in a congratulatory message to President Serzh Sargsyan.

In that regard, he praised the Armenian military's participation ongoing multinational missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo

and Lebanon. He also hailed the recent signing in Washington of the U.S.-Armenian Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA).

Under the agreement, the U.S. and Armenian governments are to set up a joint Council on Trade and Investment that will meet at least once a year to address obstacles to bilateral trade and explore other ways of deepening economic ties between the two countries. In his letter publicized by Sargsyan's office, Obama said that the council will "further strengthen" those ties.

In a statement on the Armenian Independence Day issued on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry likewise described U.S.-Armenian ties as "strong." It was a further indication that they have not been seriously affected by Armenia's recent accession to the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) as well as Russia's confrontation with the West over the conflict in Ukraine.

Putin, meanwhile, said that Russia's

ties with Armenia, its main regional ally, are "successfully developing in various directions" as he congratulated Serzh Sargsyan on the independence anniversary. "We highly appreciate the intention of our Armenian partners to further reinforce mutually beneficial cooperation both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of the EEU, the [Collective Security Treaty Organization] and the [Commonwealth of Independent States,]" he wrote.

"I would like to reaffirm the Russian side's readiness to continue to assist Armenia in addressing pressing socioeconomic issues," added the Russian president.

Meeting with his Armenian counterpart outside Moscow on September 7, Putin expressed concern at a sharp fall in Russia's trade with Armenia registered in the first half of this year. It resulted, in large measure, from a roughly 50 percent depreciation of the Russian ruble which hit Armenian exporters hard.

Armenia has sheltered 2.5 thousand Syrian Armenians since May



Over 2,000 more ethnic Armenians from Syria have taken refuge in Armenia since fighting in Aleppo, their principal place of residence, escalated in May, Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan said on September 16.

Their arrival raised to about 16,000 the official total number of Syrian Armenians currently living in their ancestral homeland.

Syria was home to up to 80,000 Armenians, most of them descendants of survivors of the 1915 genocide in Ottoman Turkey, before the outbreak of the bloody civil there four years ago. Most of them are thought to have fled the country since then.

Hakobyan estimated that only around 15,000 Armenians remain in Syria now as she commented on their plight during the Armenian government's question-and-answer session in parliament. "Unfortunately, the situation in Syria is worsening by the day," she said. "A total of another 2,500 Syrian Armenians have come to Armenia since the May events," she added.

Nazaret Aroyan, who owns several carpet shops in Aleppo, is one of those people, having settled in Yerevan with his family a month ago. Speaking to RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am), Aroyan expressed concern about the security of his sister and her husband trapped in the war-torn Syrian city. He said she works at a local public hospital and therefore needs government permission to leave the country.

"She has asked for permission to leave. Four months ago they sent her papers to Damascus," Aroyan said, adding that she is still

awaiting an answer.

"The situation there is really bad," said Nazaret Kuyumjian, a younger Syrian Armenian refugee. "Yesterday they shelled a school and there were kids there."

Mikael Garabed, another former Aleppo resident, said he has still not managed to convince his two brothers to relocate to Armenia. "There is no electricity and running water there," he said. "Living conditions just keep getting worse."

The Armenian government faced growing domestic calls for the evacuation of the remaining Armenians in Syria as fighting in and around Aleppo between Syrian government troops and rebels intensified earlier this year. The government made clear then that it will not encourage or help them to leave Syria en masse without the consent of the leadership of their shrinking community. The latter has been opposed to such an exodus until now.

In May, Hakobyan acknowledged that with no end in sight to the Syrian conflict the exodus may only be a matter of time. The minister discussed the matter in July with the leaders of the Armenian community in neighboring Lebanon, which has taken in an even larger number of Syrian Armenian refugees. She said afterwards that the authorities in Yerevan are "sending signals to our compatriots that they should leave Syria in various ways."

According to Syrian Armenians in Yerevan, many of their relatives would like to flee Aleppo and take refuge in Armenia but cannot afford expensive journeys out of the city. Some are probably also mindful of a lack of economic opportunities in Armenia. Many Syrian Armenian refugees have been struggling to make ends meet in the unemployment-stricken country.

"They [the refugees] are starting to realize that there is no going back and to quickly integrate [into Armenia's socioeconomic life,]" Hakobyan told the National Assembly on Wednesday. "We all must help them to find jobs and help them with accommodation."

Firdus Zakaryan, the head of a Diaspora Ministry task force dealing with Syrian Armenians, cautioned in that regard that the government is too cash-strapped to provide significant material assistance to the refugees and therefore hopes to secure funding from foreign states and international organizations.

Germany will maintain efforts to support dialogue between Armenia, Turkey: Joachim Gauck

President Joachim Gauck of the Federal Republic of Germany has also sent a congratulatory message to President Serzh Sargsyan. The message reads as follows:

"Mr. President,

On September 21, the Republic of Armenia celebrates the 24th anniversary of its independence. I am sending you and the Armenian people my own and my countrymen's heartfelt best wishes on the occasion of this special day.

In 2015, a significant year of commemoration for your country, Germany continues to stand beside Armenia as a partner. Since the restoration of Armenia's independence, the close and trustful relationship between our two countries has experienced rapid and comprehensive development which is vividly illustrated by close

bilateral contacts in the areas of culture and science.

In foreign policy affairs Germany supports Armenia's readiness to continue its political and economic affinity for the European Union within the frame of the Eastern Partnership. By that your country shows that it is possible to simultaneously intensify relations with the European Union, as well as with the Russian Federation and with its Eurasian partners. My heart wishes for the urgent and peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as for mutual understanding between Armenia and Turkey. In both cases Germany will continue its efforts to support dialogue.

I wish well-being and health to you, and a bright future filled with peace, freedom and prosperity to the Armenian people."

Armenia, Microsoft mull implementation of new joint projects



Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan received the delegation headed by Don Grantham, the Microsoft Corporation's Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe.

The Prime Minister hailed the continu-

ous cooperation with the Microsoft Corporation and noted that the Armenian Government is willing to further develop and deepen the bilateral cooperation.

Hovik Abrahamyan emphasized the effective activity of the IT companies in

Armenian and noted that they make the country competitive on the most developed markets in the world. The Prime Minister highly appreciated Microsoft's assistance through its Innovation Center and other initiatives and attached importance to the implementation of new joint initiatives.

Don Grantham, in turn, hailed the progress reached in the effective cooperation with the Armenian Government and praised the steps Armenia takes towards the development of the IT sphere.

The interlocutors discussed the implementation of new joint projects, the protection of intellectual property, and the fight against cybercrime.

In this context, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of the active cooperation between the Microsoft and the Armenian Defense Ministry with a view of improving the country's defense system.

U.S. Embassy's franchise day connects American businesses with Armenian investors

The U.S. Embassy in Yerevan and the U.S. Commercial Service in Moscow, in partnership with Ameria Management Advisory Services, organized a one-day business conference focused on franchise business opportunities on September 22 in Yerevan.

The event helped strengthen the growing commercial ties between the United States and Armenia by introducing American franchise businesses that are new to the Armenian market and already successful elsewhere in the region. The goal was to highlight these opportunities to Armenian businessmen and women who are looking to open their own businesses.

"I know there are many successes waiting to be born today," U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Clark Price said during the event's opening. "It is my hope that we, at the U.S. Embassy, can set the stage for success by connecting Armenian businessmen and women to American corporations. Then we can step back and let you do what you know best, build your businesses."

"I believe that franchise is the least risky format of business for foreign companies to enter the Armenian market and understand its peculiarities, and for local investors - to employ fully-fledged and successful business technologies," said Director of Ameria Management Advisory Services Tigran Jrabashyan.

Two U.S. corporations, Papa John's Pizza and Tutti-Frutti Frozen Yogurts, sent representatives to Yerevan to speak to conference participants about the possibility of investing in franchises in Armenia. This event provided participants with rare and valuable early access to well-known brands eager to enter the Armenian market. Approximately 50 business representatives and entrepreneurs attended the conference.

"It is my hope that many business relationships will start



today, and that in time, those relationships will grow to successful, profitable partnerships," said Mr. Price. "We are more than happy to set the stage for economic growth through events such as today's franchise day. But we all know, the success of your efforts will be in your hands."

Along with presentations from each of the American franchise concepts, participants had a chance to hear from well-known Armenian organizations on topics such as business, legal, and financing considerations.

The event was organized in part to strengthen and enrich the bilateral commercial relationship between Armenia and the United States by boosting commercial ties between the two. The event also focused on the importance of Intellectual Property Rights in the further development of franchise businesses in Armenia.

Swiss firm may run Armenian power grids



A Swiss asset management company with apparent ties to a Russian-Armenian billionaire looks set buy, through an off-shore subsidiary, Armenia's national power utility from Inter RAO, a state-controlled Russian energy giant.

It was confirmed on September 18 that the company, Marcuard Heritage, is the ultimate owner of the Cyprus-based firm Liormand Holdings which has moved to take over the Electric Networks of Armenia (ENA).

The Armenian government announced on Thursday that Inter RAO has asked it to authorize the ENA's sale to Liormand for an undisclosed sum. Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian instructed several government ministries to scrutinize the deal before a government decision on the matter.

Citing an unnamed source "familiar with the situation," the Russian business daily "Kommersant" reported on Friday that the takeover price offered by Marcuard Heritage is acceptable to Inter RAO. "The deal could be concluded by

the end of October if it is approved by the Armenian government," the paper said.

Marcuard Heritage's chief executive and co-owner, Sinan Bodmer, is also a member of the governing board of a Russian commercial bank owned by Samvel Karapetyan, an Armenian-born entrepreneur who has built a business empire in Russia. Armenian and Russian newspapers repeatedly said earlier this year that Karapetyan's Tashir Group is close to buying the debt-ridden ENA. Karapetian and his aide did not explicitly deny those reports.

Tashir Group's press office refused on Thursday and Friday to clarify whether the Russian-Armenian tycoon is somehow connected with Liarmond. Karapetyan's Yerevan-based brother Karen, who is a member of Armenia's parliament, also declined a comment.

"I'm not a spokesman for Tashir Group," Karen Karapetian told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "I'm a parliament deputy and mind my business."

A spokesman for Inter RAO, Nikolay Gorelov, also would not say whether Samvel Karapetyan is involved in the ENA's likely sale. The Cyprus-registered firm did not comment at all when contacted by RFE/RL's Armenian service.

The Yerevan daily "Haykakan Zhamanak" claimed, meanwhile, that Karapetian will acquire the ENA together with three other Armenian businessmen,

including Gagik Tsarukyan. A spokeswoman for Tsarukyan flatly denied, however, that he will be part of the deal.

Founded in 2003, Marcuard Heritage reportedly specializes in managing and investing assets of wealthy individuals from around the world and Russia in particular. The Zurich-headquartered firm has an office in Moscow.

One of its co-founders, Hans-Joerg Rudloff, is a veteran German-born investment banker who sat on the board of Russia's largest oil company, Rosneft, from 2006-2013. "The Financial Times" reported last year that Rudloff is "reputed by some to be the only Western banker trusted by President Vladimir Putin."

Should its anticipated deal with Inter RAO go through, Marcuard will face a daunting task of reversing massive losses incurred by Armenia's national power utility. The ENA has an estimated \$220 million in outstanding debts to Armenian commercial banks and power plants. Armenian officials agree that the losses are at least partly attributable to serious financial abuses by various-level ENA employees.

The massive losses have led Armenian state regulators to repeatedly raise electricity prices in the last few years. The most recent price hike announced in June triggered two-week nonstop demonstrations in Yerevan, forcing the government to subsidize power supplies to households.

Branch of Lomonosov Moscow State University opens in Armenia



President Serzh Sargsyan visited on September 18 the Branch of Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) in Yerevan which has been established as part of an interstate agreement. Accompanied by Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan, RA Education and Science Minister Armen Ashotyan, the Minister of RA Territorial Administration and Emergency

Situations, Armen Yeritsyan, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the MSU Branch in Yerevan, RA Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, RA NAS President Radik Martirosyan, MSU Rector Victor Sadovnichy, Ivan Volynkin, RF ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the RA, and by the branch leadership, the President toured the newly-opened educational institution, familiarized himself with its activities, teaching conditions and educational programs.

The Yerevan branch has mainly employed qualified professionals from Moscow. In the 2015-16 academic years, the university is attended by 65 students; 15 are state-financed and 50 study on contractual bases. Courses are conducted in five professions - Applied

Mathematics and Informatics, Law, Journalism, Linguistics and International Relations.

Joined by the faculty, students, their parents and other guests, Armenia's president listened to the speeches on the branch's kickoff activities made by RA Education and Science Minister Armen Ashotyan and MSU Rector Victor Sadovnichy at the university hall. In their welcoming remarks, they congratulated the university students on the start of the academic year, wished them success and attached importance to the entry of a new educational institution, Moscow State University, into Armenia's education system.

At the end of the visit, Serzh Sargsyan had a private conversation with MSU Rector Victor Sadovnichy.



YOUR DEAL IS OUR DEAL

www.mrealty.am

Mrealty@list.ru 12 G. Lusavorich str., Yerevan, Armenia

(010) 564631

(010) 562181

1 ROOM

- ♦1696.**Tumanyan str.**, 5/4, stone bld, 1 bedroom, h-3m, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 160.000 USD.
- ♦1440.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 110 sq.m., 1 bedroom, h-3m,euro repaired, heating system, furnished,parking,. Price: 350.000 USD.
- ♦1715- **Sayat Nova Ave.**, 5/4, 70sq.m, stone bld, h-4m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 110.000 USD
- ♦1680- **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/4, 68sq.m, 1 bedroom, old repair, possibility of gas. Price: 86.000 USD.
- ♦1674. **Abovyan str.**, 2nd floor,70sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 135.000 USD
- ♦1698-**Aram str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 62sq.m, 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, AC, security system, parking. Price: 120.000 USD.

2 ROOMS

- ♦3003.**Sayat-Nova str**, 5/3, 105sq.m, 2bedrooms, stone building, capitally repaired. Price: Negotiable
- ♦1560.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built,10/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired,climate control, parking. Price: 400.000 USD.
- ♦2818.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, Ac, furnished . Price:400.000USD
- ♦1156.**Komitas Ave.**, Hambardzumyan str. 5/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, kitchen is furnished. Price: 150.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2949.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 1st floor, 143 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, zero state, Price: 2000 USD per sq.m.
- ♦2300.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC,parking. Price: 400.000 USD.

3 ROOMS

- ♦3046.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 9/9, 81sq.m.,with-out divisions. Price:Negotiable.
- ♦3012.**Aram str**, Newly built, /7th floor, 136sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, parking, facing to bulvar, Price:300.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2998.**North Ave**, Newly built, 9/6, 181sq.m, 3bedrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking, Price: 700.000 USD
- ♦2682.**Aram Str.**, Newly built,13/6 187sq.m., 3 bedrooms,2 bathrooms, 2 open balconies, capitally repaired,heating system, 2AC, 2 garages, view to garden. Price: 550.000 USD negotiable.
- ♦2958.**Pushkin str.**, 5/2, 140 sq.m., stone building,4 bedrooms,capitally repaired,heating system. Price: Negotiable.
- ♦2895.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capitally repaied, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- ♦2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built,8/4, 166sq.m,3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,capitally repaired, central heating,AC,security system. Price:320.000 USD.
- ♦1104.**Komitas Ave.**, **Aram Khachatryan str.**, 5/2, 125sq.m,stone bld, h-2.75m.,3 bedrooms, office, 2 bathrooms, old repair, gas, garage. Price: 130.000 USD
- ♦2836.**Pushkin str.**, 4/4,5, 400sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 460.000 USD.

- ♦2990.**North Ave.**, Newly built, 11th floor, 295sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, parking. Price: Negotiable.

PREMISES

- ♦1789.**Charents str.** Land-1270sq.m,5 storied building, each floor-400sq.m.,basement, capitally repaired, parkings. Price:4.000.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1598.**Komitas, Nairy Zaryan str.**, 1000 sq.m., working restaurant,1st line, capitally repaired. Price: negotiable.
- ♦1603.**Northern Ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 160 sq.m.,zero level, window glasses. Price: 2.600.000 USD.
- ♦2035.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m.,1st line, facade-55m.,capitally repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2013.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m.,1st line, capitally repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 1.300.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2012.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1,2, 140sq.m.,window glasses, capitally repaired, AC. Price: 1.100.000\$ negotiable
- ♦2155.**Mashtots ave.**, 3storied building, 540sq.m., each floor-180sq.m, window glasses,parking. Price:3.600.000 USD
- ♦2020.**Hr. Kochar str.**, Land-300sq.m,1st line, 4storied building, 1080sq.m.,each floor-270sq.m, h-3.6m,with-out divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price:1.400.000 USD negotiable
- ♦1986.**Cascade.** Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building1200sq.m., unfinished, parking. Price:1.000.000 USD
- ♦2167.**Sayat Nova str.**, newly built, 38sq. m, capitally repaired. Price: 200.000 USD



- ♦2175.**Tumanyan str**, Ground and 1st floor of the building, 600sq.m, ground floor300sq.m, 1st floor-220sq.m, basement-80sq.m, - 1st line, zero level, 2 entrances, facade-15m, 4 window glasses, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, Price: 3500 USD per sq.m,
- ♦2172. **Isahakyan str**, 92sq.m, 1st line, 7 degrees above zero level, facade-9m, 2 window glasses, h-3.20m, 2 halls, cabinet, bathroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 450.000 USD

LANDS

- ♦2122.**Davitashen**, 1800 sq.m., water, gas, electricity, possible to sell separately 600 sq.m., and 1200 sq.m. Price: 150 USD per sq.m.
- ♦2121.**Demirchyan str.**, 1338 sq.m.,building permits. Price: 2million USD.
- ♦2013.**Cascade**. 1000 sq.m. building permits, first line, gas, water and electricity possibilities. Price 460.000USD
- ♦1402.**Hr. Kochar Str.**, 1100 sq. m.,facade -25 m. Price negotiable.
- ♦2090.**Lori region**, close to Stepanavan, Gyargyar village, 6 hectares, forest 2 hectare has building permits, 3 water source, electricity. Price: 100.000USD.
- ♦2406.**Avan**, Mher Mkrtchyan block, 1000 sq.m., electricity, gas, water, the district is inhabited. Price: 30USD per sq.m
- ♦2310.**Monument, Babayan str**, 1000 sq. m, facade-25m, privatized, Price:350 USD negotiable
- ♦2107.**Monument**, 2400sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: 400 USD per sq.m.
- ♦2413.**Ashtarak roadway**, 1000sq.m, building permits, building project. Price: Negotiable
- ♦2414.**Demirchyan str.** land-750sq.m., building permits. Price:750.000 USD.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- ♦3739.**Nork Marash** Land- 2000sq.m, two separate houses, total bld-600sq.m,capitally repaired, swimming pool, sauna, guard house. 2 car parking, garden. Price: 950.000 USD
- ♦3348.**Blur, Barbyus str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control. Price: 1.2 million USD
- ♦3146.**Aygestan**, Land-500 sq.m., 5 storied bld-765 sq.m.,each floor-180 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, hjeating system,elevator. Price: 2.300.000 USD.
- ♦3583.**Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m,2 storied bld-520sq.m,6 bedrooms,5 bathrooms, capitally repaired,heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price:1.350.000 USD.
- ♦3432.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m ,3 storied bld.-501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, central heating, AC, boiler room garden, swimming pool, sauna, garage, security system. Price:1.000.000 USD
- ♦3576.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitally repaired, heating system, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 850.000 USD
- ♦3606.**Avan**, Tsarav Akhbyur/near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m.,3 storied building-750sq.m.,6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitally repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price-1.500.000 USD
- ♦3574.**Blur**, Land-779sq.m.,2 storied building-720sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitally repaired, heating system,sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 2.000.000 USD
- ♦3590 **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450 sq.m.,4 storied building-470sq.m.,3bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: 680.000 USD
- ♦3651.**Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m.,5 storied building-800sq.m.,4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitally repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price:1.700.000 USD.
- ♦3401.**Antarayan str**, Newly built, land-700sq.m, 3 storied bld-690sq.m, 5 bedrooms, capitally repaired. Price: 1.300.000 USD
- ♦3712 **Cascade** Newly built, land-450sq.m, 4 storied bld-600sq.m, zero state. Price: 550.000 USD

NEWLY BUILT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

- ♦74.**Cascade**, Verin Antarayin. 136-315 sq m.,walls plastered, electricity, water, gas, euro windows,no exploitation fees. Price:1200 USD per sq.m, parking -15.000 USD.
- ♦107.**Monument**, Verin Antarayin. inhabited, 8 floors, gas, windows, street view -1000 USD per sq.m., city looking -1500 USD per sq.m., parking - 4 million USD preliminary.
- ♦87.**Sayat-Nova str.**, 21 floors, 3 bedrooms -188 sq.m., 199 sq.m., Price 1900 USD per sq.m., 2 bedrooms have a beautiful sight - 117 sq.m., 120 sq.m., 124 sq.m.,Price: 1700 USD per sq.m., climate control, gas.
- ♦93.**Kievyan str.**, Given to the operation in October 2011, 16 floors, walls plastered, windows, exterior doors, h -3, 15 m, gas,parking. Price: 1500-1600USD per sq.m,parking-12 000 USD. Possible with mortgage, for 13 years term.
- ♦94.**Masiv**. 3floors,8 flats,each flat has 3 bedrooms, 210 sq.m., parking. Price: negotiable.
- ♦130.**Antarayan str.**, 34 flats, 110-275 sq.m., 4 penthouses-200-275sq.m,available seives-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable
- ♦131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available seives-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable



YOUR CHOICE IS OUR CHOICE

www.mrealty.am

Mrealty@list.ru

12 G. Lusavorich str., Yerevan, Armenia

(010) 564631

(010) 562181

1 ROOM

- 2037. **Baghramyan str.**, 5/2, 60sqm, 1 bedroom, euro repaired, gas, heating system, AC, modern furnished, equipped. Price: negotiable
- 2189. **Vardanants str.**, Newly built, 24/12, 90 sqm, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099. **Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972. **Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sq.m., 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171. **Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sq.m., 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sq.m., capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m., 2bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942. **Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950. **Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738. **Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951. **Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406. **Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2109. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243. **Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2353 **V. Sargsyan str.** 8/5, Newly built, 98sq.m, 2bedrooms, capitolly renovated, furnished, Price 1500 USD
- 2347 **Teryan str.** Newly built, 10/8, 320sq.m, 3bedrooms, office, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: Negotiable

- 2277. **Kievyan str.** duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, with or without furniture. Price: Negotiable.
- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m., 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2303 **Hanrapetutyun str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3bedrooms, 1bathroom, 1 guest toilet, capitolly repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286. **Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021. **Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.
- 1723. **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capitolly repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981. **Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, 3 open balconies, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1793. **Teryan str.**, Newly built, 8th floor, 260 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, climat control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720. **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, cellar- 25sq.m, with or without furniture, parking, Price 3000 USD negotiable
- 2195. **Northern ave.**, Newly built, 3rd floor, 300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261. **Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m., 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084. **Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252. **Northern ave**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capitolly repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4bedrooms, 2bathrooms, capitolly repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land-400sq.m, 3storied bld-300sq.m, 4bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248. **Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m, 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, central heating, AC, sauna, boiler room garden, swimming pool, garage, alarming system, security system. Price: 8000 USD.
- 999. **Aygedzor**, Land -1000 sqm, basement + 2 floors- 310 sqm, capitolly repaired, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, newly furnished, equipped, sauna, swimming-pool. Starting Price: 5000 USD.
- 1094. **Noy block**, Land-450sqm, 2 storied building - 220sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden. Price: 2000USD.
- 1195. **Nork, Armenakyan str.**, Land - 2000 sq.m,

- 4 storied bld.-520 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished, swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142. **Djrevej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capitolly repaired, no furniture/ can be furnished, if necessary /garage for 2 cars. Price: 4 000 USD.
- 1293. **Nork-Marash**, Land-1100sq.m, 2 storied bld-520 sq.m, 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, swimming pool, garden. Price: 7.000 USD
- 327. **Nork-Marash**, Land-500sq.m., 4 storied building-600 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking. Price- 4000 USD
- 1306. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-1000sq.m., 3 storied building-750sq.m., 6 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, capitolly repaired, heating system swimming pool, garden, sauna, 2 car parking, with or without furniture. Price: 6000-8000 USD negotiable
- 1288. **Tsarav Akhbyur** /near Botanical garden/, Land-560sq.m., 4 storied building-560 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 4bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capitolly repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped, swimming pool, garden, 2 car parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 1197. **Blur**, Land-779sq.m., 2 storied building-720sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, study, capitolly repaired, heating system, sauna swimming pool, garden. Price: 8000 USD
- 1312. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-450sq.m., 4 storied building-470sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m., 5 storied building-800sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable.
- 1323. **Monument, Babayan str**, Land - 400 sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, each floor-100sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2049. **Teryan str**, ground floor+basemnet, 1st line, 200sq.m, repaired. Price: 6.000 USD
- 1693. **Malatia-Sebastia** 4 storied building, 1200sq.m, each floor-300sq.m, 2 separate entrances, climate control, 2 elevators, basement, parking. Price: 15USD per sq.m.
- 1526. **Byuzand str.**, 5/semi-basement, 170 sqm., 4-5 degrees below zero level, window glasses, cellar - 50 sq.m., 6 rooms, the largest is 30 sq.m., 2 entrances, 2 lavatories. Price 2000 USD per month, negotiable.
- 1408. **Zarobyan str.**, /parallel to Baghramyan str./, 2 storied building, 600 sqm. ground floor- hall and kitchen, 1st floor 5 rooms, bathroom, open balcony, capitolly repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462. **Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capitolly repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945. **Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capitolly repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m., 1st line, capitolly repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868. **Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m., 1st line, facade-55m., capitolly repaired, h-5m., cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087. **Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capitolly repaired, window glasses. Price: Negotiable.
- 2033. **Abovyan str**, 388sq.m, Ground floor of the building, 3 degrees above zero level, window glasses, h-3m., basement-235sq.m, capitolly repaired, heating system, AC. Price: 15.000 USD
- 2031. **Vardanants str**, 500sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, facade-20m, window glasses, without divisions, ,basement-250sq.m., Price: 8000 USD
- 2027. **Sayat Nova str**, 95sq.m, ground floor of the building, 2 entrances, 7 degrees above zero level, 4 window glasses, capitolly repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

PREMISES

OSCE Office marks 40th anniversary of Helsinki Final Act in Armenia

High level representatives from the Armenian government, civil society and media gathered on September 17 in Yerevan to participate in the celebratory event organized by the OSCE Office in Yerevan on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the founding document of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

"The role of the Helsinki Process in bringing about the end of the Cold War cannot be overestimated. Yet with the end of the East-West stand-off in the 1990s we saw the emergence of new challenges to security and sources of conflict," said Marcel Peško, OSCE Director of the Conflict Prevent Centre. "The foundations of the security system which served us for so long are now in jeopardy. We need to look for creative ways to overcome growing divisions, to engage in a meaningful dialogue to address the old and new security challenges. Armenia can and should play an important role in this process."

The Armenian Foreign Minister, Edward Nalbandian, said: "Armenia has established a close cooperation with the OSCE bodies, the Office in Yerevan - the

only full-fledged OSCE office in the South Caucasus, vividly demonstrating Armenia's attitude towards the international cooperation and the existing regional realities. 35 states signed the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. Today the OSCE comprises of 57 participating states. This considerable enlargement of the OSCE family is the result of the implementation of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, in particular the right of people to self-determination.

The full implementation of the norms set forth by the Helsinki Final Act 40 years ago, which we have inherited is one of the essential prerequisites for peace, security and prosperity in Europe. Therefore, constant care and attention to it should occupy a pivotal place in current international relations".

The Helsinki Final Act, signed by presidents and prime ministers from 35 countries on 1 August 1975, was seen as a major step in reducing Cold War tensions and led to the formation of a permanent forum for dialogue on security - the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, now the OSCE. The Act established a unique comprehensive definition of security - encompassing the politico-military, the



economic-environmental and the human dimensions - and along with the commitments subsequently agreed by the participating States continues to guide the OSCE's work. Its ten basic principles guide the conduct of the participating States vis-a-vis their citizens, as well as among each other.

The Special Envelope with an OSCE postage stamp and special postmark was prepared for the occasion by the Haypost National Operator of Armenia and officially launched at the event. Also launched at the event were a photo exhibition and an anniversary publication with messages from high officials, brief information on the Helsinki Final Act and activities of the OSCE and the Office in Yerevan.

How to make the Turkish government apologize for the Armenian Genocide

Hripsime Arakelyan
Cyprus

Apologize, if you're wrong. Begging pardon is not an easy thing, especially when it comes to thorny historical issues, crimes against humanity and genocides. Are the modern governments ready to apologize for crimes committed against humanity? The issue was raised during a conference at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) organized by Armen Sarvarian, Lecturer in Law at the University of Surrey, UK. The event brought together genocide scholars, historians, lawyers from countries that faced atrocities in the past.

The shared opinion about the Armenian Genocide was that it's necessary to find mechanisms to make the Turkish government apologize for the

greatest crime at the turn of the 20th century.

Will Turkey ever apologize for the Armenian Genocide? What can be the consequences of that apology? According to Armen Sarvarian, the challenge is that there is no common position among different Armenian communities, no united body, which Turkey will negotiate with.

"We need a common strategy and a general understanding of what we demand and what we expect," he said.

Expert of Turkish studies Ruben Safrastyan said the so-called apology, which Turkey tried to present as recognition was a dishonor not only for the Turkish leaders, but also for the Turkish state. "We have to do our best for larger sectors of the Turkish society to understand and condemn the essence of this

heavy crime."

"We must use all available levers provided by international law to reach reimbursement. An official apology should be the first step on that route," Safrastyan said.

"International relations are not about now, they are about contemporary events, but those events are located in the past," said Professor John Strawson from the University of Iceland.

"Apologies for the past injustice cannot be cheap," the Professor said. As for the Armenian Genocide, he said "the fact that the international community did not deal with the issue means that it remains a burning sore in relations with partners within the region. History is something we have to be very careful with. It can come back and bite you, when you think it's over."

Sergey Smbatyan: The Third Aram Khachaturian Festival will Present Exclusive Projects

Youth Orchestra's european tour concerts are three week-sold out



By Gourgen James Khazhakian

Chief Correspondent

As it was announced at a news conference held on September 16 by the Deputy Minister of Culture of Armenia **Arthur Poghosyan** and the Founding Artistic Director and the Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (SYOA) **Sergey Smbatyan**, from October 3 to December 5 the SYOA, with support from the RA Ministry of Culture, will hold the 3rd Aram Khachaturian International Festival.

Mr Poghosyan noted that popularizing and performing immortal creations of Aram Khachaturian not only in Armenia but also abroad is "an important directive for our culture". *"Being a world famous composer, Aram Khachaturian's name serves a kind of Armenian cultural business card in the whole world and ensures the level of awareness. The policy of past years implemented thanks to the joint efforts of Ministry of Culture and the Youth Orchestra gave its results"*, said the Deputy Minister of Culture. (As in his interview with The Highlights Sergey Smbatyan said, the musicians and the guests invited to participate in the Festival, getting know that the Fest named after great Khachaturian was established just three years ago, asking with an uncovered astonishment: *"How it is possible, - before that you the Armenians were having no festival named after your great Khachaturian?"*) Talking about the Festival, Sergey Smbatyan underlined that this year the Fest will be held under the High Patronage of the RA President **Serzh Sargsyan** that is a sign of the country's leader's being attaching great importance to the art and the classical music. The slogan for Aram Khachaturian International Festival 2015 is "The Greatest Love of My Life, the Motherland". The Fest program includes 19 concerts: 10 symphony (on Saturdays) and 9 chamber (on Wednesdays).

Anna Vinnitskaya, Suren Bagratuni, Sergey Nakariakov, Chad Hoopes, Vahagn ("Vag") Papyan, Alexandra Soumm, Alexander Romanovsky – here are several names of the Festival participants who are prize winners and laureates

of the world most famous and prestigious music competitions. Several Armenian musicians and ensembles will perform as well. Among numerous concert programs, there will be presented "Music of Hope", a project for children: the audience will be given the chance to enjoy works from "Album for Children" by Aram Khachaturian performed by students of the Yerevan P.I.Tchaikovsky Music School. According to organizers, the closing ceremony of the Aram Khachaturian International Festival (that is a real music marathon lasting almost two months – **G.Kh.**) will be an "unprecedented" one: the State Jazz Band of Armenia together with the Youth Orchestra will present Aram Khachaturian's works in jazz orches-



tration. Within the framework of the Festival the anniversaries of the Armenian remarkable artists will be celebrated, besides, thanks to the sponsors, 13-17 aged spectators will have a nice chance to attend the concerts free of charge.

As to some figures, Maestro Smbatyan noted that during Khachaturian Fest they are planning to have more than 16,000 spectators, 140 thousand online views. The audience will enjoy 6 world premieres and more than 60 works. This year 36 artists and 154 guests will be present at the Fest.

The Head of the Youth Orchestra thanked all those who supported the Festival realization: the Ministry of Culture of Armenia, Armenia's leading telecom operator VivaCell-MTS and its Founding GM **Ralph Yirikian** that is the General Partner of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia for many years already, Moscow-based "Luding" Company headed by a prominent businessman and a benefactor **Arthur Varzhapetyan**.

And by the moment SYOA is on its European tour: on Friday 18 September the orchestra gave a concert within the Brukner Fest Linz (Austria). (See a pic.)

The SYOA European tour program includes also concert in Vienn Musikverein (one of the most known Halls there) on 21.09; then our young musicians are to play in Spain - on 25.09 in Zaragoze Mozart Hall and on 26.09 - in Madrid Teatro Real. Both concerts will held with the world known violinist **Ara Malikian**.

As The Highlights reporter in Spain wrote, the SYOA concert in Madrid was sold out yet three weeks ago, - in spite of the football match of Real Madrid on the same day.

The Highlights note: *Ara Malikian has assimilated the music of various cultures like those of the Middle East (Arab and Jewish), Central Europe (gipsy and Klezmer), Argentina (tango) and Spain (flamenco).*

He has been played pieces by both classical and modern composers.

Malikian has received the First Prizes in the International Competitions like "Felix Mendelssohn" (1987, Berlin, Germany) and "Pablo Sarasate" (1995, Pamplona, Spain), besides other prizes like those from the competitions "Niccolo Paganini" (Genoa, Italy), "Zino Francescatti" (Marseille, France), "Rodolfo Lipizer" (Gorizia, Italy), "Jeunesses Musicales" (Belgrade, Yugo-

slavia) and many others. In 1993 he received the "Prize for Artistic Devotion and Achievement" from the German Ministry of Culture. He has played in more than 40 countries with the famous orchestras in New York Carnegie Hall, Paris Salle Pleyel, Vienn Musikverein, Toronto Ford Center, Madrid Auditorio Nacional and Teatro Real and many others. He lives in Madrid, where he was the concertmaster of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Madrid (resident orchestra of the Madrid Royal Opera). (Source: Wikipedia)

Armenia's Leading Telecom Operator: Is There in Armenia an Area Remained with No Support from VivaCell-MTS?

VivaCell-MTS's non-stop support to Yerevan Zoo...

1) The Ice Cream Day

On September 5 Yerevan Zoo hosted summer scents and colors in a mixed celebration: the open air Ice Cream Day was held in Yerevan for the 5th time.

Little visitors were entertained by music, fairy tale characters, games and contests. The traditional fest offered the zoo's visitors unlimited ice cream available for only 50 AMD. All the proceeds of the day will go towards the zoo's animal welfare project. The festive ice cream was provided by "Ashtarak Kat" Company.



The cool and delicious fest was made more accessible for everybody thanks to the generous support of VivaCell-MTS: all the young visitors under 16 enjoyed free entrance to the zoo on September 5.

Ice Cream Day was celebrated by the zoo animals as well; for example the Syrian brown bears, combined their usual diet by specially prepared fruit ice cubes.

"We are happy that this initiative organized in cooperation with Yerevan Municipality has become a traditional event. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the zoo welfare, enjoying at the same time the last ice cream of the leaving summer" Yerevan

Zoo Director Ruben Khachatryan noted.

The teenagers had a unique chance to compete for the main award of the day – bicycle from the Yerevan Zoo. 12 years old Narek Hovakimyan became the winner of the day, demonstrating notable knowledge of wildlife and environment.

2) Fiber-optical network deployed and high-speed internet access area expanded across the Zoo area

Yerevan Zoo hosted an event, which officially announced the launch of fiber-optical network and expansion of the high-speed internet access zone at the Zoo area.

VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager **Ralph Yirikian**, the Deputy Mayor of Yerevan **Aram Sukiasyan** and the Director of Yerevan Zoo **Ruben Khachatryan** attended the event.

The organizers highlighted the informational and educational purposes of the initiative. Thanks to the generous support of Armenia's leading

give an opportunity to visit Yerevan Zoo website and read the updated news, as well as watch the latest videos featuring the Zoo and its inhabitants.

The deployment of Fiber-Optical network throughout the whole Zoo area will also allow for accessing QR codes on animal factsheets (three-dimensional or matrix barcode). Visitors with corresponding software can get multi-format information about the animals within seconds. Separate audio packages will be elaborated for persons with visual disabilities. The network deployment was carried out owing to AMD 3.8 million personal donation made by Ralph Yirikian, who was guided by the principle of volunteering, another underlying value that the company encourages among its employees and society at large. The FPWC also participated the project, by contributed an equal amount – AMD 3.8 million.

Furthermore, the fiber-optical network development will contribute to raising the level of animal care. The availability of the network will enable installation of online cameras throughout the Zoo, providing constant control over the animals, while the video materials will be used for scientific and educational purposes.

"Owing to the recent improvements undertaken at Yerevan Zoo, it has transformed into an educational and ecological hub where children learn to take care of nature and animals, enrich their knowledge of wildlife, participate in events fostering creativity and healthy lifestyle as well as watch educational films. For the proper organization of these events and for turning the Zoo into a more tech-friendly environment, reliable Internet connection is needed. As an individual I'm more than sure that it's worth supporting the innovative initiatives of the Yerevan Zoo for the benefit of Armenian children by rolling out fiber-optical network aimed at significantly expanding the area of Wi-Fi connectivity provided to the visitors for free and also using online cameras across the whole territory of the Zoo", VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian commented.



telecommunications operator VivaCell-MTS the free Wi-Fi access will offer the visitors electronic guidelines and interactive maps in addition to printed factsheets.

The high speed Wi-Fi connection will

“Microelectronics”, “Basics of Telecommunication” and “Information Technologies” now part of curricula at five high schools of Armenia

The Minister of Education and Science of Armenia has approved the criteria and teaching materials for narrow-specialty subjects in the sphere of ICT.

The program is implemented in 5 high schools of Armenia and is aimed at fostering the ICT sphere as one of the most important components and top priority directions of the country’s economic, scientific and technical development.

The project on specialized ICT education is implemented by the RA Ministry of Education and Science, VivaCell-MTS, Synopsis Armenia and Unicom as stipulated by the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry and the above-mentioned companies on March 30, 2015.

At a joint press conference held on 9 September at the Ministry of Education and Science of Armenia VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Mr **Ralph Cesar Yirikian**, the RA Minister of Education and Science Mr **Armen Ashotyan**, Chief Executive Officer of Unicom Mr **Armen S. Baldryan** and director of Synopsis Armenia H. Musayelyan presented the progress and the preliminary results of the project.

Ahead of the beginning of the academic year 2015-2016, Armenia’s leading telecommunications operator VivaCell-MTS supported and actively participated in the development of the criteria and the



teaching materials for the “Basics of Telecommunication” and the training of instructors. The Company has also financed the opening of the “Microelectronics”, “Information Technologies” and “Basics of Telecommunication” laboratories. In general, VivaCell-MTS has allocated over AMD 70 million for the implementation of the program.

Synopsis Armenia has had its part in developing the criteria and the teaching materials for the “Microelectronics”; the training of the teachers of the subject as well were carried out by the organization.

Unicom has participated in the process of developing the criteria and the teaching materials for the “Information Technologies” and has held the training of its teachers. The laboratories and respective computer networks for the “Microelectronics”, “Information Technologies” and “Basics of Telecommunication” are currently under construction.

The goals and objectives set by the project of introducing ICT courses at high schools reflect shared commitment of the Ministry from one side, and ICT leaders VivaCell-MTS, Synopsis Armenia and Unicom, from the other, to raise the quality of narrow-specialty education in the sphere of ICT, through introduction of methodologies, based on modern theoretical and practical innovative knowledge accumulated by the companies. The joint project is focused on creating better opportunities for the young people in Armenia in making vocational preferences in the fields of Information Technologies, Telecommunications and Microelectronics.

The project is implemented in 5 educational institutions throughout the country including the Gyumri-based “Photon” college, Yerevan-based “Quantum” college, the Vanadzor specialized school of mathematics and natural sciences, the Yerevan High School of the Armenian State Engineering University, and the Artashes Shahinyan specialized school of physics and mathematics.

“The participation of VivaCell-MTS in the ICT educational project is conditioned by our vision of Armenia as a country where high technologies are not only widely applied in the production but also a country offering innovation of its own creation to the world. Telecommunications, microelectronics and information technologies are the essential drivers of the economic growth. This unprecedented educational project will also have a solid social impact as it will help meet the demand on the job market and help the Armenian youth stay and work in Armenia,” VivaCell-MTS Founding General Manager Ralph Yirikian said.



United Nations to commemorate victims of all genocides on Dec. 9



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

Sept. 11, after years of persistent diplomatic efforts, the Republic of Armenia succeeded in having the United Nations General Assembly adopt by consensus a generic resolution on all genocides.

Introduced by Armenia and co-sponsored by 83 other nations, the resolution establishes December 9 as the "International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime." Dec. 9 was chosen since the UN Genocide Convention was adopted on that day in 1948.

Henceforth, on every December 9, the UN will commemorate and honor the victims of all genocides. Even though the resolution does not mention any particular genocide, it is up to Armenians to ensure that their genocide is included in official UN commemorations on that date. No one will be surprised should the Turkish government attempt to block such Armenian efforts!

Ironically, Turkey was one of the co-sponsors of the genocide resolution, probably out of a concern that opposing it would have revealed its deep-seated anxiety on the subject of genocide. Consequently, Turkish officials acted as if this resolution was unrelated to their country's past and present genocidal crimes against Armenians, Assyrians, Greeks and Kurds!

Among the 84 countries co-sponsoring the resolution were the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, Germany, India, Japan, and Iran. Interestingly, Azerbaijan and Rwanda did not co-sponsor it. Azerbaijan was reluctant to support any resolution proposed by Armenia.

Rwanda, on the other hand, felt the resolution was unnecessary, since the UN had designated April 7 as International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda. In contrast, Israel co-sponsored the resolution, even though the UN had already set January 27 as International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect issued a statement last Friday commending the adoption of the UN resolution, and listing the "significant anniversaries of the most atrocious crimes of the last century," including "the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, 40th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge's atrocities in Cambodia, and the 20th anniversaries of the genocide in Rwanda and at Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Amb. Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Armenia's Representative to the UN, spoke of his "sense of duty," while presenting the proposed resolution to the General Assembly on Sept. 11. Paying tribute to Raphael Lemkin who had coined the term genocide, the Ambassador stated: "For the victims of our past inaction, the International Day will render dignity. The denial to millions of the sanctity of life is ultimate injustice. Justice denied haunts generations of survivors. We speak from experience."

Another genocide milestone forgotten by the international community and Armenians is the 30th anniversary of the adoption of a report by the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The historic document titled, "Revised and updated report on the question of the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide," was drafted by British Rapporteur

Benjamin Whitaker. It is noteworthy that Amb. Mnatsakanyan referred to this report twice in his speech, while introducing the genocide resolution to the UN.

In paragraph 24 of his report, Whitaker cited several cases of genocide in the 20th century, specifically mentioning the Armenian Genocide. Moreover, in footnote 13, Whitaker added: "At least 1 million, and possibly well over half of the Armenian population, are reliably estimated to have been killed or death marched by independent authorities and eye-witnesses. This is corroborated by reports in United States, German and British archives and of contemporary diplomats in the Ottoman Empire, including those of its ally Germany. The German Ambassador, Wangenheim, for example, on 7 July 1915 wrote, 'the [Turkish] government is indeed pursuing its goal of exterminating the Armenian race in the Ottoman Empire' (Wilhelmstrasse archives)."

Regrettably, Whitaker passed away last year. But, there are three other former members of the UN Sub-Commission - Erica Daes (Greek), Leandro Despouys (Argentinian), and Louis Joinet (French) - who staunchly supported the reference to the Armenian Genocide in the Whitaker report which the Sub-Commission adopted on August 29, 1985, by a 14-1 vote. All three human rights experts should be invited to the United Nations on Dec. 9, 2015, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Whitaker Report, and recognize his unique contributions to the cause of prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide!

Amb. Mnatsakanyan, Armenia's Foreign Ministry, and the Armenian government should be commended for their effective leadership at the UN on genocide prevention!

Detroit photographer unveils book honoring 100th anniversary of Armenian Genocide



By Allan Lengel
Deadline Detroit

As a photojournalist, Michelle Andonian has captured many compelling images over the decades.

But her photo collection from Armenia and Turkey for her new book, "This Picture I Gift," may be her most personal. It commemorates the 100 year anniversary of the Armenian genocide, and traces, through words and photographs, the footsteps of her grandmother back home.

Her grandmother, Sarah Andonian, survived the genocide which began in 1915, during World War I. About 1.5 million people perished at the hands of the Ottoman Empire, which is now Turkey. In 1922, she came to the U.S. and settled in southwest Detroit. She passed away in 1988, but not before sharing stories of the homeland.

Over many decades, Turkey has refused to acknowledge responsibility for the genocide, despite pressures from many fronts on the world stage. Andonian says she's long thought about that dark chapter in history.

"I have been trying to find a way to tell the Armenian story for the last 25 years," Andonian explains, sitting in her photography studio near downtown Detroit. "After my grandmother died and after the earthquake (1988) there, I went to Armenia, and that trip has kept me going back again and again for the last 25 years."

"So in last three years I've really made a concentrated effort to publish this book and get a body of work out in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide."

"I felt this book was a way to bring Turkey and Armenia together, to tell the story of genocide, to tell the story of my grandmother, who is a survivor of the genocide, and just put it out there for what it is," says Andonian, a former photographer for the Detroit News.

On Friday, the Center Galleries at the College For Creative Studies will host a book signing and launch an exhibition, which includes photographs Andonian took of children and Armenian churches from Turkey and Armenia in recent times. The exhibition will run through Oct. 24.

Also, in October, she'll put on performances to commemorate the genocide, "Hope Dies Last," a collaborate effort that combines live music and visuals. The show will premiere at the Detroit Institute of Arts on Oct. 18, with a second showing on Oct. 29 at the Macomb Center. She's producing it in collaboration with Alexandra Du Bois, a music composer, and the Detroit Chamber Winds.

The book includes photographs from Armenia and Turkey over the past three years, plus a photo of her grandmother in 1987 in southwest Detroit. One of the photos (displayed above) shows Kurdish children standing in a historic Armenian graveyard in Turkey.

The forward in the book is written by her cousin, native Detroiter Robert Ourlian, a former Detroit News reporter who now works as a national security editor for the Wall Street Journal in Washington. Ourlian has always taken a keen interest in Armenia and the genocide.

Sevan Nisanyan to run for parliament in Turkey



The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will nominate Armenian Sevan Nisanyan as candidate at the forthcoming par-

liamentary elections in Turkey, assistant to the party's Secretary General Tarik Beyhan told Agos.

Beyhan said Nisanyan has greatly contributed to linguistics, culture and architecture, but more noteworthy is his role in the field of the freedom of speech.

"Freedom of speech and tolerance are the two important pillars of liberalism. Therefore, we think that Nisanyan is a very important figure both for our party and the country as a whole," he said.

Nisanyan is currently serving time over a charge of "deliberately causing harm to the protection of immovable cultural heritage" for his building an addition to his home in the Aegean village of Sirince. However he is known for his outspoken criticism of the government, and it is widely believed that his sentencing was simply an excuse to silence the vocal critic.

Nisanyan has been imprisoned since January 2014, and he also has a pending prison sentence of 14 years 2 months.

ANCA partners with 'In Defense of Christians' to stop genocide of minorities in Middle East

Calls for concrete U.S. leadership to protect Middle East Christians from extremist violence took center stage on Capitol Hill last week as advocates from across America and around the world gathered for the In Defense of Christians (IDC) convention.

From the opening September 9th press conference held at the National Press Club, the three day event featured commentary by Members of Congress and powerful calls by constituent advocates for global condemnation of ongoing anti-Christian attacks in the Middle East as genocide, and equally forceful demands for U.S. leadership in securing the safety and meeting the humanitarian needs of at-risk indigenous Christian, Yezidi, and other minority communities.

Hamparian: We Must Elevate U.S. Response to Genocide from a Political Choice to a Moral Imperative

During the opening press conference for the IDC convention, titled "ISIS, Genocide, and an International Response," ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian stressed the need for the U.S. and international communities to shift their response to genocide from politics to morality. "If we can elevate our nation's response [to genocide] from a political choice to a moral imperative, then all of the pieces will fall into place," explained Hamparian, as part of a broader review of the requirements of U.S. anti-genocide policy.

Referencing the Armenian Genocide, Hamparian outlined the dangers of not properly characterizing and punishing ongoing acts of genocide. "Right now, the perpetrators of genocide know that if they perpetrate these crimes, and they have sufficient political will and sufficient political power, they can get the world to back off - to not intervene and ultimately to buy into their lies, because I guarantee you that the crimes that are being committed today, will be denied tomorrow."

Wolf: "We failed the Armenians in the Armenian Genocide... Will we fail in the Middle East?"

Retired Congressman and renowned human rights advocate Frank Wolf (R-VA) headlined the press conference which also included remarks by Catholic University Law Professor Robert Destro, Genocide Watch President Dr. Gregory Stanton, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Member Katrina Lantos Swett, IDC Executive Director Kirsten Evans, and Hamparian.

Panelists were unified in their call for the classification of ISIS and other extremist attacks against Middle Eastern Christian and minority communities as genocide. Wolf offered his recommendation in no uncertain terms. "What we now see in Iraq and Syria is genocide. It meets the official Rafael Lemkin definition, it is genocide. It is genocide of Christians, of the Yezidis and probably the Turkomen and a few other religious minorities."

Congressman Wolf was adamant in urging a concrete U.S. response, sharing a letter sent by the 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative, where he calls on Attorney General Loretta Lynch to "initiate a thorough investigation into individuals who may be criminally liable under U.S. law for genocide and other serious human rights abuses such as slavery."

Congressman Wolf, who served as Co-Chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and had been a vocal advocate of U.S. reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide during his 34 years in office, explained: "The President stood in front of the Holocaust Memorial in 2012 and declared 'Never Again' five times. We failed the Armenians in the Armenian Genocide - we failed them. To have called that genocide would have only honored those who were killed - nothing more was to gain - but we failed them. We failed in Srebrenica. You remember General Dallaire in Rwanda that said genocide is coming and we

failed them. Will we fail in the Middle East?"

Dr. Stanton shared an appeal signed by over 40 prominent International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) experts calling on Congress to declare the crimes committed by ISIS 'genocide' and went on to urge the UN Security Council to refer ISIS crimes to the International Criminal Court for investigation and prosecution. Dr. Stanton explained the imperative of properly characterizing the Middle East events, citing empirical studies by Genocide Watch that there is "four times more of a chance of forceful action to stop it if you call it genocide. Genocide is a powerful word - and we should be using it."

IDC Executive Director Kirsten Evans outlined the importance of unity in sharing Christian and minority concerns with US leaders and the international community. "We need to continue to organize a unified, strong, and a solid voice of ecumenical concern and political advocacy on this issue. And that voice needs to come from a tapestry of different communities and a lot of different corners of the world, but the voice itself needs to be orchestrated so that it is sound, and vibrant and solid and it is heard," explained Evans.

In outlining IDC's requests from Congress and the Administration, Evans outlined options for a military response to the crisis, and went on to ask international governments to: prioritize assistance for refugees and displaced persons; expedite the refugee classification process for those in danger of religious or ethnic persecution; expand coordinated humanitarian aid with guarantees for delivery to displaced communities; to work with international organizations and churches to preserve Christian culture in the region; guarantee the return of property to the rightful owners of communities when the conflict is resolved; and, explore ways to invest in education on an international level in order to fight radicalization and promote religious tolerance. "In short," said Davis, "we as members of the American community need to be asking our policy makers to elevate religious

freedom and freedom of conscience in U.S. international policy making."

US Legislation Spotlights Genocide of Christians; Urges Refugee and Security Assistance

At the conclusion of the September 9th press conference, Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) announced the introduction of bipartisan legislation declaring ISIS attacks against Christians and other minorities 'genocide' and calling on the United Nations and member countries to pursue the punishment of these crimes. H.Con.Res. 75, spearheaded in cooperation with Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and with the support of Representatives Trent Franks (R-AZ), Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Jeff Denham (R-CA), and Juan Vargas (D-CA) has over 35 cosponsors.

"Beginning with a resolution that calls this for what it is - a genocide - a wholesale slaughter of people, a grave injustice, we'll hopefully elevate the conscience of the entire world as to what's happening and attack the scandal of indifference - the scandal of silence that Pope Francis has stated," explained Rep. Fortenberry at a meeting with IDC advocates the following morning. "It also has implications for those in a position to migrate, but it does not give up on the idea that Christianity as well as other faith traditions have every right to stay in their ancient homeland as anyone else."

Congresswoman Eshoo concurred, describing Congressional efforts to stop the genocide against Christians and minorities in the Middle East a "calling." She explained, "I am a first generation American - my mother, Armenian; my father, Assyrian. [...] The stories of my family, and why they fled, and what they endured is repeating itself - is repeating itself all over again in the Middle East. And so, the work that we have devoted ourselves to - we are called to do."

Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA) told IDC supporters that he is working with Rep. David Trott (R-MI) on legislation, to be introduced soon, focusing "on the Assyrian, Chaldean, Yazidi, Syriac Christian, and Armenian communities and the need not only to provide assistance to refugees but to provide security assistance to those who are trying to stay in their homeland."

Congressman Sherman explained, "Christianity began in the Middle East - it thrived in the Middle East, and it is not up to ISIS to determine where Christians are allowed to live." He also called for President Obama to appoint a Special Envoy to promote religious freedom in the Middle East - a position that was created last year by Congressional mandate, but that has yet to be filled.

Rep. Trott concurred and went further. "We need to call the President and Congress to devote more resources to the problems - where Christians are victims around the world. We need to call attention to our allies and adversaries who are killing Christians around the world to call them out on it, to withhold our aid, and threaten them with the full force of the superpower that the US is," stated Rep. Trott, who is currently working with House Foreign Affairs Committee leaders to schedule a field hearing in Michigan to hear from individuals affected by ISIS and other extremist group attacks in the Middle East.

"Back in April, I was proud to go to Armenia as part of the 100-year commemoration of the Armenian Genocide," continued Rep. Trott. "The President, the United States still won't call

it a genocide and that's the kind of proactive leadership that this country needs to be known for and needs to fill on the world stage."

The Armenian Genocide and the consequences of inaction were woven in remarks by many Members of Congress at the September 10th advocate briefing, including in a statement by Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Robert Dold (R-IL) and Pennsylvania Congressman Joe Pitts (R-PA). "We should remember that in 1939, Hitler reassured his comrades that they could get away with Genocide," stated Rep. Pitts. "He [Hitler] asked, 'Who, after all, speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?' Tyrants and evil men count on the indifference of the world and the fact that you are here shows that you are not indifferent - so thank you for standing against religious persecution."

Expanding Coalitions with Christian Communities

The ANCA joined His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and over 500 community and religious leaders concerned with the plight of the Christian and minority communities in the Middle East for this second IDC convention, titled "Mobilizing America for Christians in the Middle East." Archbishop Choloyan, who is also President of Christian and Arab Middle Eastern Churches Together (CAMECT), attended the September 9th press conference and explained the importance of Armenian participation in events like the IDC convention. "Several years ago, those churches who have their mother churches in the Middle East, came together to raise awareness among Americans. Unfortunately, a very fanatic approach of interpreting religion has emerged in the region, and because of that, all the minorities in the Middle East are suffering, and among them, the Christians. We, as Armenians, are part of that region. We came to that region with a memory of Genocide and now we understand very clearly the feelings of these communities." Archbishop Choloyan was among top clergy celebrating an ecumenical mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Capitol Hill later that evening.

On September 10th, following the Congressional meeting with IDC participants, ANCA Government Affairs Director Kate Nahapetian was among top advocacy professionals offering insights on effective ways to relay the community concerns to elected officials on Capitol Hill. Nahapetian and representatives of several human rights and religious freedom organizations offered detailed, practical advice to generating support for legislation such as H.Con.Res. 75 and creating awareness about the crises facing Armenian and, more broadly, all Middle Eastern Christians and minority communities.

Later that day, Hamparian was interviewed on the Nightly News Report on EWTN - the Global Catholic Network - and offered the ANCA's insights on the IDC conference, the plight of Christian communities in the Middle East, and the importance of bringing together and collaborating with Christian and minority communities across the U.S. to raise broader awareness and secure concrete U.S. action regarding the crisis.

Aznavour says ready to shelter immigrants



Armenian French singer Charles Aznavour opened his show in Paris with the song "The Migrants" on September 15, a strong show of support of the refugees crisis hitting Europe in recent months, Telesur TVreports.

"The song was written thirty years ago, but it remains news," said the singer. "What is happening with the refugees has affected me very much, I imagine my parents in this situation, when they left Armenia to come to France. This is why I will always take the side of the ones who knock the doors, not the ones who shut them."

Aznavour also affirmed he was willing to welcome refugees in his secondary residence, where he could easily set up a mobile home for them. "I would sacrifice without any problem a couple of olive trees," he said jokingly to the daily *Le Parisien*.

He also called to remember what immigrants had brought to the French nation, mentioning the cases of Spanish painter Pablo Picasso, the Egyptian composer Guy Beart, and the Romanian Emil Cioran. "This is an extraordinary opportunity for France. There may be among them future Aznavours, who knows?" he added.

Mark Moogalian receives France's highest honour

Armenian-American Mark Moogalian, one of the heroes, who helped tackle gunman Ayoub El-Khazzani on August 21 aboard the Amsterdam-Paris train, was handed a Legion of Honour at the Élysée.

French President Francois Hollande hosted Moogalian and his wife at the Élysée yesterday.

During the high-speed train ride, Moogalian tackled El-Khazzani, who was armed with an AK-47 assault rifle. It is reported that he instinctively acted to protect his wife Isabella Risacher, and managed to take the assault rifle away from El-Khazzani. The assailant drew another gun and shot Moogalian in the neck, revealed the professor's sister, who was also on the train.

Moogalian's heroism, along with the actions of Americans Alek Skarlatos, Spencer Stone, and Anthony Sadler, and Briton Chris Norman, helped save many lives. Skarlatos, Stone, Sadler, and Norman were awarded the Legion d'Honneur, soon after the attack. Hollande had announced that he would award Moogalian the Legion d'Honneur once he had recuperated.



Plans afoot for Armenian heritage museum in Singapore

Singapore's oldest church, the 180-year-old Armenian Apostolic Church of St Gregory The Illuminator in Hill Street, will soon have an Armenian heritage museum, Straits Times reports.

Venture capitalist Pierre Hennes, 43, one of its four trustees, says the tiny, close-knit Armenian community and about 15 Armenians overseas have been discussing setting it up since 2005.

Before that, the community was focused on sprucing up the church, which was declared a national monument in 1973.

Hardly any Armenians here worship in the church and Armenians say there is no pressure on them to attend church regularly, as religion is a very personal and private matter to them. But building churches everywhere they landed was their way of preserving their roots.

The premises are often rented out to other Orthodox Christians, such as the Coptics, for their services. What they earn goes towards maintaining the church.

If all goes well, the museum will open next year in the 110-year-old house across the church.



The two-storey building was originally a parsonage but there has not been a resident priest since 1933.

The trustees hope the museum will have maps, religious relics and Armenian literary works.

Last November, the world leader of the church, the Catholicos of All Armenians, was there to bless the Armenian congregation and the church.

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries

(March 20-April 19)

You are a powerhouse this week. Put that energy to productive use and you will accomplish a great deal more than in a routine week. Focus your attention on making the world a better place and you will gain help from others. If you use it to serve your personal ego, people will resist and make life difficult.

Taurus

(April 20-May 19)

Your energy may be lagging this week. It is possibly because an old emotional injury is bothering you. Don't allow yourself to get stuck in the mud over this one. Get out of your routine, go to interesting places or treat yourself to dinner and a movie. This downer only lasts a few days-it isn't forever.

Gemini

(May 20-June 20)

Mercury is your ruling planet. It will be retrograding in your territory of children, creative life, and romance. You may need to reconsider relationship decisions. It is also possible that you will want to reconnect to former lovers, even if only to check in and say hello. Issues with children may resurface to be handled once again.

Cancer

(June 21-July 21)

September is an eclipse month and the Moon Children are particularly reactive to this phenomenon. Right now you are in the valley between the New Moon Eclipse of last week and the Full Moon eclipse to come next week. The swirling waters have to do with both home and life direction. There is much to be done. It is com-

plex because Mercury is retrograde and decisions are likely only temporary. Don't set anything in concrete.

Leo

(July 22-August 21)

Pain caused by a recent situation may cause you to spread anger where it is not warranted. At worst, the anger may be turned inward, leaving you susceptible to germs looking for a host. Use caution when dealing with cars, knives and guns. Your physical cycle is in a dip.

Virgo

(August 22-September 22)

It would be easy to see everything through rose colored glasses this week. You may be seeing reality, and then on the other hand, maybe you are seeing what you want to see. Enjoy your enchantments, but don't bet the house payment on them.

Libra

(Sep. 23-Oct. 22)

Give attention to the lead paragraph. Mercury is turning retrograde in your sign and will be more likely to affect your daily affairs than many of the other signs. Don't even try to finalize anything while a retrograding Mercury is with you. You may even reverse decisions that you have recently made.

Scorpio

(October 23-November 21)

This is not your best week. People will be quarrelsome and you may open your mouth one time too many. Set aside that compulsion to tell the truth, even if it hurts. Given that Mercury is changing direction, you may not actually know the truth anyway. Avoid taking risks.

Sagittarius

(November 22-December 20)

Hopes and wishes feed the soul. They give us fuel to move forward. But this time reality stomps all over it. The timing isn't right and although you may think your daydream is a perfect solution, in the mundane world it won't work. Investigate the facts and you will see.

Capricorn

(December 21-January 19)

You may be on edge concerning debits or credits between you and another. This can include partner's resources, insurance, alimony, and investments. You may be easily rattled by the circumstances around you. Don't take risks or make impulsive moves. Wait until things have time to settle.

Aquarius

(January 20-February 17)

Make every effort to clean up projects so you can move on to another 2.5 year era of your life. (See next week's column for more on this.) Mercury is now retrograding in your 9th house of travel, legal interests, and education. Some things in these areas may need to be corrected or you could change your mind.

Pisces

(February 18-March 19)

This eclipse pattern will emphasize issues of sexuality, intimacy, and material accumulation. Reorganization of debt, investments and your estate may be in progress. You may become more conscious than usual about existential matters related to life, death, and what is on "the other side" of normal, waking consciousness.

President of India congratulates Armenia on the occasion of Independence Day



H. E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, President of India has sent the below congratulatory message to H. E. Mr. Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia on

the occasion of Independence Day of Armenia.

"Excellency, On behalf of the Government and people of India and on my own behalf, I have the pleasure to convey warm greetings and felicitations to you and to the Government and people of Armenia on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia.

We, in India, are delighted to witness the progress and development achieved by the people of Armenia in the last two and half decades. We wish them further success

in their chosen path of development.

India remains committed to work with the people of Armenia to further deepen our traditional and mutually beneficial bilateral relationship.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and personal well-being as well as for the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Republic of Armenia.

With the assurances of my highest consideration".

17 September 2015

Yerevan

Yerevan Jazz Fest 2015 kicks off in Armenia's capital

The performance of young jazz musicians and a press conference at Charles Aznavour Square marked the start of the Yerevan Jazz Fest 2015. The festival held at the initiative of the Armenian Jazz Association and the Mezzo Production Company will consist of three concerts scheduled for September 17, 18 and 19. The event will feature both Armenian and foreign jazzmen, including famous American jazz musician Richard Bona



Jazz festival was held in Yerevan in 2006. One of Armenian jazz legends Armen Tutunjyan (Chiko) hopes the event will become continuous.

"This is an event Yerevan needs as a city that has lived and breathed with jazz rhythms for years," singer Erna Yuzbashyan says.

"Armenia has had great jazzmen and has a huge potential today," she told a press conference on September 17.



www.eli.am
gift shop

Gifts I want more and more

call: +374 99 354 126
facebook.com/eligifts



The Noyan Tapan Noah's Ark
HIGHLIGHTS

Weekly Newspaper, Since May 4, 1993.
The publisher: NT Holding LTD.
Circulation: 1500 print copies and
15.600 copies by e-mail list in PDF format

President of the NT Media Holding:
Tigran Harutyunyan
Editor-in-Chief of the Media Holding:
Gayaneh Arakelyan
Director of the Weekly:
Marina Harutyunyan
Chief Correspondent: **Gourgen Khazhakian**
Proofreader: **Susanna Mkrtchian**
ISSN 1829-0604
Registration certificate and the date: 273.110.00512, 15.12.1995

E-mail: contact@nt.am, URL: www.nt.am

Address in Armenia: 28 Isahakian Str., Yerevan, 0009, RA.
Tel.: (+374 60) 27-64-62
(+374 60) 27-64-61

Address in France: Masion De L' Armenie, Paris 17e - 95
Bld. Gouvion, France.
Tel.: (+33) 01 43 59 66 72

Address in USA: 1146 E. Lexington Dr., #112, Glendale,
CA, USA, 91206.
Tel.: (+1 818) 646 10 72