

Tsarukyan Quits 'Active Politics'

Bowing to strong pressure from President Serzh Sargsyan, Gagik Tsarukyan resigned as chairman of Armenia's largest opposition party and announced his retirement from "active politics" on March 5.

Tsarukyan defended his decision to steer clear of a potentially violent confrontation with the Sarkisian administration as he addressed an emergency congress of the Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) held behind the closed doors. One of his top aides, Naira Zohrabyan, was elected as the party's new chairperson.

"I am leaving active politics," Tsarukyan said in a speech. "I am not the party chairman anymore. But I will continue to be of use to my country and my people in other areas."

"Please do not appeal to me with political questions from now on," he added. "I am not going to interfere in any of your decisions. I have nothing to do with the BHK anymore."

Tsarukyan, who became one of the country's richest men during former President Robert Kocharian's rule, gave no clear reasons for his resignation,



which is certain to reshape the Armenian political landscape. He said only that his decision was "not easy" and resulted from "long deliberations."

Tsarukyan called for anti-government demonstrations and declared Sarkisian's ouster "the greatest cause of my life"

immediately after the president warned him on January 12 to end his political activities or face a government crack-down on his businesses. However, the tycoon went on to call off a rally which the BHK and its opposition allies were

continued on page 3

In This Issue	
Oskanian also leaves key opposition party	p.3
Ruble Collapse Hurts Brandy, Wine Production In Armenia	p.6
British jurist highlights German role in Armenian Genocide	p.7
Al Bustan Fest: Youth Orchestra/Sergey Smbatyan Dedicate a Concert to the Genocide Centennial	p.p.10-11
Work ongoing to put ancient Armenian city of Ani on UNESCO heritage list	p.20

Noyan Tapan Printing House

p.3 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

Noyan Tapan Video Studio

p.7 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

Armenian Foreign Minister addresses UN Human Rights Council

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian made a statement at the High Level Segment of the 28th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva:

Mr. President,
Mr. High Commissioner,
Distinguished Members of the Human Rights Council,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating Ambassador Rücker on his election as the President of the Human Rights Council, and to wish him success in this important endeavor.

As the Foreign Minister of Armenia, it is of particular significance for me to address Human Rights Council, today, since this year, in the whole world the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide is commemorated.

Mr. President,

In recent years, the Human Rights Council has expanded the thematic scope of its work to respond to gross violations of human rights in various parts of the world drawing attention to the issues of protection of the most vulnerable groups. The protection of religious and ethnic minorities requires the urgent attention and actions of international community, due to massive human rights violations perpetrated by the terrorist groups.

Less than a week ago we all saw the chilling video footage of how the ISIS militants were smashing the 2,700 years old statues in the Mosul museum. This crime against civilization is an appalling reminder of earlier similar barbaric acts of destruction of Bamian Buddha's statues, Mausoleums of Timbuktu and thousands of Medieval Armenian cross-stones in Nakhijevan. Barbarism has declared a war against the civilized world.

Intolerance towards the values of civilization belonging to others, damaging or destroying cultural or religious heritage must be resolutely denounced by the international community.

Armenia has unequivocally condemned the atrocities and violence committed by ISIS, Al Nusra, other terrorist groups and called on the international community to take firm actions against this new scourge, preventing the terrorists to profit from the flow of foreign fighters and financial assets, and to initiate cross-



border attacks, using the territories of neighboring states. In this regard, Armenia strongly supports the full implementation of the appropriate UN Security Council resolutions.

The destruction by those terrorists, of the Saint Martyrs Armenian Church in Syrian town of Deir el-Zor, which was a sanctuary for the remains of many victims of the Armenian Genocide is a sad, yet symbolic link between past and present crimes against humanity.

Indeed, the very concept of "crimes against humanity" entered the international legal system on May 24th, 1915 in a special declaration by the Allied Powers - Russia, France and Great Britain, who warned the perpetrators of the atrocities against the Armenian people.

Mr. President,

The protection of human rights is by nature a permanent and ongoing process. On January 22nd of this year Armenia presented its second UPR report to the Human Rights Council. Since Armenia's first review cycle the National Strategy on Human Rights Protection and various National Action Plans were adopted. There have been significant positive developments regarding Armenia's compliance with human rights instruments. According to international reports, Armenia has real achievements, inter alia, in democratic reforms, good governance, human rights records, freedom of expression, free media and internet, freedom of assembly.

Mr. President,

The Human Rights Council has been playing a crucial role in mainstreaming the obligations of states emanating from the Genocide Convention into systematic protection of human rights and adoption of the resolutions on the genocide prevention.

This year Armenia has again initiated a resolution on the genocide prevention. There is a growing consensus of the international community that the genocide prevention always requires the constant attention and best efforts of the civilized world without subordinating that noble cause to geopolitical calculations.

All members of the international community should stand together in their efforts to prevent the crime of genocide and we call upon all member states to support this resolution, in the same way, as it was done two years ago.

Mr. President,

Today I recall the words of Andrei Sakharov on the uniting power of Human Rights: "I am convinced that the idea of human rights protection is sole ground that can unite people regardless of their nationality, political convictions, religion or their position in the society..."

Indeed this is an important message and a benchmark for future actions aimed at creating a world without war, dividing lines and racist ideology, a world with firm belief that human rights can and should bring people together and this is the ultimate raison d'être of the Human Rights Council.

Thank you.

Oskanian also leaves key opposition party



Former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian on March 5 confirmed his decision to quit the Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK), pointing to its failure to achieve regime change in the country.

"Terminating my membership in the BHK, I am conscious of my share of responsibility for its failure," he said in a written statement issued shortly after the

resignation of the party's founding leader, Gagik Tsarukyan.

Oskanian condemned "the arbitrary and unconstitutional use of all government levers" against Tsarukyan, which is thought to have driven the tycoon out of politics. He said the crackdown not only damaged Armenia's international reputation but also dashed "the Armenian people's hopes to expedite immediate radical changes in the country."

Oskanian also congratulated the BHK's new chairwoman, Naira Zohrabyan, expressing hope that the party will "continue to fight against political monopoly in the country" under her leadership.

Zohrabyan was the first to reveal Oskanian's resignation on Wednesday.

She said on Thursday that the Syrian-born former U.S. citizen, who served as Armenia's top diplomat throughout former President Robert Kocharyan's 1998-2008 rules, will retain his parliament seat.

Oskanian has been one of the most bitter BHK critics of President Serzh Sargsyan ever since he joined Tsarukyan's party in early 2012, shortly before it pulled out of Armenia's coalition government. He has been the target of frequent verbal attacks from Sargsyan's political allies.

According to media reports, Sargsyan demanded Oskanian's removal from the BHK leadership during a confidential January 17 meeting with Tsarukyan. The meeting resulted in Tsarukyan's decision to stop challenging the government.

Azerbaijan shows disrespect for the Co-Chairs' proposals: Armenian FM



Azerbaijan shows disrespect for the targeted statements of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian has said.

The situation at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and the line of contact with Nagorno Karabakh has escalated over the past days, resulting in casualties.

"The Azerbaijani side once again demonstrated its attitude towards the targeted statements of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to strictly observe the

ceasefire and to refrain from steps escalating the situation," Minister Nalbandian said in comments to Aravot.am.

"In the statement made after their latest visit to the region, the Minsk Group Co-Chairs noted that the Presidents had agreed to consider the proposals of the Co-Chairs that could strengthen the ceasefire. With the recent provocations Baku yet again displays its disrespect for the proposals of the Co-Chairs," Edward Nalbandian said.

Tsarukyan quits...

From page 1

due to hold in Yerevan on February 20. He cited the need to avoid bloodshed.

Tsarukyan reiterated this justification at the BHK congress. "I could not have forgiven myself if the blood of a single person had been spilled," he said. "This is the line I cannot cross. Accept me as I am."

Observers believe that the former arm wrestler reputedly close to Kocharyan feared losing much of his fortune and being prosecuted for alleged "crimes" mentioned by Sarkisian. Some of them claim that he also feared for his life.

The party congress promptly approved Tsarukyan's choice of the new

BHK leader: Naira Zohrabian. As well as advising Tsarukyan on political affairs, Zohrabyan has been a senior member of the BHK's parliamentary faction, the second largest in the National Assembly.

Zohrabyan declined to comment on the reasons for Tsarukyan's resignation in her acceptance speech and ensuing meeting with reporters. The former journalist was also vague on the BHK's new politi-

cal orientation and objectives. "We need time to plan our tactic and further steps," she said.

Zohrabyan clarified only that the party is now officially in opposition to the Armenian government. It remained unclear, though, whether it will campaign for snap national elections or seek to scuttle a controversial constitutional reform planned by Serzh Sargsyan.

Noyan Tapan Press-Center

Noyan Tapan Press Center holds different discussions, press conferences, round tables, teleconferences, seminars each week which are broadcast live on the Internet. We invite you to take advantage of the Center, as well as to place your banner in our Press Room.

Tel: 060 27 64 62. Address: Isahakyan 28, 3rd floor

Armenian Constitutional Reform Back on Track

President Serzh Sargsyan is pressing ahead with a controversial constitutional reform that would transform Armenia into a parliamentary republic, parliament speaker Galust Sahakyan said on March 4.

According to Sahakyan, corresponding draft amendments to the Armenian constitution are likely to be put on a referendum by the beginning of next year.

The amendments will stem from a reform "concept" that was put forward in October by an ad hoc presidential commission. Serzh Sargsyan postponed a formal acceptance of the document at the time in the face of street protests staged by Armenia's three leading opposition parties. The latter have strongly opposed the constitutional reform, saying that it is aimed at enabling Sargsyan to stay in power after completing his second and final term in 2018. Sargsyan strongly defended the planned amendments on February 12 as he ordered a government crackdown on the Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK), the most important member of the opposition trio. Still, he stopped short of explicitly announcing a resumption of the reform process. Such an announcement is expected in the coming weeks.

"The concept is under public discussion," Sahakyan told reporters. "Not only Republicans but also all other political forces and civic structures can discuss it."

"As for the [amended] constitution itself, I think it will be published very soon," he said. "It will naturally be put on a referendum."

Asked about possible dates of the referendum, the deputy chairman of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) said, "I think the draft will most probably be ready this fall. But I can't say for certain whether [the referendum] will be held this fall or in the spring of 2016."

In late January, BHK leader Gagik Tsarukyan threatened to topple Sargsyan with non-stop street protests if the president presses ahead with the reform. However, the ensuing government crackdown forced Tsarukyan to not only drop those threats but also effectively end his political activities. His retirement from politics will remove a major hurdle to the passage of the constitutional changes planned by Sargsyan.

Nalbandian Shuns Israeli FM on Jerusalem Trip

Underscoring Armenia's uneasy relationship with Israel, Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian has not met with his Israeli counterpart or any other member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government during a rare visit to Jerusalem.

Nalbandian held talks instead with Israel's largely ceremonial President Reuven Rivlin on March 5 during what the Armenian Foreign Ministry described as a one-day "working visit." He also attended a concert by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Ministry statements on the trip did not explain why Nalbandian failed to meet with Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and other Israeli cabinet members. The ministry spokesman, Tigran Balayan, could not be reached for comment on Friday.

Nalbandian flew to Jerusalem one week after Yerevan condemned Lieberman's presence at what it considers an anti-Armenian ceremony in the Israeli city of Acre that was organized by an Azerbaijani government-linked group. The event was dedicated to the 23rd anniversary of the deaths of several hundred Azerbaijani residents of Khojaly, a small town in Nagorno-Karabakh. It was part of the group's efforts to have the international community recognize the 1992 killings as a genocide committed by the Armenians.

Lieberman was a keynote speaker at the ceremony. "We are here today to combine the experience of Israel with that of Azerbaijan so that we can prevent such tragedies from happening in the future," he said, according to Azerbaijani news agencies. "It is inappropriate that any politician could allow himself to be dragged into the Azerbaijani cheap manipulations," Balayan said in written comments on February 26.

Lieberman already raised eyebrows in Armenia during a 2010 visit to Baku. He reportedly voiced support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and accused international mediators of pro-Armenian bias in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Lieberman's deputy, Danny Ayalon, contradicted those claims in a 2011 phone call with his Armenian opposite number,



Arman Kirakosyan. Ayalon said Israel supports the peace efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group co-headed by the United States, Russia and France.

Armenian-Israeli relations have also been soured by Israel's large-scale arms sales to Azerbaijan. In 2012, Israeli defense officials confirmed a reported deal to provide the Azerbaijani military with more unmanned aircraft as well as anti-aircraft and missile defense systems worth a combined \$1.6 billion.

An Israeli-made Azerbaijani drone was apparently shot down by Armenian forces while flying a reconnaissance mission over Karabakh in 2011.

According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry, Nalbandian and President Rivlin stressed the need to "invigorate political dialogue" between their countries. They also agreed that the Armenian and Jewish peoples share "common responsibility to prevent crimes against humanity," a ministry statement said.

"Few nations have as many similarities as Armenians and Jews do," Nalbandian said in a speech that preceded the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra concert later in the day. "Having endured genocides and been scattered around the world, we are proud of restoring our statehoods in the 20th century."

Nalbandian, who had served as Armenia's Paris-based ambassador to Israel from 2000-2008, went on to pay tribute to prominent Israeli and Jewish-American scholars advocating international recognition of the 1915 Armenian genocide.

Successive Israeli governments have declined to recognize the slaughter of some 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire as genocide for fear of antagonizing Turkey. Rivlin, who is a member of Netanyahu's Likud party, called for Israeli recognition of the genocide when he served as parliament speaker in 2012.

European People's Party adopts resolution condemning the Armenian Genocide



The European People's Party has just adopted a resolution on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Resolution adopted by the EPP Political Assembly (3 rd March 2015) on "The Armenian Genocide and European Values"

The European People's Party reaffirms its recognition and condemnation of the Genocide and Great National Dispossession of the Armenian people on the eve of its 100th Anniversary on 24 April 2015. 1.

1. We condemn the genocidal acts against the Armenian people, planned and continuously perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire and various regimes of Turkey in 1894-1923, dispossession of the homeland, the massacres and ethnic cleansing aimed at the extermination of the Armenian population, the destruction of the Armenian heritage, as well as the denial of the Genocide, all attempts to avoid responsibility, to consign to oblivion the committed crimes and their consequences or to justify them, as a continuation of this crime and encouragement to commit new genocides.

2. We commemorate one-and-a-half million innocent victims of the Armenian Genocide in 1915 and bow in gratitude to those martyred and surviving heroes who struggled for their lives and human dignity. Moreover, we recognize, that the Genocide resulted in the death and dispossession not only of Armenian people but also extended to the Pontic Greeks and Assyrians peoples, and we commemorate them as well.

3. We join and strongly support the commitment of Armenia and the Armenian people to continue the international struggle for the prevention of genocides, the restoration of the rights of people subjected to genocide and the establishment of historical justice.

4. We invite Turkey, in the finest example of integrity and leadership proffered by the Federal Republic of post-war Germany, to face history and finally recognize the ever-present reality of the Armenian Genocide and its attendant dispossession, to seek redemption and make restitution appropriate for a European country, including but not limited to ensuring a right of return of the Armenian people to, and a secure reconnection with, their national hearth?all flowing from the fundamental imperative of achieving Reconciliation through the Truth.

5. We call upon the Government of Turkey to respect and realize fully the legal obligations which it has undertaken including those provisions which relate to the protection of cultural heritage and, in particular, to conduct in good faith an integrated inventory of Armenian and other cultural heritage destroyed or ruined during the past century, based thereon to develop a strategy of priority restoration of ancient and medieval capital cities, churches, schools, fortresses, cemeteries, and other treasures located in historic Western Armenia, and to render the aforementioned fully operational cultural and religious institutions.

6. We appeal to EU and CoE member

states, international organizations, all people of good will, regardless of their ethnic origin and religious affiliation, to unite their efforts aimed at restoring historical justice and paying tribute to the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

7. Taking the foregoing into account, the European People's Party invites Turkey to take the following measures pursuant to its international commitments and the European identity to which it aspires:

- to recognize and condemn the Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire, and to face its own history and memory through commemorating the victims of that heinous crime against humanity;

- to provide a vision and an implementing plan of action worthy of a truly European Turkey, including a comprehensive resolution of issues relating to the freedom of expression and reference to the Genocide in state, society and educational institutions, as well as the repair of religious and other cultural sites and their return to the Armenian and other relevant communities;

- to launch the long-awaited celebration of the Armenian national legacy based on a total Turkish-Armenian normalization anchored in the assumption of history, the pacific resolution of all outstanding matters, and a complete Europeanization of their relationship.

8. It also invites the European Union, its Commission, Council and Parliament, and the international community as a whole, in assessment of the honoring of commitments and obligations undertaken by Turkey, to accord continued attention to the recognition, restoration, and restitution of our shared heritage as herewith tendered, and hereafter officially to commemorate April 24 as a day to remember and condemn the Armenian Genocide and man's inhumanity to man.

9. We express the hope that recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey will serve as a starting point for the historical reconciliation of the Armenian and Turkish peoples.

Ruble Collapse Hurts Brandy, Wine Production In Armenia

After years of growth, production of Armenian brandy and wine, major export items mostly sold in Russia, has decreased considerably in recent months due to the sharp depreciation of the Russian currency, the ruble.

Data from the National Statistical Service (NSS) show that show the production volumes shrinking by just over 8 percent last year. The downward trend seems to be accelerating this year, with output in Armenia's export-oriented brandy industry plummeting by as much as 32 percent year on year in January 2015.

Industry executives say the Russian ruble, which has depreciated by almost half over the past year, is the main factor behind the production losses. Russia has long been the main market for brandy and wine distilled in Armenia from locally grown grapes.

The weak ruble seems to have also affected other Armenian exporters specializing in the Russian market. According to the NSS, overall Armenian

exports to Russia fell by about 8 percent to \$308.5 million in 2014.

"With the Russian ruble much weaker now, our products are not competitive in the Russian market in terms of their price," said Aleksan Petrosyan, the owner of MAP, a major Armenian brandy producer based in the southern Armavir.

"This is a very bad thing," Petrosian told RFE/RL's Armenian service. "We have spent 20 years gaining a market share in Russia and now risk losing it just because of the exchange rate."

Alik Gasparian, the deputy director of the Proshyan Brandy Factory near Yerevan, also reported major production losses. "We still export brandy to Russia but on a small scale," he said. "We have shipped only five truckloads [of the alcohol] so far this year."

"We keep sending stuff there only to make sure that we don't lose the Russian market," added Gasparian.

Another, smaller liquor firm, Aregak, claims to have stood idle in recent months for the same reason. "That is to



do with the collapse of the Russian ruble and low [dollar-denominated] prices," said Naira Papoyan, the Aregak owner.

"We will somehow meet our contractual obligations for April and May at old [ruble] prices, just to avoid being left out of the market," she said.

Both Papoyan and MAP's Petrosyan agreed that the production fall could force distilleries to cut back on grape purchases from Armenian farmers this fall. Tens of thousands of farmers are dependent on those purchases.

Vineyards occupy a large part of agricultural land in southern Armenia and some other parts of the country.

Fitch Ratings: Russia slowdown hits other CIS sovereigns

The sharp slowdown in Russia's economy is a significant shock for the economies of other sovereigns in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region, but the impact on these countries' credit profiles varies considerably, Fitch Ratings says. Armenia and Ukraine have the most direct exposure among Fitch-rated sovereigns, while the steep fall in oil prices has magnified the fallout in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, Fitch Ratings says.

The Russian economic contraction has a direct impact on CIS countries with close economic links through trade, remittances, and investment flows. Indirectly, the sharp fall in the rouble has been a major factor in significant currency adjustments across the region.

Russia is Armenia's leading export market and largest source of foreign direct investment and remittances. Russia's slowdown will therefore have a major

impact on Armenia's growth prospects, as reflected in our one-notch downgrade of the latter to 'B+' in January.

The disruption of traditionally close economic ties with Russia has been a significant contributor to Ukraine's sharp economic contraction. Ukraine is the second most exposed Fitch-rated CIS sovereign even excluding the impact of the current conflict and trade restrictions.

Georgia is less exposed to Russia via remittances and trade ties, although the Fitch is still likely to slightly revise down the GDP growth projections for 2015-2016. Both Armenia and Georgia have allowed their currencies to float, providing a shock absorber and preserving foreign-exchange reserves.

Direct Russian exposure relative to GDP is lower in Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, but the impact of the rouble's depreciation on their fixed currencies is a major indirect channel of contagion - par-



ticularly in a context of lower oil prices.

Azerbaijan has responded by devaluing the manat and shifting from a US dollar peg to a euro/dollar basket. We believe there is a high possibility Kazakhstan could also devalue, as the tenge's real effective exchange rate has appreciated to levels last seen before the February 2014 adjustment. Devaluation poses risks for both sovereigns, but they have strong buffers.

No Talks Yet On New Armenia-EU Accord



Armenia and the European Union have still not started official negotiations on a new agreement to deepen their relations not contradicting Yerevan's recent accession to a Russian-led alliance, a senior Armenian official said on March 4.

"No negotiation process with the European Union is underway right now. There are only expert-level discussions aimed at mapping out directions of future cooperation," First Deputy Economy Minister Garegin Melkonyan told RFE/RL's Armenian service.

The remarks contrasted with a statement that was made by Melkonyan to the official Armenpress news agency in December. He stated that Armenia and the EU could sign "in the near future" a deal that would contain not only political but also economic provisions of their ill-fated Association Agreement.

President Serzh Sargsyan precluded the signing of that agreement with his unexpected decision in 2013 to make Armenia part of the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

Melkonyan told Armenpress that in their preliminary discussions held earlier in 2014 Yerevan and Brussels all but identified concrete areas that would be covered by the new accord. He said senior officials from the EU's executive body, the European Commission, plan to visit Yerevan in February for more substantive talks.

Melkonyan was more cautious in commenting on the issue on Wednesday. The official would not be drawn on the possibility of the EU signing any documents with Armenia at a summit on its Eastern Partnership program that will take place in Latvia's capital Riga in May. "I would advise you to ask the Foreign Ministry because it is in charge of preparatory work for that [summit,]" he said.

The ministry spokesman, Tigran Balayan, did not specify the Armenian government's expectations from the summit. Balayan only cited Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan's recent statement reaffirming Yerevan's commitment to closer ties with the EU.

Nalbandian discussed those ties with the EU commissioner for European neighborhood policy and enlargement, Johannes Hahn, during a visit to Brussels in January. Hahn said after the talks that the EU "should make best possible use" of the scrapped Association Agreement. "It needs to be adjusted in order to reflect the new context," he said.

A spokeswoman for the EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said afterwards that the two sides are still "reflecting on how to take our relations forward in light of Armenia's obligations to the Eurasian Economic Union."

British jurist highlights German role in Armenian Genocide



A leading British jurist well-versed in human rights cases has implicated Germany in the forced relocation of Armenians by the Ottomans during World War I, a move which led to mass killings of Armenians, Today's Zaman reports.

It was Germans who suggested that Armenians be relocated, Geoffrey Robertson, who also served as an appeals judge with the UN Special Court for Sierra Leone from 2002 to 2007, said Friday at a conference titled "The Armenian Genocide Legacy: 100 Years on."

Robertson, who was one of the panelists on the first day of the conference in

The Hague, Netherlands, maintained that Germans advised Ottoman Turks to settle the Armenian question based on Germany's practice of ethnic cleansing in southwest Africa back in 1905.

"Germans were in complicity with the Turks," he added. The Ottoman Empire and Germany were allies in World War I.

In response to a rebellion by native people against German colonial rule in the area corresponding to today's Namibia, the German army allegedly let the native people who fled the violence die from starvation and thirst by preventing them from leaving the Namibian desert. The number of victims is estimated to be in the tens of thousands.

"This is the first genocide of the 20th century," said Robertson, who also described the suffering Ottoman Armenians experienced during their relocation as genocide.

The two-day conference, organized ahead of the centennial commemoration of

the forced relocation of Ottoman Armenians, was held at the Hague Institute for Global Justice.

Robertson, who is also the author of a book titled "An Inconvenient Genocide: Who Now Remembers the Armenians?" lashed out at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) for a verdict which concluded that denying what Armenians suffered is "genocide" does not constitute a crime.

In December 2013, the lower court of the ECtHR ruled by five votes to two that Switzerland violated the right to freedom of speech by convicting Do?u Perinçek, chairman of the Turkish Workers' Party (?P), for having publicly denied that genocide took place against the Armenian people.

Perinçek declared that the events that befell the Armenians under Ottoman rule in 1915 are an "international lie."

Maintaining that the ECtHR decided

continued on page 13



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.
- 1726.**Khorenatsi str.**, 4/4, 35sq.m., 1 bedroom, capitally repaired, heating system. Price: 55.000 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, 2 bedrooms, 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: 400.000 USD
- 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

- 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, 3 bedrooms, 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, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capitally repaired, climate control, AC. Price: negotiable
- 2802.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 8/4, 166sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 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
- 2950.**Aram str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 176 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, office, zero state, Price: 310.000 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, Nairi 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, without divisions, parkings, 3 access. Price: 1.400.000 USD negotiable
- 1986.**Cascade**, Land 1000sq.m. 3storied building 1200sq.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 floor 300sq.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

- 3348.**Blur, Barbys str.** Land - 800 sq.m, 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 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, heating 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., 3bed-

- rooms, 3 bath-

- rooms, capitally

- repaired, heating

- system, AC, garden.

- Price:

- 680.000 USD

- 3651 **Blur**,

- Barbyus str.**,

- Land-900sq.m., 5

- storied building-

- 800sq.m., 4 bed-

- rooms, 3 bath-

- rooms, 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 sto-

- ried 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 services-car wash, cleaning service, garbage removal service, parking. Price: Negotiable

- 131.**Busand str.**, commercial, office and residential areas, penthouse, available services-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, capably repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD.
- 2099.**Sayat-Nova Ave.**, 12/6, 1 bedroom, capably repaired, gas, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 600 USD.
- 1972.**Northern ave.**, 8/4, 80sqm, 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, capably repaired, climate control. Price: 1200 USD
- 2171.**Tumanyan str.**, Newly built, 5th floor, 94 sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, capably repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped. Price: 1000 USD
- 2367.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9th floor, 98 sqm, capably repaired, heating system, furnished equipped. Price: Negotiable.

2 ROOMS

- 2302 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 11/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2295 **North Ave.**, Newly built, 16/15, 173sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished. Price: 5000 USD
- 2290 **Bayron str.**, Newly built, /5th floor, 220sq.m, 2 bedrooms, study, open kitchen, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control, furnished, parking. Price: 4000 USD
- 1780.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, /13th floor, 82 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD negotiable.
- 942.**Teryan str.** 4/3, 130 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capably repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: 1500 USD.
- 1950.**Buzand/Mashtots area.** Newly built, 8th floor, 163 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control, furnished, open balcony. Price: 2500 USD.
- 1681.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6/2, 130 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1535.**Busand str.**, Newly built, 7/4, 82sq.m, 2 bedrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, parking, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable.
- 2089.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 8/6, 120sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control, furnished, equipped. Price: 2500 USD
- 1738.**Amiryan str.**, 8/8, 159sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 1951.**Busand str.**, Newly built, 13th floor, 122sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control. Price: 2500 USD
- 1406.**Sayat Nova ave.**, 7/3, 110sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable
- 2187.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 9/5, 120 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2.200 USD
- 2109.**Northern ave.**, Newly built, 10/4, 137sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, central heating, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 2000 USD.
- 2243.**Buzand str.**, Newly built, 17/4, 125sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD
- **Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 14/5, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, partly furnished. Price 2000 USD

3 ROOMS AND MORE

- 2310 **Busand str.**, Newly built, 190sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD
- 2316 **Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 6th floor, 227sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, guest toilet, capably repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2500 USD

- 2303 **Hanrapetutyan str** Newly built, 9/5, 165sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 guest toilet. capably repaired, furnished, parking. Price: 2000 USD
- 2286.**Sose str.**, Newly built, 12/2, 154sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 1700 USD
- 2257.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 17/16, 160 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, parking. Price: Negotiable
- 2021.**Teryan Str.**, Newly built, 9/8, 9, 245 sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, furnished. Preliminary price: 3500 USD.
- 2005.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/8, 130 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, furnished, parking. Price: 2200 USD.



- 1723.**Northern Ave.**, Newly built, 8/4, 170 sq.m 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open kitchen, capably repaired, furnished, equipped. Price: 2000 USD.
- 1981.**Vardanants Str.**, Newly built, 14/14, 140 sq m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably 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, capably repaired, climate control, parking, unfurnished (possible to furnish), Price: 3500 USD.
- 1720.**Amiryan str.**, Newly built, 16/10, 179 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably 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, capably repaired, climate control, AC, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2261.**Hin Yerevantsi**, /North Avenue/, Newly built, 10/3, 124sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped, parking. Price: 1700 USD
- 2084.**Tumanyan str.**, 4th floor, 200sq.m, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, climate control, parking. Price: 5000 USD
- 2252.**Northern ave.**, 7th floor, 350 sq.m., 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, open balconies, capably repaired, climate control, parking. Price Negotiable.

PRIVATE HOUSES

- 1335 **Baghramyan str.**, Land-200sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished. Price: 3000 USD
- 1336 **Aygedzor**, Land-1000sq.m, 2 storied bld-240sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished. Price: 2000 USD
- 1337 **Davtashen** Land-406sq.m, 3 storied bld-306sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, capably repaired, furnished. Price: 3900 USD
- 1323.**Monument, Babayan str.**, Land-400sq.m, 3 storied bld-300sq.m, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, capably repaired. Price: Negotiable
- 1248.**Aygedzor**, Land - 1021 sq m , 3 storied bld. - 501 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, study, capably 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, capably 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, capably 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, 4 bathrooms, capably repaired, heating system, sauna, gym, furnished,

- swimming-pool, garden. Price: 4.000 USD negotiable.
- 1142.**Djirvej**, Bagrevand community. Land-1000 sq.m., 3 storied bld.-700 sq.m., 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, pantry, playing room, capably 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, capably 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, capably 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, capably 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, 4 bathrooms, a kitchen, office, capably 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, capably 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, capably repaired, heating system, AC, garden. Price: Negotiable
- 1317. **Blur, Barbyus str.**, Land-900sq.m, 5 storied building-880sq.m., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, capably 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, capably repaired, heating system, AC, furnished, equipped. Price: Negotiable

PREMISES

- 2049.**Teryan str**, ground floor+basement, 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 sq.m., 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, capably repaired, gas, heating system, parking. Price: Negotiable.
- 1462.**Teryan str.**, 3 storied building, 800 sq.m., capably repaired, AC, parking. Price: 10.000 USD.
- 1945.**Mashtots Ave.**, 5/1, 2, 140sq.m., window glasses, capably repaired, AC. Price: 8000 USD
- 1943.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 265sq.m, 1st line, capably repaired, heating system, cellar. Price: 7000 USD
- 1868.**Tumanyan str.**, Ground floor of the building, 220sq.m, 1st line, facade-55m, capably repaired, h-5m, cellar. Price: 15.000 USD.
- 2087.**Northern ave.**, Ground floor of the building, 100sq.m, 1st line, zero level, capably 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, capably 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, capably repaired. Price: 4.000 USD

Al Bustan Intl Fest, Lebanon: State Youth Orchestra of Armenia to Dedicate its Final Concert to the 1915 Genocide Centennial

Sergey Smbatyan's "long jump" to Moscow and back: conducting Korean Chamber Orchestra



By Gourgen James Khazhakian
Chief Correspondent
Journalist Emeritus of Armenia

As The Highlights has informed its readers already, the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, for the second year in row, was invited to participate in the prestigious annual Al Bustan International Festival of Music and Performing Arts being held traditionally in Lebanon. This year's tour to Beirut came true thanks to the VivaCell-MTS as well, Armenia's leading telecom operator company (headed by its Founding GM **Ralph Cesar Yirikian**), the General Partner of the Orchestra.

As Maestro **Gianluca Marciano**, the Chief Conductor and the Artistic Director of the Festival told just after first rehearsal with the SYOA, "My first impression was fantastic! First of all, the Orchestra arrived here incredibly well prepared, as usual. You have wonderful musicians, they are active and highly professional, not just prepared but they have will and wish to do the best possible for the performance. I was also surprised by the fact that despite of being a symphony orchestra, they can perform and understand the flexibility of the opera performance which is completely different way of playing. Beautiful musicians, always in a good mood and open for the cooperation with the conductor. Can't imagine a better atmosphere to start working again here, in Al Bustan!"

Notably, all the performances of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia at the Al Bustan International Festival are dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. In this regard, both the musicians of the Youth Orchestra and Maestro Gianluca Marciano wear the "Forget-me-not" badges symbolizing the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Genocide of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire committed by the Young Turks Govt.

To note, the Al Bustan concerts are supported by the State Commission on Coordination of the events dedicated to the

100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of Armenia.

The SYOA gave four concerts at Al Bustan 2015 that were conducted by Maestro Gianluca Marciano, and the final concert with participation of the SYOA dedicated to the Centennial of the 1915 Armenian Genocide to be held on Tuesday 10 March and headed by the Orchestra Founding Artistic Director and the Principal Conductor Dr **Sergey Smbatyan**.

So on Thursday, 26 February and Saturday, 28 February young Armenian musicians started with "Norma" opera by Vincenzo Bellini in concert performance.

The soloists were world famous stars

of Beirut told The Highlights correspondent in Beirut that, indeed, the world recognized singers were amazing, but he booked in advance tickets (the best ones - \$125 per person) for himself and his family, first of all, for the concerts with participation of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia 'cause they loved so much performance of their young compatriot musicians yet a year ago.

As it was expected, from Beirut Maestro Sergey Smbatyan flew to Moscow where he headed the Korean Chamber Orchestra, thus conducting it for the second time in 2015.

The concert held within the framework of the Orchestra's world tour and was dedicated to the ensemble's 50th anniversary took

place at the Moscow P.I. Tchaikovsky State Conservatory Grand Hall. Compositions by Bach, Mozart, Schubert and Schnittke were performed by the world-renowned musicians **P.Zukerman** (violin), **K.Kogan** (piano) and **A.Forsyth** (cello). To remind, earlier this year, on January 14 Sergey Smbatyan conducted the Korean Chamber Orchestra at the Concert Hall of Seoul Arts Center during the joint concert with the legendary Hollywood actor **John Malkovich**.

But let's return to Beirut...

"Khatia is back!": that was an announcement for the SYOA concert on Wednesday 4 March with **Khatia Buniatishvili**, piano, who, according to a leaflet, "plays Rachmaninov Second Concerto like no one else does". A 28 year old Tbilisi-born piano player is a

winner of numerous prestigious intl awards such as BBC New Generation Artist Prize and the Bronze Medal at the Arthur Rubinstein Contest.

She arrived in Beirut after her tour in America accompanied by sister **Gvantsa**, a piano player as well. (Interestingly, on 6 March the Buniatishvili sisters gave a concert playing simultaneously at the same piano).

And the SYOA played brilliantly P.I.Tchaikovsky Polonaise from "Evgeny Onegin" opera, and Tchaikovsky "Francesca da Rimini" as well as the "Sleeping Beauty" Suite that are very complicated to perform – ask the specialists.



singing at Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, Teatro alla Scala, Teatro La Fenice, Arena di Verona, Berlin State Opera, Washington National Opera such as **Carmen Giannattasio**, soprano, Norma, acclaimed as one of the greatest sopranos today, **Nino Surgulatz**, mezzo, **Arturo Chacon-Cruz**, tenor, **Gocha Datzani**, bass.

By the Lebanese newpress (such as Le Jour de l'Orient) these evenings were qualified as "the fabulous" ones. Rounds of applause turning to ovation, non-stop "Encore!"-s, the "sea of flowers"...

Notably and quite comprehensively, there were many Armenians in the audience. **Armand Titizian**, a garment merchant

And again endless “Bravo!”-s, “Encore!”-s...

“Abriq!” (“Good for you!”- in Western Armenian) – in this way the ethnic Armenians in the audience whose ancestors, having narrow escape from the 1915 Genocide in Turkey, were sheltered kindly by Arabs here, were scolding by this heaping praise to their compatriots from the historical Motherland.

And on Saturday, 7 March our Youth Orchestra gave a concert starring another world recognized musician, **Arabella Steinbacher**, violin, a half Japanese - half German “which may explain why she mixes genius with passion...”



Sergey Smbatyan
with Maestro Pinchas Zukerman

She played Mozart Violin Concerto no. 5, one of Mozart's most beautiful concertos, followed by Beethoven's Fourth Symphony.

Speaking of the Orchestra, Maestro Gianluca Marciano who conducted the SYOA four evenings this year, mentioned: *"This Orchestra has far long passed the path of being youth, establishing its status today as mutual, highly professional collective"*. As we've informed our readers in the beginning of this story, on 10 March the SYOA headed by its Founding Artistic Director and the Principal Conductor Dr Sergey A. Smbatyan will give its final concert at the Al Bustan Intl Fest dedicated to the Centennial of the 1915 Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Empire.

(Notably, the organizers of the Fest announced final concert with participation of the SYOA at the Al Bustan with the famous soloist **Sergey Krilov**, violin who has been playing in Wiener Musikverein, Salle Pleyel (Paris), Teatro alla Scala (Milan) by the following: “The Brilliance of the Two Sergeys”, i.e. Sergey Smbatyan and Sergey Krilov).

The concert program includes Paganini



Concerto no.5 and Tchaikovsky Symphony no.5.

(Interestingly, the Fest program includes another band headed by an Armenian - the Arthur Satyan Acoustic Ensemble, “jazz musicians following their own inspiration”, to play at the Fest on Thursday, 12 March).

As the Lebanese newsspress wrote on the SYOA, *“...the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia that conquered numerous prestigious world stages within very short time could be considered national pride of Armenia that succeeded in its important “cultural diplomacy” mission...”*

UN Secretary-General's message for International Women's Day



Twenty years ago, when the world convened a landmark conference on women's human rights, the devastating conflict in the former Yugoslavia prompted deserved attention to rape and other war crimes there against civilians. Two decades later, with girls as young as seven not only targeted but used as weapons by violent extremists, it would be easy to lose heart about the value of international gatherings. But while we have a long way to go to achieve full equality – with ending gender-based violence a central goal – progress over the past two decades has proven the enduring value of the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women.

Since the adoption of its Declaration and Platform for Action, more girls have attained more access to more education than ever before. The number of women dying in childbirth has been almost halved. More women are leading businesses, governments and global organizations. I welcome these advances. At the same time, on this International Women's Day, we must acknowledge that the gains have been too slow and uneven, and that we must do far

more to accelerate progress everywhere.

The world must come together in response to the targeting of women and girls by violent extremists. From Nigeria and Somalia to Syria and Iraq, the bodies of women have been transformed into battle-grounds for warriors carrying out specific and systematic strategies, often on the basis of ethnicity or religion. Women have been attacked for trying to exercise their right to education and basic services; they have been raped and turned into sex slaves; they have been given as prizes to fighters, or traded among extremist groups in trafficking networks. Doctors, nurses and others have been assassinated for trying to operate in their professional capacity.

The women human rights defenders brave enough to challenge such atrocities risk – and sometimes lose – their lives for the cause.

We must take a clear global stance against this total assault on women's human rights. The international community needs to translate its outrage into meaningful action, including humanitarian aid, psychosocial services, support for livelihoods, and efforts to bring perpetrators to justice. With women and girls often the first targets of attack, their rights must be at the centre of our strategy to address this staggering and growing challenge. Empowered women and girls are the best hope for sustainable development following conflict. They are the best drivers of growth, the best hope for reconcil-

iation, and the best buffer against radicalization of youth and the repetition of cycles of violence.

Even in societies at peace, too many girls and women are still targets of domestic abuse, female genital mutilation and other forms of violence that traumatize individuals and damage whole societies. Discrimination remains a thick barrier that must be shattered. We need to expand opportunities in politics, business and beyond. We need to change mind-sets, especially among men, and engage men in becoming active change-agents themselves. And we must back up our resolve with resources based on the sure understanding that investments in gender equality generate economic progress, social and political inclusion and other benefits that, in turn, foster stability and human dignity.

This is a vital year for advancing the cause of women's human rights. The international community is hard at work on establishing a new sustainable development agenda that will build on the Millennium Development Goals and shape policies and social investments for the next generation. To be truly transformative, the post-2015 development agenda must prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment. The world will never realize 100 per cent of its goals if 50 per cent of its people cannot realize their full potential. When we unleash the power of women, we can secure the future for all.

Exhibition of Handwork of Armenian Women at the UN Headquarters

The Armenian Relief Society, along with the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations (U.N.), hosted a reception at the U.N. to mark the opening of the "Stitching to Survive: Handwork of Armenian Women," an exhibit on Armenian textiles. The exhibit will be open to the public until March 13.

The reception was attended by clergymen, representatives of UN member states, different local and international structures, public and political figures, journalists.

Addressing the attendees, Armenia's Permanent Representative to the UN Zohrab Mnatsakanyan noted that "the exhibition presents the history of a nation, subjected to genocide exactly 100 years ago, which was then described as "a crime against humanity and civilization." According to him, after studying this crime against Armenians, Raphael Lemkin coined the term "genocide" three decades later.

The Permanent Representative underlined that having found refuge in different countries of the world, Armenian women managed to regain their identity, adapting to the new environment and reality. He noted that the Armenian national not only managed to create powerful structures in the Diaspora, but also regain its statehood and stand next to other UN members.

The exhibition presents examples of handwork by Armenian Women brought from the Armenian Museum of America.



Five Armenians on Forbes' 2015 World's Billionaires List

There are five Armenians on 2015 World's Billionaires list published by Forbes on March 2. Sergei Galitsky (162nd) is the world's richest Armenian with an estimated net worth of \$8.3 billion. Other Armenians on the list include Kirk Kerkorian (393rd), Samvel Karapetyan (418th), Eduardo Eurnekian (1006th), and Danil Khachaturov (1190th). Sergei Sarkisov and Nikolai Sarkisov (both ranked 1465th last year) have dropped out of the ranks.

Despite plunging oil prices and a weakened euro, the ranks of the world's wealthiest defied global economic turmoil and expanded yet again. For the 29th annual guide to the globe's richest, the Forbes has found a record 1,826 billionaires with an aggregate net worth of \$7.05 trillion, up from \$6.4 trillion a year ago. The total includes 290 newcomers, 71 of whom hail from China. Youth are on the rise: A record 46 among the ranks are under age 40.

Bill Gates is once again the richest



person on the planet, a title he's held for 16 of the past 21 years. His fortune grew \$3.2 billion since last year to \$79.2 billion, despite a gift of \$1.5 billion in Microsoft shares to The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in November 2014. Carlos Slim Helu of Mexico comes in again at No. 2 while revered American investor Warren Buffett took back the No. 3 spot from Spain's Amancio Ortega

(now No. 4).

Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg moves up 5 spots to number 16, his first time ranked among the world's 20 richest. Zuckerberg is also the leader in a youth revolution that has minted 46 billionaires under the age of 40. The youngest billionaire on the planet is Evan Spiegel, 24, co-founder of photo-messaging app Snapchat.

Zero tolerance for genocide denialists in Congress



*By Harut
Sassounian*

*Publisher, The
California Courier*

I reported last week on the Armenian-American community success in securing cancellation of Los Angeles City's \$845,000 contract with the Gephardt Group, for lobbying on behalf of Turkey against adoption of the Armenian Genocide resolution by Congress.

I expressed the hope that Armenians would continue their efforts to have the remaining 200 clients of the Gephardt Group terminate their contracts so that Mr. Gephardt would pay a steep price for his denialist lobbying.

Energized by their major victory in Los Angeles, Armenian-Americans should now expand their political activism to make an example of Cong. Bill Shuster (Republican-Pennsylvania) who has written an outrageous letter to members of Congress asking them not to support the pending Armenian Genocide resolution.

In a "Dear Colleague" letter sent by Cong. Shuster to all 435 House Members last month, he shamelessly urged them "to refrain from cosponsoring a resolution taking sides in a historical dispute concerning events which occurred a hundred years ago on the other side of the world." I wonder how the Congressman feels about the Holocaust that also took place "on the other side of the world" more than 70 years ago!

In his brazen letter, Cong. Shuster casts doubt on the veracity of the Armenian

Genocide, by alleging that there are "two competing narratives about what happened during the First World War to Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire." In his twisted logic, the Congressman claims that "the events of 1915...did not constitute genocide," because "over two million Ottoman Kurds, Arabs, and Muslims...also suffered in this conflict." His reference to the suffering of "over two million Ottoman Kurds" during World War I is the latest lie scripted by one of the many lobbying firms working for the Turkish government.

The Pennsylvania Congressman also falsely claims that the Armenian Genocide resolution "would alienate one of our last allies in the region [Turkey] who is working hand in hand with US soldiers and our allies to combat ISIS." Cong. Shuster must have been hiding in a cave for the last couple of years not to have known that this "important NATO ally" has orchestrated the infiltration of thousands of ISIS terrorists into Syria and supplied them with arms, ammunition and logistics. The Congressman ridiculously alleges that "adopting this [Armenian] resolution would be cataclysmic and undermine US interests." If Turkey is such a good U.S. ally, why would it want to undermine America's interests? Would passing a resolution condemning the Holocaust result in Germany - our other NATO ally - undermining US interests in Europe?

Cong. Shuster ends his letter by calling the mass murder of 1.5 million Armenians a mere "incident," urging his colleagues "not [to] take sides in a battle to reinterpret history" and "to think twice before signing on to legislation that could cause significant damage to our relations in the region."

No wonder, the incongruously named 'Turkish Institute for Progress' immediately issued a statement applauding the Congressman's letter denying the Armenian Genocide.

The Turkish Sabah newspaper reported on February 27 that two House members from New York, Democrat Yvette Clarke and Republican Lee Zeldin, have also announced their opposition to the Armenian Genocide resolution. It is noteworthy that the Armenian National Committee of America gave an F- grade to Cong. Shuster, and C- to Cong. Clark. Cong. Zeldin has not yet been graded by the ANCA as this is his first term in office.

Armenian-Americans have a year and a half until the next congressional elections to develop an effective plan to make an example of one or more of these three genocide deniers in Congress. If at least one of them is defeated, other members would think twice before playing the immoral game of genocide denialism.

Not surprisingly, Shuster, Clarke and Zeldin are three of the 130 members of the Congressional Turkey Caucus. In addition, Shuster is the Co-Chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus. After one of these three unprincipled politicians is kicked out of Congress, the Armenian community should then devise a strategy to go after all 130 members of the Turkey Caucus, down from its peak of 157 members in 2012. Applying such pressure would cause more of them to leave the Turkey Caucus, and make others reluctant to join, once they realize that they too would be targeted for defeat.

Zero tolerance for genocide denialists in Congress!

British jurist highlights German role in Armenian Genocide

From page 7

that this was not genocide because there were no gas chambers involved, as was the case during the Holocaust, Robertson said: "This was stupid."

The court's decision regarding Perinçek set a precedent that it is counter to the freedom of expression to charge individuals for expressing views different

than the officially accepted ones concerning issues under public debate.

Ronald Suny, a professor of history at the University of Michigan, said "genocide" might have been avoided if the rulers of the Ottoman Empire had granted rights to minorities in the Ottoman state, instead of seeing them as existential threats to the state.

They took a path that led to destruction, said Suny, who was the keynote speaker of the conference.

Referring to what Aboriginal Australians, the continent's indigenous people, and Native Americans lived through in the past, Suny also underlined that all states should make an effort to come to terms with their history.

Amnesty International: Azerbaijan to host European Games amid widespread and relentless repression

Threats, physical violence and the imprisonment of government critics have become the hallmark of the Azerbaijan regime as the country prepares to host the first European Games, said Amnesty International in a new report released on March 4, 100 days before the opening ceremony.

Guilty of Defending Rights: Azerbaijan's human rights defenders and activists behind bars highlights the mounting persecution of government critics, detained under false charges, beaten and threatened and deprived of urgent medical care and lawyers.

"No-one should be fooled by the glitz and glamour of the international show Azerbaijan is putting on to portray a squeaky-clean international reputation and attract foreign business. Its authorities are among the most repressive in Europe and would certainly be on the medal winning podium if prizes were on offer for the number of activists and rights defenders behind bars," said John Dalhuisen, Amnesty International's Director for Europe and Central Asia.

At least 22 prisoners of conscience are currently languishing in prison or in detention in Azerbaijan awaiting trial following trumped up charges ranging from fraud and embezzlement to abuse of drugs and even treason.

In June 2014 President Aliyev stated in his address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) that freedom of expression, association and assembly are assured in Azerbaijan.

However, prominent human rights defenders spoke of a different reality, detailing more than 90 instances of harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrest and politically motivated charges against human rights defenders, journalists and others daring to criticise the Azerbaijani government. The response of the authorities was swift; within a matter of weeks, those who had given their testimony to the Parliamentary Assembly were arrested, one after another.

"These latest arrests have effectively paralysed civil society and closed the lid on freedom of expression - marking the nadir of the country's human rights record since independence," said John

Dalhuisen.

Leyla Yunus, a 60-year-old human rights defender and one of the most outspoken and high profile critics of the government, was arrested in July 2014 - a few days after calling for a boycott of the Games because of the regime's dire human rights record.

Leyla Yunus told her lawyer that a warden dragged her from her cell to an empty room where she was thrown on the ground and kicked. On another occasion a group of men made sexually threatening gestures towards her. She has spent the last six months in prison awaiting trial where the harsh conditions have aggravated her health problems. She suffers from diabetes and hepatitis C.

Leyla Yunus was charged with treason, conducting illegal business, tax evasion, abuse of authority, fraud and forgery. These trumped up and politically motivated charges were the result of new regulations brought in by the government to allow them to arbitrarily shut down NGOs and imprison their leaders.

Crackdown on journalists

The authorities have intensified a crackdown on journalists critical of the government. Award-winning investigative journalist, Khadija Ismayilova, was detained on 5 December 2014 on an implausible charge of inciting a former colleague to suicide.

Khadija had published a list of political prisoners and was also investigating claims of links between President Aliyev's family and a lucrative construction project in Baku. She previously received anonymous threats that intimate photos of herself, believed to have been taken by government officials covertly at her home, would be published if she did not abandon her work.

Trumped up drug and hooliganism charges against youth activists

The authorities also target critical and outspoken young activists, accusing them of drug-related offences or hooliganism. The allegations used to secure their arrest



are highly questionable and questioning by the police focused on their political views.

Faraj Karimov, a popular blogger, claimed that he was beaten by police to make him admit to drug-related charges. He was threatened that unless he signed a "confession", police would "cause problems for his parents" by planting weapons at their house.

Violence is also rife in detention. Orkhan Eyyubzade, a 19-year-old pro-democracy activist who was serving a 20-day administrative detention for participating in an "unauthorised" peaceful gathering, was viciously attacked by two policemen. He told his lawyer that police forced him to lie on his stomach, handcuffed his hands behind his back, tore off his underwear, punched and kicked him and threatened to rape him with a bottle. No effective investigation into these allegations has been carried out. Instead, he himself was accused of assaulting police officers and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

"With their eyes on Azerbaijan's petro-dollars, the international community has been remarkably silent about the country's repressive tactics and human rights violations. This is horribly short-sighted and a deep disservice to those currently languishing behind bars," said John Dalhuisen.

Amnesty International is calling on the Azerbaijani authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience and to fully and impartially investigate all allegations of ill-treatment by state and non-state actors. Amnesty International further calls on the authorities to cease from threatening and criminally charging people for exercising their freedom of expression and association.

Zangi Founder Wants to Ring Out Skype



By **Rouben Krikorian**
LOS ANGELES

At the Innovate Armenia event hosted by the USC Dornsife Institute of Armenian Studies on Feb. 21, a team of software engineers from Armenia, headed by Varham Martirosyan, presented a mobile phone application that wowed the audience. The app, called "Zangi," aims to provide a communication service similar to Skype and Viber, but, its developers insist, with better, more convenient services than their current leading competitors. The figures seem to suggest that users agree on the app's merits; Zangi is the number one downloaded app in its category in Armenia with 150,000 users, beating out Skype, Viber, Tango and a number of others. The social media app is picking up ground abroad, too, with about 1,000 users in the United States, according to its developers.

Much like Viber, Zangi allows users to make voice and video calls over an Internet connection, for free. The app offers additional features like instant messaging and can even make calls when one or both parties lack an internet connection or when the party receiving a call does not have the Zangi app, although fees will apply in those cases.

One of the advantages Zangi boasts over its competitors is its ability to provide clear audio and video calls even under weak Internet connectivity. The

app is also designed to have as small an impact on mobile phone resources as possible in order to be smoothly operable on less powerful phones. The Zangi developers pride themselves on creating an app that is as accessible as possible by people around the world. "I can name tens of different apps, but the services and ease of use that Zangi provides is unique," founder and chief engineer Varham Martirosyan told me while he visited the Asbarez and Horizon offices in Los Angeles on February 24.

Martirosyan said he and his team faced their share of immense challenges during the development of the app. In fact, he said, they started their development process at about the same time as the teams behind Skype and Viber started theirs, but with far fewer resources.

"Our challenges working out of Armenia were unique," Martirosyan said. "In some aspects, we had advantages in Armenia. Unlike in the United States, for example, organizing, gathering a team, was easy in Armenia when we started. Five years ago it was very easy to gather a team of software engineers for a project - although today it's not as easy. But our disadvantages were mainly in things like accessing the necessary financial instruments to get momentum behind the project."

I asked Martirosyan why it is more difficult to find engineers today.

"I've been working in IT for the last

fifteen years in Armenia and the rate of integration and advancement has been extremely rapid. Part of the issue today is that there is a lot more demand for engineers in Armenia, with many more start-ups and a huge influx of out-sourced orders from abroad coming into Armenia. The other issue is that there is significant 'brain drain' in Armenia - the people with the very high skills needed for high quality projects tend to leave the country to go work abroad where there are more lucrative offers. This is a problem," Martirosyan said.

Martirosyan said there is so much demand for software development in Armenia, particularly in the mobile app sector, that firms are having trouble fulfilling all of the orders coming in.

At USC's Innovate Armenia event, the former Vice President of Twitter Raffi Krikoryan said, "There's an ember in Armenia [referring to the IT industry], and we need to figure out how to throw gasoline on that fire."

"I like to use a different analogy," Martirosyan said. "I compare the IT industry in Armenia to a pearl. Right now, there is a grain of sand and we need to cultivate it and nurture it so it can become a big pearl."

"What we need in Armenia is not help, but investment. We don't need help. We have world class engineers and technology. We need investment to bring meaningful change."

"We can present our success to Armenians to motivate the growth of this sector. People in Armenia always hear about some start-up firm or another overseas that had great success. In Armenia that seems like a very distant prospect to people; but we need to break that myth and show everyone that this is possible in Armenia - very possible. What we need for this is investment, a lot of investment. We see that the diaspora helps Armenia, but we need investment for Armenia to become economically successful in this sector."

The app is available as a free download on the Apple App Store and on Google Play, for iOS and Android phones respectively. The developers say they are working on releasing a desktop PC and Mac version of Zangi soon.

How Komitas preserved Armenian folk music

In the 1990s, the duduk found its way into movie soundtracks, radio playlists and record collections of the west. Yet as Cara Rosehope writes, the music of Armenia's national instrument might never have survived the Armenian genocide were it not for Komitas—a priest, musician, composer and so much more.

A report prepared by David Rutledge of ABC Radio National explores the legacy of Komitas.

The Armenia of today is a tiny nation state in the Caucasus, but historically Armenia stretched across eastern Anatolia, over the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, past Mt Ararat, where Noah's Ark is said to lie, on into the Caucasus. It was a land rich in poetry and song from towns and villages in a varied and often rugged landscape: rural work songs, life-cycle ceremonial music, nature songs, love songs and ancient epics, as well as the sung liturgies and prayers of its Eastern Orthodox Church.

Komitas was born in 1869 to a musical Armenian family in Ottoman Anatolia. Orphaned in childhood, his beautiful voice and skill with Armenian church music led to his being taken in by the church in Echmiadzin, the high seat of the Armenian orthodoxy. At the prestigious seminary in Echmiadzin, Komitas received the best general and musical education that eastern Armenia could offer, and there he began research into Armenia's national music which would last for decades.

As a student, Komitas developed an interest in folk music, and began to methodically transcribe what he heard as he travelled through the rural villages of Armenia. He used a 19th century Armenian notation which captured the distinctive Armenian melodic modes, rhythms and musical accents.

'Komitas' most important contribution to music was his collection of folk music; they say he collected over 5,000 [songs],' says Harold Hagopian, a New York-based Armenian-American violinist, folk musician and producer who runs a renowned world music record label.

'Anybody who survived [the genocide] was five or 10 years old, they were children ... a few people, you know, old timers remember the songs, and who knows if they remember them right, because, after all, they were five years old.'

From 1896 to 1899, Komitas attended a music conservatory in Berlin, where he

studied European music theory, musicology, Byzantine chant, folkloric music, and also the music of Armenia's neighbours, which—like Armenia's—is modal. He began to explore ways of introducing harmonies to the monophonic music of his homeland while maintaining its distinctively Armenian character.

'Komitas is Armenia's Bach, Schubert and Bartok,' says Isabel Bayrakdarian, an Armenian-Lebanese-Canadian opera singer and recitalist with an international solo career. 'Bach, with his sacred music revolutionised the style of what was to come after him. He's the Schubert because he started something we never had: art songs.'

On his return to Echmiadzin, Komitas began to write and arrange works using the folk elements of Armenian music. The next two decades saw the by now nationalistic Komitas studying, publishing, lecturing and leading choirs in concerts across Europe and the Middle East, employing both his knowledge of Armenian music and European musical theory. His time in Paris between 1906 and 1909 was especially fruitful.

'He met people like Debussy, who was also a nationalist—at that time there was a very strong nationalist movement in music in Europe,' says Harold Hagopian. 'He said, "I can do the same thing, I can take folk songs, folk melodies, folk scales, rhythms, and twist them around, and write pieces."

'He established an Armenian national school of composition.'

After one of Komitas' choir concerts, Debussy is said to have remarked: 'Had Komitas only composed the one song, Adouni, even then, he would have been recognised as a great artist.'

Despite Komitas' considerable international artistic success, he thought of himself in more modest terms.

'Komitas thought of himself not as a musicologist, not as a composer, but as a Khazaget, a person who is studying the khaz, the old Armenian music notation system,' says Professor Mher Navoyan, a musicologist and Komitas scholar at the Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan, Armenia's capital.

Komitas had also begun to study medieval Armenian church music. This had been transcribed in a neume-like system of musical notation which was no longer understood, and Komitas sensed that the music from isolated Armenian villages



could act as the key to their understanding. In his published articles, he stated that his concern was to filter out the influences of other Middle Eastern music and to return to what he felt was authentically Armenian.

In 1910 Komitas moved to Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, and during a 1912 trip to Paris, he made his first foray into recording onto wax cylinders.

In 1915 Ottoman Turkey entered WWI and, for the Ottoman Armenians, everything changed. Genocide reduced the Armenian population in the Anatolian heartland to almost zero. Komitas was among its first victims. A century on, Armenia is one sixth of the size that it once was, and the majority of Armenians live elsewhere in the world. For most, all that remains of their homeland are the songs.

'When I talk about Armenian culture, folk culture, that's Komitas,' says Hasmik Harutyunyan, a singer, educator, and folklorist.

'Anything you do, anything you play, it's connected to Komitas' work ... this folk culture is very important to us as a nation, as a people. We think the folk culture is the road for us to go back.'

Since the genocide, Komitas' reputation and importance to Armenia has only grown. His work has also been the means to move forward from the tragedy of the genocide.

'For me, it was very important for the whole Armenian world that Komitas was able to establish a new way of musical thinking,' says Professor Mher Navoyan.

'When we talk about his music, first, his artistic value is the most important ... Armenian people, they accept it as folk music, and on the other side, it is the highest level of the Armenian school of composition.'

Public Radio of Armenia has contributed to the preparation of the report.

"KAAR-MED"

PRIVATE CLINIC CENTER FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

The Private Clinic "KAAR-MED" has been functioning on the market for medical services for more than 15 years. The Clinic is located in Warsaw (10 Bitwy Warszawskiej street) close to the centre of the city within easy reach of Dworzec Zachodni railway station and other city communications networks.

Our Patients can use a private parking located directly at the entrance to the Clinic with special places for ambulance and disabled people. Clinic is fully adapted and friendly for wheelchair users.

The Clinic specialisation is gynaecology and obstetrics including full pregnancy care, "one day surgery" and aesthetic medicine procedures as well as plastic and cosmetic gynaecology. "KAAR-MED" employs gynaecologists and physicians of all specialisations who have clinical experience gained in leading Warsaw hospitals.

We offer a wide range of laboratory, microbiological and genetic tests, diagnostic imaging techniques (USG) including prenatal tests such as pregnancy ultrasound, prenatal imaging findings, Harmony Prenatal Test, Doppler ultrasonography tests and many others.

The "KAAR-MED" Clinic is fully outfitted with the latest medical equipment used for diagnosis and treatment of the entire range of gynaecology and obstetrics diseases:

- Voluson ultrasound imaging system (pictures)
- Toshiba ultrasound imaging system
- Colposcope
- Cryosurgery machine
- Electrocoagulation apparatus
- ELLMAN Pelleve Unit (radio frequency surgery and wrinkle reduction system)
- Other equipment by "Aesculap" and "Stainless" companies

Our clinic fulfils all the official norms (stated by the Direction of the Health Minister of Poland of 02.02.2011) concerning professional, technical and sanitary conditions for health care organizations.

We are looking forward to see You in "KAAR-MED" Clinic and shall do out best to make You feel comfortable, safe and professionally treated here.

**10 Bitwy Warszawskiej,
02-362 Warsaw, Poland**

Information and registration:

**+48 22 823 04 52
+48 22 201 90 95
+ 48 50 910 74 05**



WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

Enjoy your leisure

9 March

19:00. The Family of Orphans. Premiere. Gurgen Khanjyan. Lyrical Comedy in 2 acts. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan
19:00. Lorkiana - Carmen-Suite. Ballet | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian
19:00. Element Band. he first concert tour in Armenia of the US-based Element Band. Concert | Chamber Music House after Komitas

10 March

12:00. That Same Huri. Author: Hovhannes Tumanyan. Director/Producer: Ruben Babayan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
14:00. Beauty and the Beast. Children's Musical Fun Show. Director: Armen Margaryan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater
19:00. Sexual Chaos in the Hotel. Author: Ray Cooney. Director: Honored Artist of RA, David Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater

11 March

12:00. 14:00. Goldfish. Author: Alexander Pushkin. Director/Producer: Tigran Zahalyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Aleco. Opera in 1 act. S. Rakhmaninov. Director: Irkin Gabitov. Opera | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian
19:00. Four Reasons for Marriage. Premiere. Comedy in 2 acts. Author: Richard Baer. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan
19:00. Dear Pamela. Premiere. Author: J. Patrick. Staging: Narine Malyan. Play | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors

12 March

12:00. The Tailless Fox. Author: Hovhannes Tumanyan. Staging: Ruben Marukhyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Sheranik. Staging: Zhirayr Dadasyan. Director: Yuri Kostanyan. Play | Yerevan State Pantomime Theater.
19:00. Aunt from Paris. Comedy. Play | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Artavazd-Shidar. Premiere. G. Khanjyan. Staging: Armen Mehrabyan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater
19:00. Mrs. Ministress. Premiere. Comedy in 2 acts. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan
20:00. As a Beginning. Hrachuhi

Utmazyan. Artur Utmazyan. Poetry, Evening of literature and music | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan

13 March

12:00. The Dog and the Cat. By Hovhannes Tumanyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
16:00. Anush. Drama. Author: H. Tumanyan. Director: Davit Hakobyan. Play | State Musical Chamber Theater
16:00. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. Mark Twain. Stage Director: Hranush Chichakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater
18:00. A Tale from the Clouds. Z. Antonyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. Dear Pamela. Premiere. Author: J. Patrick. Staging: Narine Malyan. Play | H. Malyan Theater of Film Actors
19:00. For the Sake of Honor. Drama, 2 acts. Author: Alexander Shirvanzade. Staging: Vahe Shahverdyan. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan
19:00. Oh Anna, Anna or Passionate Sunday. Romantic comedy in 2 acts. Marc Camoletti. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
19:00. A Man is Required. Original "Jan & Beatrice" by Carol Freshett. Director of the play - Lusine Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater
19:00. Beef-Boui. Premiere. Daniel Charms. Director: Narine Grigoryan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater
19:00. Love Stir. Play in 2 acts. Marc Camoletti. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan
19:30. Richard Clayderman. 2 concerts by the world famous French pianist, composer Richard Clayderman in Yerevan. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

14 March

12:00. 14:00. 16:00. The Sparrow. Author: Maxim Gorki. Staging: Vladimir Bilkov. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
12:30. 14:00. 15:30. Alice in Wonderland. Staging by Lily Elbakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater
14:00. Cinderella. Author: Charles Perrault. Staged by: A. Miridjanyan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater
18:00. Golden Chicken. Author: Vladimir Orlov. Director/Producer: Karen Khachatryan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
18:00. Little Red Riding Hood. Author:

Charles Perrault. Director/Producer: Arpi Maghakyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan

19:00. The Owners of Our House. Comedy in 2 acts. Author: Zhirayr Ananyan. Stage Director: Yervand Ghazanchyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan
19:00. Macbeth. Tragedy in 2 acts. W. Shakespeare. Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
19:00. Incident in Metro. Premiere. Director: Davit Harutyunyan. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan
19:00. Jackpot. Premiere. Comedy in 1 act. Ray Cooney. Director: Samson Stepanyan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater
19:30. Richard Clayderman. 2 concerts by the world famous French pianist, composer Richard Clayderman in Yerevan. Concert | National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet after A. Spendiarian

15 March

12:00. 14:00. 16:00. Goldfish. Author: Alexander Pushkin. Director/Producer: Tigran Zahalyan. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
12:30. 14:00. 15:30. The Adventures of Buratino. Alexei. Tolstoy. Director: Armen Elbakyan. Play for kids | State Marionette Theater
14:00. Beauty and the Beast. Children's Musical Fun Show. Director: Armen Margaryan. Play for kids | State Musical Chamber Theater
17:00. The New Adventures of The Three Piglets. Directed by Samson Stepanyan. Choreographer: Sevag Avakian. Musical | State Musical Chamber Theater
18:00. The Silly Man. Based on Hovhannes Tumanyan's tale. Play for kids | State Puppet Theater after H. Tumanyan
19:00. The Last Stop. Premiere. Serious comedy in 2 acts. Tamar Hovhannisyan. Play | State Theater of Musical Comedy after H. Paronyan
19:00. Richard III. Premiere. Tragedy in 2 acts. Author: W. Shakespeare. Play | National Academic Theater after G. Sundukyan
19:00. Paid Illusion. A play in 2 acts. Ives Jamiague. "Monsieur Amilcar". Play | Yerevan Drama Theater after H. Ghaplanyan
19:00. Blaise. C. Magnier. Staging: Hrachya Gasparyan. Play | Hamazgayin State Theater
19:00. Nazar, Nazar, Till the End. Staging director: Ara Yernjakyan. Play | Yerevan State Chamber Theater

Zodiac Weekly Forecast

Aries (Mar. 20--Apr. 19) :

This time brings a drama with your significant other that does not even really belong in that department. Your ego may be a bit bruised, but the real wound happened many years ago. It is not fair to demand that your partner compensate for injuries of your childhood. Maintain perspective.

Taurus (Apr. 20--May 19):

You are harboring a secret attitude about a loved one. You may think it is not visible, but it erodes the core of the relationship. The probability is high that it is critical of yourself or the Other. Maybe a change does need to happen, but it is not useful to pressure its creation with blame.

Gemini (May 20 -- June 20) :

Life is generally frenetic this week. It is important that you remember to hold onto the big picture of where you are headed. Don't allow the nuisance details to upset your attitude if you can help it. Remember which is the forest and which things are merely sprouts and twigs on the path.

Cancer (June 21--July 21) :

Your good judgment is in one place while your heart is in another. It could be highly distracting. Concentrate while driving or handling tools. If possible, don't force a decision just now. You might benefit from writing a note to yourself from the voice of logic and a separate letter that speaks for the soul so you can help them talk to each other.

Leo (July 22 --Aug. 21):

This week is about finding healing on either the physical or emotional levels. You may be the healer or the healee. It is possible that alternative medicine may play a role. The willingness to open your heart and mind to give and to receive is yours at this time. Don't hang onto old pain on any level.

Virgo (Aug 22--Sep. 22) :

Your productivity efficiency is generally complicated this week by unavailable tools to complete your work. This is a nuisance but it won't make or break anything that is truly important. Backup everything on the computer.

Libra (Sep. 23--Oct. 22)

Changes may be occurring in your primary relationship or partnership. One or the other of you is probably trying to hang onto what is familiar. Changes and growth must be allowed to happen or the relationship will become stale. Let things flow naturally. Don't jump to conclusions or make problems bigger than they are.

Scorpio (Oct. 23--Nov. 21) :

You have an intense need to break free from whatever or whomever seems to have power over you. Along the way you might break a few dishes. That which has you trapped is not someone else as much as it is your own thought processes and belief systems. You need to access your true power from within.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 --Dec. 20):

Don't allow fear and pessimism to interfere with your pleasure in life. If something is nagging at you, take a clear and direct look at it. Is there really anything there, or have you invented your own worry? The blues may be your companion for a couple of days over the weekend, but the cloudy time is short.

Capricorn (Dec 21 -- Jan 19) :

There is a family member or a piece of property that is pressuring you to make a change in attitude. Somehow this brings up a threat to your control. Someone may be leaving the family home and needs your blessing. Maybe this is a person who disagrees with your long held beliefs. Will you allow this to sever ties?

Aquarius (Jan. 20--Feb. 17) :

You may not be feeling quite comfortable with yourself this week. It appears your mind is in conflict with your feelings. Do the best you can to deal with this issue up front, perhaps by journaling or discussing it with a friend. Ask your Observing Self to study the situation in order to provide you with a new perspective.

Pisces (Feb. 18--Mar. 19) :

A gift comes through a lover or a child. In spite of the general frenzy occurring everywhere, you may be enjoying your time this week. Perhaps it is because you intuited the Venus trouble described in the lead paragraph on the home page and it turns out that it isn't as bad as you feared.

ARMENIAN POETRY

Varouzhan Khastour

FORGIVENESS

I forgive you...
 maybe just
 for forgiveness,
 maybe for the
 many pains you suffered in the past,
 for the salty tears
 of shame in my gullet,
 for my weeping smiles
 and for the birth of my prayers,
 or maybe
 for such palpitations
 of bitter expectations.
 I know,
 that you are also anxious now,
 and my kisses left a deep mark
 on all of your life,
 and like a thistle my name was
 thrust between your lips.
 Meeting me on the street
 your heart beats wildly,
 but you pretend,
 that you see me with unfamiliar eyes
 and you greet me
 with false indifference.
 And I...
 forgive you,
 I forgive you not because
 I want to show the world
 that the crown of God-given
 grace has been put
 on my head,
 or that I am walking along the street
 like a cavalier
 with a cloak of chivalry,
 not because
 I love you more than before,
 but just because
 my dream is flowing
 through my veins, through my blood...
 You did not understand my dream,
 you thought that my belief
 had died,
 you didn't understand,
 that my eyes radiated
 the eighth
 of the seven colours of the rainbow,
 which is understood by the world
 as love.
 You heard the word of my soul
 as a dustman can hear
 the voice of ant,
 and with your absurd
 feminine caprices
 you killed, bit by bit,
 my inner, sacred dreams.
 And the parched words
 of my crazy heart
 you felt
 as the cave caresses the sunshine,
 as the sea can see the frantic thrashings
 of a sinking person...
 And I forgive you, I forgive and forgive,
 maybe just for forgiveness,
 or maybe only because
 the largest and greatest punishment
 is recited through three words only,
 that is,
 I forgive you...

*Translated by
 Lusine Avetisyan*

Work ongoing to put ancient Armenian city of Ani on UNESCO heritage list



Work is continuing at the ancient ruins of Ani, a 5,000-year-old Armenian city located on the Turkish-Armenian border in the eastern province of Kars, with an eye on including the site on UNESCO's World Heritage List, the Hurriyet Daily News reports.

Work has been continuing at Ani, which has been home to many civilizations throughout history and is today a major draw for tourists in the area, with the support of Turkey's Culture and Tourism Ministry.

Ani is located 40 kilometers from the city of Kars, where tourists usually base themselves during trips to visit the remote site.

Local Culture and Tourism Director Hakan Doğanay said salvage excavations in Ani would be headed this year by Pamukkale University Classical Archaeology Department Professor Fahriye Bayram.

Doğanay said projects regarding the restoration of the ancient city's walls have now been finished, with an eye to including Ani on the UNESCO's heritage list.

"[Ani] may enter the UNESCO list during the meeting to be held in Oslo in 2016. We predict that 2015-2016 will be the years of Kars and the ancient ruins of Ani. The Culture and Tourism Ministry has provided us with great support on this issue," he said.

Ani, which occupies 78 hectares of land and is surrounded by 4,500-meter-long ramparts, was once the capital of a medieval Armenian kingdom that covered much of present-day Armenia and eastern Turkey.

Ani is protected on its eastern side by a ravine formed by the Akhurian River and on its western side by the Bostanlar or Tzaghkotsadzor Balley. The Akhurian is a branch of the Araks River and forms part of the current border between Turkey and Armenia.

Dubbed the "City of 1,001 Churches," Ani stood on various trade routes, and its many religious buildings, palaces, and fortifications were among the most technically and artistically advanced structures in the world at the time, according to specialists.

ACBA-CREDIT AGRICOLE BANK

THE FIRST BANK
WITH ASSETS, LOAN PORTFOLIO
AND EQUITY

PREMIÈRE BANQUE PAR ACTIFS,
CAPITAL ET PORTEFEUILLE DE PRÊTS

www.acba.am
010 31 8888

The Noyan Tapan
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